

Over the Back Fence

Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Newsletter

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First Quarter Office Closings:

January 2nd: Day After New Years Day January 16th: Martin Luther King Day

February 20th: Presidents' Day

April 7th: Good Friday

ALL extension activities (4-H events, adult workshops, meetings, classes, etc) are canceled when schools are closed due to inclement weather. This includes all three Harrison County School systems

ANR Educator Position Opening:

Extension Educator - Ag and Natural Resources -Harrison County

Extension Educators provide the link between Land Grant University research and Indiana residents by creating innovative learning opportunities that address local issues. Dedicated to helping improve the quality of life for current and future residents, Educators collaborate with local, county and state agencies, partner organizations, businesses and schools to analyze needs, develop, implement and oversee vibrant and sustainable research based educational programs, and provide resources and expertise to the local community.

Have a passion for people, education, and agriculture? Come and work with us. https://careers.purdue.edu/job-invite/21459/



UPCOMING AG EVENTS

2023 Top Farmer Conference



The #Purdue Top Farmer Conference is back in-person with an option to attend remotely. Geared specifically for farmers, faculty and staff experts from Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture will discuss farm management, farm policy, agricultural finance and marketing. Find more details on the agenda, speakers and registration at http://purdue.ag/topfarmer

The Power of Negotiation & Communication

The Power of Negotiation and Communication: Land Leasing Strategies for Midwestern Ag Women

A 4-part workshop for landowners and tenants.

Build your land management and leasing knowledge while networking with other women in agriculture at our upcoming workshop series, which will be held at various sites throughout Indiana, including Clark County Fairgrounds, and virtually from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- Jan. 18
- Jan. 25
- Feb. 1
- Feb. 8

Cost is \$50 per person for in-person or \$75 per person virtually Find out more and register at:

Find out more and register at: puext.in/PowerOfNegotiation



2023 Crop Management Workshops: Registration Now Open!

January 2023, Crop Management Workshops will offer three in-person meetings, with one also being a livestream (virtual) option. We are returning to all-day meetings to maximize your educational opportunity and certification credits! Purdue Extension Field Crop Specialists of pests and agronomics, Purdue Pesticide Programs, and the Office of Indiana State Chemist Office will be sharing.

Purdue's Crop Management Workshops are scheduled for January 24 -26, 2023 from 8:30-4:00 pm. Cost is \$80.00 for in-person and \$50.00 for virtual attendance. Commercial Applicator and Certified Crop Ad-viser credits are available. For more information and to register visit: http://www.purdue.edu/conferences/Crop

Purdue's 2023 Crop Management Workshop

In-Person & Virtual

When: January 24, 25, and 26, 2023

How/Where:

Horticulture

In-Person – Tuesday, January 24: In-Person only, Madison County Community Center, Alexandria, IN Wednesday, January 25: In-Person only, Westgate Conference Center, Odon, IN Thursday, January 26: In-Person, Beck Ag Center, W. Lafayette, IN Virtual - Thursday, January 26: Livestream, Beck Ag Center, W. Lafayette, IN Time: 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

State Chemist Highlights, Corn Responses to Sulfur, Effective Disease Management, Weed and Herbicide Updates, Insect Corn Traits, Input-Intensive Corn Management, Soybean Canopy and Nutrition, Safely **Crossing Railroad Crossings**

DIY Lawncare Signature Program

PURDUE | total

DIY Lawncare Signature Program

Create and Maintain Your Dream Lawn with Purdue Extension



Do you want to know how to have a greener. healthier lawn? Join us for this series where you will receive information on essential turf basics needed to lay the groundwork for creating, establishing, and maintaining your lawn.

Who should join?

- · Property Renters
- Homeowner Associations

What will I learn?

Session 1: Basics of Taking Care of Lawns Session 2: Lawn Pests and Problems Session 3: Weed Identification and Management Session 4: Seeding Establishment and Lawn

Sign up today!

Details for your DIY Lawncare program - and how to register -

County Name:

March 6, 8, 13 & 15 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Create and maintain your dream lawn with #PurdueExtension's upcoming DIY Lawncare Program. This virtual event will take place on March 6, 8, 13, and 15 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET via Zoom. More info and registration: http://cvent.me/AwBXDR

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Virtual 2023 Beginning Farmer Program

Diversified Farming and Food Systems



Register Now! Beginning Farmer Online Program

Get Your Farm Off to a Great Start!

Interested in starting a farm but unsure of how to get started or where you can find help? Are you already a farmer but eager to enhance and improve your management practices?

Purdue Extension's Beginning Farmer Program can help put you on a path to success!

- · Address the realities of starting a farm
- · Assess your farming assets
- Define realistic goals
- · Create feasible plans to achieve your goals The program includes eight sessions, with individual work to complete between session

You'll emerge with a clear perspective on planning farm projects and moving forward with

REGISTER: https://cvent.me/XPZeGe Email Amy Thompson: afthompson@purd

Indiana Statewide Virtual 2023 **Beginning Farmer Program** Dates: January 12, 2023

7:00-8:30 PM EST Virtually via Zoom & Location: Google Classroom

@PurdueDFFS







2023 Youth Horse Judging and Ag Innovators Experience

YOUTH HORSE JUDGING CAMP

This is a new opportunity for our Indiana 4-H Horse and Pony youth! The Harrison County 4-H Council has approved to assist with registration costs. More details to follow as they are released. Contact Lora Tucker at 812-736-9530 by Friday, January 9th if interested in attending. If your child is interested in joining Harrison County 4-H, contact Rebecca Wilkins at wilkin33@purdue.edu

INDIANA 4-H AG INNOVATORS EXPERIENCE

We are looking for teens Age 13-18 across Indiana to join us in this Indiana 4-H Ag Innovators Experience! To be considered youth must complete and submit your application by Friday, December 30 2022 here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfuoGiaFWlNre00PghtcNC_XWke3GIPkmxgoySk8YcTBxJUNw/viewform

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call: 765-641-8514

emai: hollan40@purdue.edu wdecker@purdue.edu

TEXAS A&M HORSE JUDGING CAMP

2022 Congress Champion Collegiate Jean LOCATION: HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN HIGH SCHOOL12499 OHIO ROAD, FISHERS, IN 46037

\$100 FOR THE WEEKEND PER ATTENDANT OR \$75 DAILY 8:30 A.M. START DAILY - HOUSING NOT INCLUDED

JANUARY 21 & 22, 2023

- January 21 & 22 Clinics and Education
 - Led by TAMU Coach Sarah Schobert, and Assistant Coach Hannah McLochlin
- Individual Reasons Help Included From Clinicians
- Open to attendants nationwide
- · Lunch, T-Shirt, and Judging Manual provided
- R.S.V.P. Due in December More details coming soon



CONTACT INFO: SARAH SCHOBERT EMAIL: SSCHOBERT@TAMU.EDU PHONE:(540)597-2408

Stay Humble

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Animal Science

USTLEHARD

Local Private Applicators PARP Events

SOUTHWEST INDIANA MELON & VEGETABLE GROWERS MEETING

DATE/TIME

Date(s) - 01/20/2023 1:30 pm EST - 3:30 pm EST

CONTACT INFO

Name: Richard Beckort Title: Jackson Co ANR Phone: 812-358-6101

Email: rbeckort@purdue.edu

LOCATION

French Lick Resort 8670 W SR 56 French Lick, Indiana 47432

EVENT DETAILS

- Meeting is 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 Registration is \$15 in addition to the \$10 PARP fee
- PARP Program, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
 - Spider Mites and Cover Crops;
 Melon Weed and Herbicide Update;
 Storage Tank Options on the Farm

SOUTHEASTERN VEGETABLE GROWERS MEETING

DATE/TIME

Date(s) - 02/21/2023 6:00 pm EST - 9:00 pm EST

CONTACT INFO

Name: Gina Anderson

Title: Floyd Co ANR Educator

Phone: 812-948-5470

Email: gmanders@purdue.edu

LOCATION

Georgetown Optimist Club 8260 IN 64 Georgetown, Indiana 47122 Georgetown Optimist Club 8260 IN 64 - Georgetown

EVENT DETAILS

Pre-registration by February 17 by calling 812-948-5470; or emailing Gina Anderson

 Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs) Review and Update; Pollinator Protection

For info on upcoming PARP Events: https://ppp.purdue.edu/private-applicators/recertification-parp/parp-events

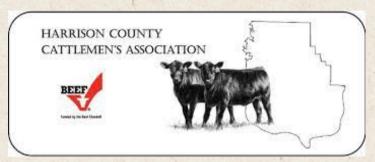
Harrison Co. Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting

- Saturday, January 21, 2023
- Harrison County Fairgrounds
- Dinner tickets are \$10 for adults \$5 for children and are available at the Extension Office and at the door.
- · Everyone needs a ticket.
- Doors Open/Registration: 5:00P
- Dinner: 6:00P ** Bring a dessert to share**
- Meeting: 7:00P with speakers from SWCD and NRCS Programs
- RSVP to the Purdue Extension Office 812-738-4236
- or Cassidy 502-554-5124

** RSVP by January 5th for a chance to win a prize ** NEW Membership cards available at registration:

lyr = \$10.00 10yr = \$100.00 LIFE = \$200.00

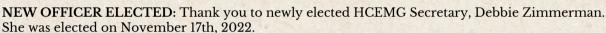
(must be present at annual meeting to win RSVP prize)



Harrison County Extension Master Gardeners News

NOVEMBER GUEST SPEAKER: Did you know that deer are neophobic (fearful of new or novel objects) and there are differences between country deer and city deer? They can also eat 6-8 pounds of browsing in 24 hours and will feed in the same area from generation to generation. November 17th at Purdue Extension Office, Harrison County Extension Master Gardeners (HCEMG) President, Ken Tingler, discussed everything you need to know about deer behavior, their feeding habits, and how to coexist with them as a gardener in his HCEMG Guest Speaker Series session "Deer-Proofing Your Garden."

DECEMBER GUEST SPEAKER: Can you believe there are over 80,000 registered varieties of daylily, some of which are 6 feet tall and have blooms over 8 inches in diameter, with new varieties being cultivated and registered every year! Ron and Patty Byerley of Hutch 'N' Bunch Rabbitry and Daylilies discussed "What's New With Daylilies" at the December 15th installment of the HCEMG Guest Speaker Series.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION: Extension Master Gardener volunteers contribute significantly to the lives of Indiana residents and local communities each year. A December pitch-in dinner celebrated the many accomplishments of the Harrison County Master Gardeners in 2022.

In the spring of 2022, we had a Harrison County Extension Master Gardener Training class of 14 interns, many of whom have now received their certification after completing 40 hours of volunteer service and 40 hours of education. Congrats to newly certified HCEMGs: Sarah Keinonen, Durinda McKay, Brandi Pirtle, Annetta Price, Bev Tucker, George Voorhees, and Jess Wolvin.

Five dedicated Certified Extension Master Gardeners have put in years of service to the community and earned an additional level Advanced EMG Certification status in 2022. They each receive a certificate and a badge to be worn proudly. Wanda Phillips, Robin Meredith, and Darrell Voelker have given of themselves and earned Bronze Advanced EMG certification by each obtaining 200 volunteer hours and 60 education training hours. Kim Tate was awarded Silver Advanced EMG certification, giving over 500 volunteer hours and 75 education training hours, much of which was dedicated to building and maintaining local area bluebird habitat. Karen Schwartz, has given over 1000 hours of service to Harrison County through the Purdue Extension Master Gardeners program. The Pollinator Garden at Rhoads Pool and many other local projects have blossomed and benefitted with Karen's time and dedication. She has earned Gold 1000+ hours Advance EMG certification, with over 1000 volunteer hours and 100 education training hours.

SAVE THE DATES: The Master Gardeners help others grow by encouraging families and residents of Harrison County to make the outdoors your happy place! Gardening activities and growing your own plants is a great way to do that. Be sure to mark your calendars for these exciting reminders that spring will soon return. More information will be provided in the future.

- Spring Workshop: April 22nd at Purdue Extension Harrison County
 Multiple sessions offered covering all aspects of gardening including planting, pollinators, soil health, etc.
- Pop-Up Plant Sale: May 6th at Purdue Extension Harrison County.
 Online pre-orders will be available as well as in-person sales at other times and events.

Come check us out, gain valuable knowledge and information, and enjoy socializing with fellow gardeners. If you've ever considered becoming a Master Gardener or would like to learn more about our many projects and ways we serve our local community, this is the place to be! Contact President, Ken Tingler, for more information 812-734-0373



Agriculture and 4-H Scholarships

In partnership with the Indiana 4-H Foundation, the Indiana 4-H Youth Development Program annually awards more than \$125,000.00 in scholarships to 4-H members to pursue post-secondary education. Scholarships are awarded to recognize youth participating in Indiana's 4-H Youth Development Program on their achievements and life skill development resulting from their participation in a variety of 4-H experiences.

> Applications are due January 25th. Youth may complete their application through their 4HOnline account. More information and instructions on how to submit your scholarship application are listed at the link below.

> > https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/getinvolved/scholarships.html

Indiana Organic Grain Farmer Meeting

The Indiana Organic Grain Farmer Meeting will increase understanding of organic transition, certification and cropping systems through peer learning and networking. Registration is now open. Join #PurdueExtension on February 22, 2023! https://puext.in/iogfm

Succession Planning For Generational Transitions



College of Agriculture

To successfully guide a farm operation from generation to generation, farm owners and families must have a plan. The Purdue Extension Succession Planning Team is hosting workshops at 10 Indiana locations to guide families through succession planning.

WORKSHOP TO GUIDE FARM FAMILIES THROUGH GENERATIONAL TRANSITIONS Purdue Extension News December 7, 2022

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — To successfully guide a farm operation from generation to generation, farm owners and families need to have a plan for where they are going and knowledge of how they will fund that transition. The Purdue Extension Succession Planning Team is hosting workshops along with individualized sessions to help strategically structure a farm succession plan.

The "Farming Together: Cultivating Relationships and Having the Cash to Bring in the Next Generation" workshop will be a daylong event hosted at 10 Indiana locations. Each workshop session will take place from

10 a.m. to 3 p.m., beginning on Jan. 12 and running through Feb. 2, 2023. "Farm owners often want to start with legal matters associated with transition planning. However, farm families need to find consensus on their goals and where they envision the operation moving in the future first," said Renee Wiatt, Purdue family business management specialist. "A large part of agreeing on goals and future vision for the farm can be achieved through relationships and communication, as well as knowing where to start."

A local lawyer will be available at each of the regional meetings. After the workshop, families can schedule virtual guidance sessions for individualized discussions with the Purdue team and collaborators to discuss topics of their choice.

The workshop cost is \$30 per person, with lunch included. For more info contact: emfarris@purdue.edu

Jan. 26: Purdue Extension Harrison County Office, 247 Atwood St., Corydon

The Purdue Succession Planning Team, composed of Purdue Extension educators and specialists, seeks to address the needs of families planning the continuation of farm businesses. The team currently offers programming through regional workshops, succession planning presentations and farm family consultations. The workshops are made possible through a grant from North Central Extension Risk Management Education.

2023 Heart of America Grazing Conference





Extension

Learn about the latest research in grazing, soil science and health at the:

2023 HEART OF AMERICA GRAZING CONFERENCE!







More information to be posted on the Indiana Forage Council website and Facebook page.

www.indianaforage.org

Forage and grazing experts from across the nation will discuss the latest research in grazing, soil science and soil health at the Indiana Forage Council's 2023 Heart of America Grazing Conference on Feb. 20-21. Learn more: indianaforage.org



2023 Ag Women Engage



Join us February 21st - 23rd for the Ag Women Engage Conference! (formally known as the Midwest Women in Agriculture Conference)
We will be engaging Midwestern women in agriculture to address personal, family, and farm issues that affect their lives, their families, and their farm business. It will be an exciting, in-person event full of speakers, networking, education, and fun!

YOUNG LADIES IN AGRICULTURE **FORUM 2023** Young ladies in grades 8-12 or college are invited to participate in the 2023 Young Ladies in Agriculture Forum during the AWE conference in Terre Haute, IN on February 22, 2023. Join us to explore and engage with other young ladies while learning about financial strategies, marketing yourself, and building a strong resume.

CONTACT INFORMATION

AWE CONFERENCE CHAIR: Elysia Rodgers eberry@purdue.edu 260) 925-2562 YOUNG LADIES IN AGRICULTURE FORUM CHAIR: Michele Jones jonesm@purdue.edu (765) 342-1010

Forest Management for Private Woodland Owner

FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR THE PRIVATE WOODLAND OWNER ONLINE EVENT THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023 AT 6:30 PM

Join extension forester Lenny Farlee for a virtual version of the Forest Management for the Private Woodland Owner short course.

The online version of the Forest Management for the Private Woodland Owner course provides registrants access to eight pre-recorded presentations covering forest biology, ecology and management on private woodlands. After viewing two or three videos, registrants will be invited to live online meetings with the course coordinator, Lenny Farlee, on March 9, March 30 and April 20, 2023, at 6:30 pm to ask questions, seek clarifications and receive updates and additional information on topics covered.

All course presentations and supporting materials will be delivered online or as electronic documents.

Registration and additional information is available at https://cvent.me/v8BQNw

Registration for the course is \$15. Deadline for registration is February 8, 2023.

Sessions Include:

- Forest Resource and Tree Identification
- Forest Biology and Ecology
- Forest Management 1
- Forest Management 2
- Marketing Timber
- Wildlife Management
- Managing the Woodland Investment
- Management Resources.



Soil Sampling: Test Now to Amend Soil for Spring

SUBMITTING TO A&L LABS

Your local Extension Office can submit soil samples for you to A&L Labs. Typical turn around for results is 10-14 days.

BASIC ANALYSIS

Measures the organic matter, available phosphorus, exchangeable Potassium, Magnesium, Calcium, Soil pH, Cation Exchange Capacity, Percent Base Saturation of Cation Elements.

TESTING YOUR SOIL

In a soil test elements are chemically removed from the soil and measured for their available content to the plant. The quantity of the nutrients in the sample determines the amount of fertilizer that is recommended. Soil tests also measure soil PH, humic matter and exchangeable acidity. Soil tests can be taken at any time, the important thing to remember is to take the sample at the same time every year!. It is however, recommended to take it in the fall when application of fertilizers is possible.

HOW TO TAKE THE SAMPLE

First, using a sample probe, (available for loan at our office) spade, trowel or long knife, dig 6-8 inches deep for gardens, shrubs or trees and 3-4 inches for turf. Sample different areas of the turf, garden or landscape separately. Choose 8-10 locations to extract soil from (more if its a large area). Discard any surface residue, thatch or stone. Second, combine the samples in a bucket and mix well. Transfer 1-2 cups of the mixed sample to our provided bag or a plastic bag. Label the bag with location, the address and your contact information. Finally, drop your soil sample at the extension office with your payment (we can only accept cash or check), we'll take care of the rest. We can email your results, call you for pickup or mail them. Let us know your preferred method.



2023 Soil Sample Pricing *pricing subject to change

6 Samples - \$84.00
7 Samples - \$90.00
8 Samples - \$100.00
9 Samples - \$110.00
10 Samples - \$120.00

HELPFUL HINTS REGARDING SOIL TESTING

A little more information regarding soil testing: Most labs do not include a nitrogen test because soils do not retain nitrogen, so it must be replenished every year. Some gardening books advise a general lime application, yet most Indiana gardens have a soil pH that is already near neutral, if not slightly alkaline. So, applying lime will not help (and may hurt) nutrient availability in these soils. You should test your soil every three to five years. However, if you have specific plants with particular fertility and soil pH requirements, test more often. Be sure to collect your soil sample and test it well before you plant, so you have time to treat the soil. You can sample soil any time the soil is suitable for spading or rototilling, but late summer or early fall give enough lead time to plan ahead. However, if a situation develops that suggests soil fertility may be the problem, then you should collect samples immediately. Taking soil samples from the "normal" and "abnormal" plant growth areas is helpful for comparison.

2023 Indiana Small Farm Conference

The Indiana Small Farm Conference is back in-person at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds on March 2-3, 2023! Save the date to attend this educational and farmer-to-farmer networking event for the small and diversified farm community. #SFC2023

https://puext.in/SmallFarmConference

Diversified Farming and Food Systems





INDIANA **MALL FARM**

March 2-3 Hendricks County Fairgrounds Danville, Indiana



Southeastern Indiana Agriculture & Natural Resources

Lunch & Learn Webinar Series

Make the most of your lunch break and join extension educators live to discuss topics relevant to you and your operation. All sessions are hosted at 12 pm noon. Call (812) 265-8919 or email copelanb@purdue.edu with any questions.



Catch us" at the next webinar focused on the practices you should implement to grow your fish stock in your personal ponds.



Extension - Agriculture and Natural Resources

Purdue Cooperative Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access Institution













Tuesday - February 21, 2023 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Georgetown Optimist Club 8260 IN-64, Georgetown, IN 47122

Schedule

"Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs) Review & Update" Scott Monroe

Bee Aware - Pollinator Protection

RSVP by February 17th

RSVP with the Floyd County Extension Office by calling (812)-948-5470 or emailing Gina Anderson at gmanders@purdue.edu

The program is open to anyone interested in growing vegetables. If you need PARP credit, the cost is \$10 (cash or check). Please bring your Private Applicator Card.



Extension - Floyd County





AG EDUCATION & INFORMATION

INDIANA HORTICULTURAL CONFERENCE AND EXPORETURNS IN PERSON FOR VEGETABLE, FRUIT GROWERS

ABBY LEEDS | NOVEMBER 20, 2022 | PURDUE UNIVERSITY AG NEWS



The annual Indiana Horticultural Conference and Expo (IHC) returns to West Lafayette on Jan. 23 and 24. Beginners and experienced small and large vegetable and fruit operators are invited to join Purdue Agriculture specialists and educators for two days of educational sessions and networking. (MSU Extension)

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. – The annual Indiana Horticultural Conference and Expo (IHC) returns to West Lafayette on Jan. 23 and 24. Beginners and experienced small and large vegetable and fruit operators are invited to join Purdue Agriculture specialists and educators for two days of educational sessions and networking with fellow Indiana and Midwestern farmers and vendors.

Educational sessions will include topics of small fruit production, apple production, food safety, fresh vegetables, controlled environmental agriculture and business marketing. Indiana cider makers will be back in person for the traditional cider contest, and a silent auction will be held to benefit the Fruit and Vegetable Extension and Research Fund. A trade show also will be open to meet vendors of equipment, seeds, irrigation and more.

"After two years of virtual Indiana Horticultural Conference webinars, we are excited to be meeting in person with Indiana and Midwestern fruit and vegetable growers," said Stephen Meyers, IHC co-chairperson and assistant professor of weed science in the Purdue Agriculture Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture. "Events like this are a great way to connect with and provide updates to the stakeholders and industries we serve. It also allows us to get feedback on where future Purdue research and outreach efforts will have the most impact."

Certified private pesticide applicators can attend recertification sessions for an additional fee. Participants will need a private applicator license number to receive recertification credit.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at https://www.indianahortconference.org/sponsorship/.

Registration is open online through Jan. 16. Participants can purchase one-day registration for \$50 or two-day registration for \$90. Lunch is provided with registration. Onsite registration will not be available. The conference will be at the Beck Agricultural Center, 4550 U.S. 52, West Lafayette, Indiana.

For more information, contact Lori Jolly-Brown, events and communications coordinator for Purdue's Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, at 765-494-1296, ljollybr@purdue.edu.

INDIANA FARM CUSTOM RATES & SURVEY

MICHAEL LANGEMEIER | PURDUE CENTER FOR COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE

In Indiana, custom work is often done by farming neighbors after they complete their own work. In these situations, the custom operator may charge a custom rate that is well below the full cost of owning and operating their farm machinery either to build goodwill or to more fully utilize their machinery capacity. For that reason, readers of this publication should not interpret the average rates reported here as indicative of the total cost of completing these operations. Custom operators who extensively engage in custom work should estimate the full ownership and operating costs of their services before agreeing to work for the "going rate" in their area.

Farm custom rates may differ significantly from one area in the state to another based on availability of custom operators and demand for their services. Other factors affecting variability in custom rates may include timeliness, operator skill, field size and shape, crop conditions, the performance characteristics of the machine being used, the relationship between the custom operator and the person needing custom work done, competitive pressures and economic circumstances of the custom operator.

Follow this link for most current/up-to-date custom rates from 2021 as they are updated every other year. https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag/home/resource/2021/04/custom-rates

CUSTOM RATE SURVEY FOR 2023

Please take a few moments to fill out

this custom rate survey if you perform custom services and/or hire custom services. Surveys will be collected through the end of March.

Qualtrics Survey: https://purdue.cal.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV 2shSaYGT7GyuLpY

LIFE-SAVING TRAINING FOR YOUNG FARM WORKERS: "GEARING UP FOR SAFETY" CURRICULUM ONLINE AND FREE TO DOWNLOAD

PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 16, 2022 PURDUE UNIVERSITY AG NEWS

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Young farm workers are more susceptible to harm, says Roger Tormoehlen, a professor of agricultural and biological engineering at Purdue University. For over two decades, he and his colleague, William Field, also a professor of agricultural and biological engineering, have addressed this vital issue with their Gearing Up for Safety curriculum.

Completely accessible online and free to download, the comprehensive safety and health training program targets young and beginning agricultural workers ages 12-20. It has recently been expanded with funding from the USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

The program seeks to enhance the quality of life for farm families and those working in agriculture by reducing farm injuries and occupational health risks.

To bridge the equity gap for those who may not have internet access, Tormoehlen and Field have distributed the program in flash drive format to all 3,300 Extension offices and 10,000 agricultural science teachers in the U.S. The mailing campaign garnered positive feedback, and Tormoehlen and Field also travel the country to present their curriculum to agricultural science educators.

They hope that all these efforts can provide better preparation for those susceptible to harm while farming while also increasing awareness about agriculture and improving agricultural literacy. Optimized for remote delivery, home school or independent study, the Gearing Up for Safety program contains 20 lessons, with additional units in development, and 30 professionally produced videos featuring instructors from across the country teaching individual units.

Each lesson includes high-quality PowerPoint presentations with extensive instructor notes, student activity sheets, suggested teaching aids, relevant case studies and evaluation materials. Lessons are aligned with Agricultural, Food & Natural Resource (AFNR) Career Cluster content standards, along with numerous state educational standards.

Tormoehlen says of young farm workers, "They're excited and want to be involved but may not have the knowledge to be safe. The curriculum really gives them the resources to develop better safety practices."

safety practices."
The entire Gearing Up for Safety curriculum, including all supporting materials, is available for free download at www.gearingup.info.

Purdue University Agriculture News



The Gearing Up for Safety curriculum is a comprehensive safety and health training program that targets young and beginning agricultural workers ages 12-20. (National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety)

COVER CROP PREMIUM DISCOUNT PROGRAM IN THIRD YEAR: ELIGIBLE FOR COUNTIES IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN INDIANA'S WHITE RIVER REGION

PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 4, 2022 | MORNING AG CLIPS

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana State Department of Agriculture, The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency have joined forces to implement the Cover Crop Premium Discount Program for the third year in a row.

This program, which mirrors efforts in Iowa and Illinois, will reward farmers who plant cover crops by providing a reduced premium on their crop insurance. The discount program was designed to promote planting additional acres of cover crops that are not covered by other state or federal incentives. This program is eligible for counties in central and southern Indiana's White River region.

"Providing nutrients and needed ground cover to soil, cover crops are unmatched in the benefits they provide to soil structure," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, who also serves as Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "Implementing cover crops, however, can be expensive. So, I am excited this program will once again give farmers an opportunity to increase their cover cropped acreage, which will improve water quality and enhance soil structure in our state."

Over the last year, this program has had great success with 55 farmers participating, translating to more than 15,000 acres of cover crops on Indiana farmland in the watershed.

This program will provide farmers with a unique opportunity to receive financial incentives for implementing cover crops on their operation. Farmers who plant cover crops on owned or rented acres will receive a \$5 per acre crop insurance premium discount. Farmers who planted cover crops in the fall of 2022 are eligible to apply.

Qualifying counties in the White River area include Bartholomew, Boone, Brown, Clark, Crawford, Daviess, Dearborn, Decatur, Delaware, Floyd, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, <u>Harrison</u>, Hendricks, Henry, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Johnson, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Martin, Monroe, Morgan, Ohio, Orange, Randolph, Ripley, Scott, Shelby, Switzerland, Tipton and Washington.

Cover cropping has many benefits including increased organic matter, improved soil biology as well as better water infiltration and water-holding capacity. This practice also prevents nutrients and sediment from running off the farm, keeping them out of nearby waterbodies and streams. Hoosier farmers planted 1.5 million acres of living covers in 2021 and, apart from corn and soybeans, are planted on more acres than any other commodity crop in Indiana.

"The Nature Conservancy is thrilled to continue this partnership that delivers a unique reward to farmers for adopting cover crops," said Larry Clemens, Indiana State Director of The Nature Conservancy. "Last year, Indiana farmers helped the state lead the nation in soil health practices by planting over 1.5 million acres of cover crops. This program was instrumental in that achievement, and we will take that success to new portions of the state this year."

Bruce Kettler, director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, encourages farmers to learn more about this program if they farm in central and southern Indiana's White River region.

"Hoosier farmers are tremendous stewards of the land and take pride in protecting their natural resources," said Kettler. "This program, made possible by our many partnerships, is an incredible value to the farmers in central and southern Indiana, and I am hopeful many will jump on this opportunity."

Seeding of cover crops must follow best agronomic practices in terms of appropriate seeding rates, seed mixes and seeding dates to ensure objectives of the cover crop are being met. To ensure the practice provides the best results termination must be completed in the spring.

Funding for this program is provided by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Cummins Foundation, and CenterPoint Energy Foundation. These three foundations are supporting The Nature Conservancy to improve water quality across Indiana and the Mississippi River Basin.

Applications are due March 15, 2023. Learn more and apply here or visit isda.in.gov.

- Indiana State Department of Agriculture



The Cover Crop Premium Discount Program will reward farmers who plant cover crops by providing a reduced premium on their crop insurance. The discount program was designed to promote planting additional acres of cover crops that are not covered by other state or federal incentives. (Indiana State Department of Agriculture)

Extension Master Gardener Program Helping Others Grow

PURDUE EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM TO OFFER VIRTUAL BASIC TRAINING IN SPRING

JOHN ORICK | DECEMBER 2, 2022 | PURDUE UNIVERSITY AG NEWS

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — The spring 2023 Purdue Extension Master Gardener (EMG) basic training program will begin Feb. 7 as a weekly series of live virtual webinars.

Visit https://tinyurl.com/4mjy5w3z and contact a hosting Purdue Extension educator to obtain an application. The application deadline is Jan. 16, and the training wraps up May 9. An individual registration is \$180 and includes a print version of the Purdue EMG manual. The fee for two people sharing a print version of the manual is \$280.

Purdue Extension specialists and educators from across Indiana teach the course. Topics include soils, fertility, pest control, invasive species, pesticide safety and alternatives, trees, vegetables, flowers, lawns, and fruit.

"The Purdue Extension Master Gardener program's main purpose is to train volunteers to assist Purdue Extension with consumer horticulture education in Indiana communities," said John Orick, Purdue EMG state coordinator.

Purdue Extension Master Gardener volunteers are required to give a minimum of 40 hours back to the community after completing initial training and passing an exam. Volunteers contributed more than 125,000 hours in 2022, Orick said.

To strengthen connections to county Purdue EMG programs, each hosting Extension educator will hold a required one-hour weekly meeting with participants to dig deeper into how the topic of the week applies to local gardeners.

"Indiana is a long, north-south state," said Jeff Burbrink, Purdue Extension educator in Elkhart County and Purdue EMG spring program team member. "Our climate and soils vary greatly from Lake Michigan to the Ohio River. We want to be sure that our Extension Master Gardeners can see how these concepts work in their backyard."

Most Master Gardeners stay involved in the program for years.

"Our local Master Gardeners created the Michiana Master Gardener Association in 1996, in part because they enjoy learning and because they can work on big projects together, like our annual Garden Tour and Garden Expo," Burbrink said. "They are an amazingly talented group of creative people."



The Purdue Extension Master Gardener (EMG) Program will hold a statewide virtual Extension Master Gardener Basic Training on Tuesdays, February 7 through May 9, 2023, from 6:30-8:30 PM ET / 5:30-7:30 PM CT via live webinars. Apply by January 16, 2023. For more information and a list of counties participating, visit https://bit.ly/3hVE5vv.

FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES: USDA AWARDS FARMERS HELPING HELLBENDERS PROJECT \$2.7 MILLION IN FUNDING

WENDY MAYER | AUGUST 15, 2022 | PURDUE UNIVERSITY FNR NEWS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced it is awarding \$197 million for 41 locally led conservation projects through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). RCPP is a partner-driven program that leverages partner resources to advance innovative projects that address climate change, enhance water quality, and address other critical challenges on agricultural land.

"Our partners are experts in their fields and understand the challenges in their own backyards," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said. "Through RCPP we can tap into that knowledge, in partnership with producers and USDA, to come up with lasting solutions to the challenges that farmers, ranchers, and landowners face. We're looking forward to seeing the results of public-private partnership at its best, made possible through these RCPP investments.

The "Farmers Helping Hellbenders" project, led by Dr. Rod Williams and Purdue Extension wildlife specialist/Help the Hellbender project coordinator Nick Burgmeier, is among the projects set to receive funding through the RCCP Classic fund, which uses NRCS contracts and easements with producers, landowners and communities in collaboration with project partners.

Fourteen contributing partners will assist in the project:

- Mesker Park Zoo and Botanic Gardens
- Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
- Indianapolis Zoo
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management
- Crawford County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Floyd County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Harrison County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Crawford County Cattleman's Association
- Harrison County Cattleman's Association
- Washington County Cattleman's Association
- Cryptobranchid Interest Group
- The Nature Conservancy
- Wallace Center at Winrock International



With help from nearly \$2.7 million in RCCP funding, the project aims to improve hellbender habitat in a four-county region in south central Indiana, the only remaining habitat for hellbenders in the state, by expanding the use of agricultural conservation practices that lead to decreased sedimentation in local rivers systems.

Sedimentation is a major cause of hellbender decline and reduced sedimentation will increase available habitat for hellbenders, mussels, and aquatic macroinvertebrates. This project also will address soil and nutrient loss, which are concerns for agricultural producers, as the targeted conservation practices and systems have been shown to have long-term benefits for agricultural systems and operations.

"Through this initiative, focused on Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, and Washington counties, we expect to improve water quality and aquatic wildlife habitat," Burgmeier said. "Simultaneously, we hope to improve soil retention and nutrient availability to crops by helping farmers implement practices such as cover crops, riparian buffers, grassed waterways, etc. Additional benefits will include increases in riparian and pollinator habitat

and increased protection for karst habitat through the selected targeting of sinkholes."

As part of each project, partners offer value-added contributions to amplify the impact of RCPP funding in an amount equal to or greater than the NRCS investment. Private landowners can apply to participate in an RCPP project in their region through awarded partners or at their local USDA

"RCPP puts local partners in the driver's seat to accomplish environmental goals that are most meaningful to their community. Joining together public and private resources also harnesses innovation that neither sector could implement alone," Indiana NRCS State Conservationist Jerry Raynor said. "We have seen record enrollment of privately owned lands in NRCS' conservation programs and RCPP will be instrumental in building on those numbers and demonstrating that government and private entities can work together for greater impacts on Indiana's communities.

For much of the last 16 years, Williams and his team have been researching eastern hellbenders, spearheading regional conservation efforts and advancing hellbender captive propagation, or the rearing of this ancient animal in captivity and their eventual return to the wild.

After five years of breeding efforts, Williams' partners at the Mesker Park Zoo in Evansville, Indiana, successfully bred eastern hellbenders naturally in captivity in October 2020, signifying the culmination of a long and collaborative effort to breed the species and restore this endangered species to its native environment.

"Wildlife conservation, as a science, is complex," Williams said. "It requires talent and expertise across a wide range of disciplines and topics: applied science, education and outreach, community partnerships, and landowner support. This RCPP project builds upon 16 years of partnerships, from university researchers to Extension educators, zoos, non-governmental organizations, and state agency professionals. Each partner brings a special talent, community asset, and passion to Eastern Hellbender Conservation. This project will highlight how conservation professionals can pair with landowners to the benefit of all. We are very excited about moving forward."

The eastern hellbender (Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis) is a large, fully aquatic salamander, nicknamed the snot otter, water dog, devil

dog, Allegheny alligator and water eel among other things.

Characterized by flat bodies and heads, slimy blotchy brown skin with folds along the sides that are often said to resemble lasagna noodles, and long tails, eastern hellbenders live in shallow, fast-flowing, cool, rocky rivers and streams across the United States from New York to Georgia and as

far west as Missouri and Arkansas. At maturity, the species can measure approximately two feet long.

The efforts of Williams' lab and other regional partners were recently featured in a documentary titled Hellbender in the Blue.

Hellbender partners featured in the film include Purdue FNR, Evansville Zoological Society, The Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Clark Waldrum Conservation fund, Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium, PPG Conservation and Sustainability Fund, and the AZA Amphibian Taxon Advisory Group's Small Grant Fund.

Williams' hellbender lab is actively collaborating with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy as well as several other partners across 13 states on a number of conservation projects and educational opportunities for teachers and children, farmers and more.

For more information on the eastern hellbender, visit the Help the Hellbender website.

PROTECTING LIVESTOCK DURING WINTER STORMS

EDWARD J SHELDON | FEBRUARY 1, 2022 | PURDUE EXTENSION NEWS

Large numbers of livestock may be killed in winter storms. Wind coupled with severe or prolonged cold weather causes additional stress on livestock, increasing their need for food, water, and shelter. Pre-planning for winter storms by addressing these issues can help protect your livestock during severe winter weather.

PROVIDE SHELTER

Move stock, especially the young, into sheltered areas. Windbreaks, properly oriented and laid out, or timber covered lowlands might offer better protection for range livestock than most shed-type shelters, which may overcrowd and overheat livestock, causing subsequent respiratory disorders.

Never close livestock shelters tightly, since stock could suffer later from pneumonia or other related diseases. Adequate shelter is also important to animals because their extremities are subject to frostbite and freezing. The loss of ears or tails could be of little economic significance, but severe cold and lack of shelter will frequently cause the loss of limbs as well.

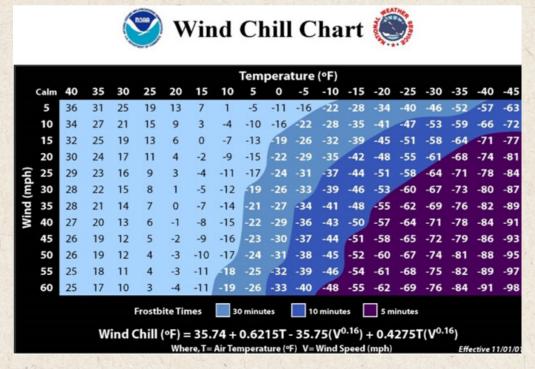
PROVIDE EXTRA FEED

During severe or prolonged cold weather, animals need extra feed to provide body heat and to maintain production weight gains. Studies indicate that supplemental feed energy, in the form of a high-quality hay or grain, is needed when the wind chill factor becomes low. As an example, if temperature is 0°F and there is a 20-mile-per-hour wind, the wind chill factor becomes – 22°F. This means the cows should be fed about 65% more energy than if the temperature was 32°F with little or no wind. Digestibility also decreases about 1% per 10°F fall in temperature.

There are several other factors that determine the need for additional feed including hair coat type and humidity. Windbreaks, either natural or constructed will naturally reduce the energy wasted in extreme low temperatures and/or high winds, but it will not circumvent the need for some increased energy consumption by the cow during these periods. A forage ration that maintains an animal during the summer may not carry it through the stress of prolonged or severe cold. Haul extra forage and grain to feeding areas before the storm arrives. If the storm lasts over 48 hours, emergency feeding methods may be required. Pelleted commercial protein concentrates make good emergency feed. Unless you have a source of emergency power, mechanized feeders may be inoperable during power failures.

PROVIDE WATER

Use heaters in water tanks to provide livestock with enough water. Maintain a source of thawed water at all times if possible. For most livestock, water temperatures of 40° – 65° are preferred. Unfrozen, but very cold, water may not be consumed by animals. Autopsies of livestock killed during winter storms show that the cause of death is usually dehydration, not cold or suffocation. Most livestock cannot lick enough snow to satisfy their water requirements.



Generally speaking, a 1100-lb. dry brood cow in good condition with a full coat of winter hair and no access to shelter will require 13% more energy or TDN for each 10° decline in the wind chill factor below 30°F. For example, if the temperature were 0° and the wind velocity were 20mph, the wind chill factor is about -22°, or 50° below the critical temperature of 30°. That means her maintenance requirement for energy is increased by at least 65%. If the cow is wet, or has a thin coat, energy needs may increase by as much as 30% for each 10° temperature drop.

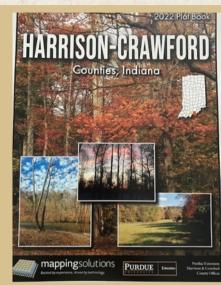


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Extension - Harrison County

Over the Back Fence

Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Newsletter

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