Over the Back Fence

Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Newsletter

Home For the Harvest

As the leaves start to fade and the air becomes crisp, we know wintertime is right around the corner. With Holiday gatherings approaching, we can take time to be thankful for those around us and spending time with family and friends.

Wintertime is busy for Agriculture and Natural Resources. We have the returning Ag Outlook Breakfast as well as a new Winter Ag Series where you can advance your skills within each of the six areas of ANR. More details will follow in the next newsletter. I hope to see new and returning faces at programs throughout this time. As always, if anyone has any questions or program ideas, please let me know. I have also been in the CED role for one year now in addition to my ANR role within Extension.

Throughout the past year, it has been great connecting with community members, leaders, and passionate individuals advocating for Purdue Extension. I always enjoy when I can share my passion for Extension with others and help learn what we are doing here with Purdue Extension Harrison County. I hope everyone has a great holiday season!









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Ag Spotlight

This is a section which features an interview of community members involved in Agriculture or Natural Resources fields!

Name: Jake Blackman Hometown: Elizabeth, IN

Education: Graduate of South Central High School

Occupation: Farmer for 20 years, logger for 10 years, and

school corporation bus route owner for 18 years

What interested you Agriculture?

I've lived on a farm my entire life and always had a passion for Ag. My grandparents and parents farmed which in turn always made me have an interest. Along with the 700 acres of row crops, we cut timber in the winter. I love being outdoors and in woods harvesting mature timber. Timber is a valuable natural resource, and if it's harvested timely and responsibly can be profitable and be around for years to come. That's the part I like the most, seeing the woods a few years after being logged coming back to be a mature timber stand.

What advice do you have for someone wanting a career in Agriculture?

Both the farming and logging require long hours, time away from family, and at times they aren't very profitable. Equipment prices are high, all input prices are extremely high. If you're wanting to start in either you'll need to work hard, and expect some rough times. There isn't a better feeling than raising a good crop, and delivering it to a grain elevator knowing you're helping feed the world.





FEATURED EVENT: PARP



AREA 2 PESTICIDE APPLICATOR PROGRAM

Thursday, November 6, 2025

Obtain Private (PARP) and Commercial Applicator Credits: CAT RT - 3 CCH Credits CAT 1, 11 - 2 CCH Credits CAT 2, 3A, 3B, 4, 5, 6, 7A, 7B, 7D, 8 -1 CCH Credit

- OISC Update and Regulatory Topic Nathan Davis & Mitch Trimble, OISC employees
- Row Crop Weed Management and Optimizing Spray Drones
 Tommy Butts, Purdue Weed Science Specialist

PURDUE EXTENSION CRAWFORD COUNTY

9:00 - 11:00 am

Crawford County Fairgrounds

1095 IN-66

Marengo, IN 47140

Info or RSVP: Molley Hasenour

812-338-5466 or

scott422@purdue.edu

PURDUE EXTENSION WASHINGTON COUNTY

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Washington County Extension Office

806 Martinsburg Rd, Suite 104

Salem, IN 47167

Info or RSVP: Danielle Walker

812-883-4601 or

dhowellw@purdue.edu

PURDUE EXTENSION SCOTT COUNTY

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Scott County Fairgrounds

710 Fairgrounds Rd

Scottsburg, IN 47170

Info or RSVP: Tom Springstun

812-752-8450 or

tsprings@purdue.edu

Program Reminders:

- Participants earn PARP & CCH credit by attending one program only.
- · Program is free due to sponsorship by the IN Corn Marketing Council and IN Soybean Alliance
- RSVP's appreciated by Monday, November 3, 2025, but not required.





Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution. If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program, please contact Tom Springstun, ANR Educator, prior to the meeting at 812-752-8450 or tsprings@purdue.edu by Monday, November 3, 2025.

ANR RECAP

Sheep and Goat Management Seminar

Cora Reinbolt, Purdue Extension Small Ruminant Specialist, came and discussed with 15 participants about sheep and goat management practices and how to better care for your herd.

She discussed what to have on hand for raising sheep and goats with equipment and medicines. Signs of sickness, treatment options, and body condition scoring were also discussed at the class.

Cora discussed the importance of caring for your pastures, hay testing, and soil testing. Participants asked a lot of questions to further their knowledge on raising and caring for sheep and goats.





Farm Tour



Farm Bureau hosted a farm tour with different locations around the county. The self-guided tour participants visited a variety of farms with operations in beef cattle, popcorn, corn and soybeans, vegetable growing, flower growing, and sheep production. This was a great way for community members to learn and understand Harrison County agriculture and how it impacts our daily lives.



ANR RECAP

Harrison County Ag Day

On September 9th and 10th, more than 500 third-grade students from Harrison County schools gathered at the Harrison County Fairgrounds for the 2025 Ag Day. This annual event is a valuable opportunity for youth to explore and learn about agriculture through a variety of hands-on experiences. Throughout the day, students rotated between interactive stations covering key agricultural topics such as dairy, livestock, soil science, grain bin safety, drones, pollinators, embryology, farm safety, horses, and plant biology. Each station was designed to engage and educate, giving students a deeper understanding of the importance and impact of agriculture in their daily lives. All participants were provided with lunch and received a goody bag filled with educational materials and fun agriculturethemed items to take home.







Events like Ag Day play a crucial role in helping young people understand the agriculture industry and its vital role in our communities and economy. We're proud to support agricultural literacy among our youth.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all of our sponsors, guest presenters, volunteers, and supporters who helped make 2025 Ag Day a tremendous success. Your dedication and contributions made this event possible!

Floyd County Ag Day

Floyd County Ag Day was held on September 19. ANR Educator, Ariel Camm Wilson led a station on dairy education and welcomed approximately 100 youth. The station covered three key areas. Participants learned to distinguish between dairy and beef cattle by physical characteristics, purpose, and breeds. They also explored how dairy cows are milked to understand the milking process, cow comfort, and hygiene practices on a dairy farm and discovered the wide variety of dairy products from milk and cheese to yogurt and butter.

Crawford County Ag Day

Ariel had the opportunity to share her passion for the dairy industry with over 90 youth during Crawford County Ag Days! She led an engaging and interactive session covering topics such as the differences between dairy and beef cattle, the milking process, equipment used on dairy farms, and various breeds of dairy cattle.

Students enjoyed sampling cheddar and Colby Jack cheese, comparing and contrasting the two cheeses. They also learned about the different colors of milk caps and what each one represents.

The session was a fun, hands-on way for students and teachers alike to deepen their understanding of the dairy industry and the important role it plays in agriculture.

ANR COLLABORATIONS

Orchard to Table: Healthy Ways to Enjoy Apples

In celebration of National Apple Month and the Indiana Great Apple Crunch, our very own Ariel Camm-Wilson (ANR Educator) and Tara Beckman (HHS/CD Educator) brought apples to life through two vibrant, hands-on educational sessions at the Harrison County Public Library's Corydon and Elizabeth branches. With over 15 enthusiastic participants, our Orchard to Table experience honored Indiana agriculture, local produce, and healthy living—right in the heart of our community. Ariel shared valuable tips on backyard apple growing, apple seasons, and common varieties — plus how to identify which ones are resistant to plant diseases. Tara highlighted the health benefits of apples, how to select and store them, and creative, nutritious ways to enjoy them every day. Through a guided 5-senses tasting experience, participants engaged with apples like never before- smelling, touching, inspecting, crunching, and savoring every bite.

We crunched into three delicious varieties, each with their unique characteristics: Pink Lady, Gala, and Golden Delicious, and paired with a virtual orchard tour and fun apple trivia that had everyone thinking and smiling.

This event was part of the "Crunch Heard Around the State", a collaborative initiative between Purdue Extension and the Indiana Department of Education. It unites Hoosiers of all ages in a statewide (and region-wide!) CRUNCH to spotlight local agriculture and support farm-to-school efforts.





Grow It, Cook It: Spinach

As part of the Master Gardener Fall Speaker Series, Grow It, Cook It: Spinach welcomed 18 enthusiastic participants for an evening of hands-on learning and delicious tasting! Ariel led the gardening portion, sharing valuable tips on how to grow spinach successfully— covering everything from planting and harvesting to proper storage and choosing the right varieties for different seasons.

Tara followed with a cooking demo featuring two tasty recipes: a spinach smoothie and spinach pesto pasta. She highlighted spinach as a powerful superfood, explaining its many health and nutrient benefits, and offered creative ideas for preparing and cooking it at home.

Attendees enjoyed sampling both dishes and shared their own creative ideas for using spinach in meals. The group especially had fun exchanging inventive ways to use the delicious spinach pesto— from panini sandwiches to omelets and beyond! It was a fun, engaging evening filled with education, great conversation, and delicious inspiration centered around this leafy green powerhouse: Spinach!





Upcoming ANR Events



Want to learn more about how to market

Monday, November 10th 10am Monday, November 10th 6pm

your agriculture business? Come join

ANR Educator, Ariel Camm Wilson for a

session on boosting your flyers, social

media, and more! Learn how to use

Harrison Co. Purdue Extension 247 Atwood St. Corydon

Ariel Camm Wilson **ANR Educator**

RSVP @

laptops available, but will be limited and

first come first serve.

RSVP not required but appreciated

Canva and techniques for your business.

Please feel free to bring a laptop if you

would be interested in creating an example, we will have a couple of

Upcoming ANR Events



Extension - Agriculture and Natural Resources



BUZZWORDS IN AG: WHAT DO THEY REALLY MEAN?

Organic. GMOs. Hybrids. Genetic Engineering. Local. Sustainability.

You've seen these words on food labels, in the news, and on social media—but what do they actually mean? And how do they affect your food, your choices, and the environment? Join us for Buzzwords in Ag, a straightforward, engaging session that breaks down these common agriculture terms. Whether you're a consumer trying to make informed choices or just curious about where your food comes from, this event is for you! Don't miss this chance to cut through the confusion and get the facts on modern agriculture!

- 📅 Tuesday, December 16, 2025
- 10am and 5:30pm choose the time that works best for your schedule
- 📍 Harrison County Purdue Extension at 247 Atwood St., Corydon
- RSVP not required by appreciated at 812-738-4236

Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran. If you need an interpreter or translator. If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program, please contact Ariel Camm Wilson prior to the meeting at 812-738-4236 or camm@purdue.edu by December 9, 2025.

UPCOMING ANR EVENTS

Save the Date

Join Purdue Extension on November 20th for an opportunity to gain continuing education credits for multiple commercial pesticide applicator categories.

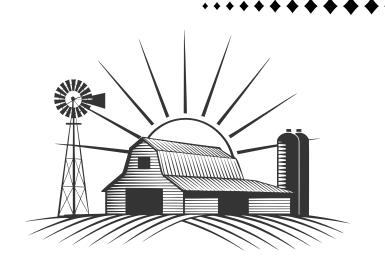
The program will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Clark Count REMC (7810)

The program will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Clark Count REMC (7810 IN-60, Sellersburg IN).

Credits are available in the following categories 1, 2, 3A, 3B, 4, 5, 6, 7A, 7B, 7D, 8, 11, 12, and RT.

Registration is \$80 and includes lunch.

For full agenda, program details, and to register, visit https://bit.ly/cpaw2526 Registration closes November 13th or when program capacity is reached.



Save the Date!

Ag Outlook Breakfast
Friday, January 30, 2026
Breakfast 7:30am
Program 8am
at Beckort Auctions
1743 Hwy 135 Corydon, IN

Winter Speaker Series coming in February 2026! Check out the January newsletter for full details. You won't want to miss it!

National Cattlemen's Beef Association Redbooks

The Redbook is a pocket-sized record book containing more than 100 pages to record calving activity, herd health, pasture usage, cattle inventory, AI breeding and sales, plus a date book and notes section. The book also includes Beef Quality Assurance national guidelines and proper injection technique information. 2026 Redbook coming soon!



AG EDUCATION & INFORMATION

Tried and True: Overalls on the Farm and Beyond

One of the farmer's most trusted pieces of equipment through the years hasn't been a type of machinery or tool, but a piece of clothing. Overalls have been around in various forms for at least 300 years and have provided protection and usefulness to farmers in their work.

The true beginning of overalls, or dungarees as they are called in parts of the world, remains unclear, but there are marked points of development in the apparel's history. The overalls' earliest form were pieces of protective outerwear worn by laborers, slaves, soldiers, and sailors to keep their clothing underneath clean and dry while working. The spatterdash (similar to today's gaiters) covered portions of the leg while working or horse riding, and full-length trousers called "slops" gave more protective coverage to workers. Slops are considered the first version of pants as we know them today.

In the early to mid-1700s the British East India Company founded a trading post in the city of Dongri, India near present-day Mumbai. After being in the area for a time, British merchants became familiar with a durable, calico cloth that the region's textile makers produced. Seeing its potential for use, the British began sending the product to Europe calling it "dongari" after the location where it came. The tough textile was commonly used to make workwear at the time and inspired the word dungarees.

The term overalls is a bit misleading because for a long time many kinds of work clothes and outerwear were given the term "overalls." The earliest known use of the word comes from uniform regulations of American militia units in the American Revolution which date to 1776. The bib overalls that are recognized today came about in the 1830s. These early versions were made out of a variety of materials including cotton canvas or duck canvas.

Denim would eventually become the dominant material for overalls by the end of the 1800s thanks to Levi Strauss & Co. Denim, a twill-weaved cotton fabric, was common for work clothes amongst farmers, miners, and other laborers. Levi Strauss was a dry goods merchant in San Francisco during California's Gold Rush years. One of his customers was a Nevada tailor named Jacob Davis.

The wife of a local miner approached Davis asking him to create a pair of work pants that would be more durable. Rips and tears in his clothing were common and she was looking to get her husband something that would hold up better under the hard work of mining. Davis came up with the idea to put metal rivets at points of pressure in work pants. Though originally made with duck canvas, denim proved more comfortable and was made standard for the new style of pants. The pants were a success and became a sought-after item among miners. In 1873 Davis wrote to Strauss asking if he would partner with him to submit a patent for the riveted pants. The blue jean was born as a result and they would become popular across the country. However, these pants went by the name "waist overalls" and would not be called jeans until the 1960s.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, other companies joined in the business of making denim apparel and bib overalls. A few famous ones include Oshkosh B'Gosh, Key Industries, Lee Jeans, and Carhartt. From the 1880s into the 1900s overalls were typically made in the "continuous bib" style meaning they were made from one piece of material with the upper bib portion viewed as an extension connected to the trousers. Closer to 1920 the "separate bib" style became more common and overalls were made using two separate torso and trouser pieces that were connected. As overalls were worn more frequently, color coding of them developed based on industry. Painters and carpenters wore white, railroad workers had "hickory striped" overalls and agricultural and construction laborers went with blue denim.

To continue reading:

https://www.morningagclips.com/tried-and-true-overalls-on-the-farm-and-beyond/

Green Stem Syndrome Impacting Soybean Harvest

You've been hearing us talk about some of the challenges that farmers are facing this harvest season. But there's now another issue impacting soybean producers.

"We're catching a lot of Green Stem soybeans this year," says Purdue Extension Soybean Specialist Shaun Casteel.

It can prevent the stems from drying down properly and cause the stems to remain green after seeds are mature. Occasionally, green leaves are also present. The green stems are tough, hard to cut, and more likely to plug the combine.

On the latest episode of the Purdue Crop Chat podcast, Casteel talks about Green Stem Syndrome and the problems it's causing during harvest.



"Since we've had good growing conditions and then turned off dry, what ends up happening is we have this 'reservoir'—if you think about a water tower and all the water up there, it's going to get distributed throughout. We have the same thing with the soybean plants. They've created all this leaf biomass harvesting sunlight, and then the reservoir is a photosynthate, and it doesn't have anywhere to go because the pods are aborting. So, we have the nasty combination around 9-to-10 percent moisture in beans with green stems and have to slow down the harvest."

Casteel says that soybeans producers with fields showing green stem syndrome have two options.

You can harvest the beans at optimal grain moisture to capture water weight.

"If they're just dry, and you have a dry field with 80° to 90° weather, you will probably be okay and the beans still be 8 to 9 percent moisture."

But doing so could slow down harvest and increase your fuel costs with extra wear on your combine.

Another option is to wait and harvest the beans when the stems turn brown. But, you could end up seeing quite a bit of yield loss in the process.

"I've seen this week where we had some early beans where the pods are opening up and the seeds just shattered," he says. "It's just a mechanism of survival because it's trying to save itself. If your fields weren't ready yet, that's probably not going to be the case, but if we catch another cycle of rain, or we get into these two to three cycles of wet-dry, wet-dry, that pod really gets to the point of shattering in the field before the combine even gets there." Casteel stresses that soybean producers need to be aware that this phenomenon is occurring so they can make informed decisions about optimizing harvest and reducing losses in yield and profit.

Ag Education & Information

High Path Avian Influenza

What is HPAI?

Avian influenza, or "bird flu," is a contagious viral disease of domestic and wild birds. It's a major threat to the poultry industry, animal health, trade, and the economy worldwide. Caused by influenza type A viruses, the disease varies in severity depending on the strain and species affected. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) strains are deadly to domestic poultry and can wipe out entire flocks within a matter of days. Low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) strains typically cause few or no signs of illness. They occur naturally in wild birds around the world. However, some LPAI strains can become highly pathogenic in poultry. (USDA-APHIS)

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- H5 bird flu is widespread in wild birds worldwide and is causing outbreaks in poultry and U.S. dairy cows with several recent human cases in U.S. dairy and poultry workers.
- While the current public health risk is low, CDC is watching the situation carefully and working with states to monitor people with animal exposures.

For more information and resources please go to

https://www.purdue.edu/engineering/ABE/INPREPared/avian-influenza/

It's Science: Why a Pumpkin Is Actually a Fruit

AgriLife Extension horticulturist explains what sets fruits and vegetables apart

Every fall, pumpkins steal the spotlight with multiple purposes: as decorations, for soups and in pies. But here's a fun fact backed by science: this seasonal favorite is actually a fruit. Joe Masabni, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service vegetable specialist and professor in the Texas A&M Department of Horticultural Sciences, said pumpkins are scientifically classified as fruits because of how they grow. Anything that starts from a flower is classified botanically as a fruit.

Why do people mistake pumpkins for vegetables?

People typically consider something as either a fruit or a vegetable based on how they eat it rather than how it grows.

"We see them as to whether we eat them as a dessert, salad or as part of a meal," Masabni said.

For example, consider cucumbers or tomatoes. People typically don't eat them as desserts, he said. They often eat cucumbers and tomatoes in salads or cooked meals, so they may think of them as vegetables, even though they're fruits.

"The pumpkin is a tricky one, though," he said, "because some people make soups or stews from pumpkins, which is a meal, while others make pies, which is a dessert. So that can lead to confusion."

What's the difference between a fruit and a vegetable?

The difference between a fruit and a vegetable lies in whether the produce starts as a flower. "All plants start from a seed," Masabni said. "Let's take the example of lettuce as a vegetable. It makes more and more leaves, and then you harvest them and eat those leaves. If you let it go even longer, it will eventually make a flower stalk and make seeds that we harvest and store for next year's crop."

Continue reading:https://www.morningagclips.com/its-science-why-a-pumpkin-is-actually-a-fruit/

Soil Sampling



SOIL SAMPLING

247 Atwood Street Corydon, IN 47112 812-738-4236

Extension - Harrison County

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

SUBMITTING TO A&L LABS

BASIC ANALYSIS

Measures the organic matter, available phosphorus, exchangeable Potassium, Magnesium, Calcium, Soil pH, Cation Exchange Capacity, Percent Base Saturation of Cation Elements. 1 SAMPLE - \$19.00



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.

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ANR Newsletter





Extension - Harrison County

Over the Back Fence

Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Newsletter

Ariel Camm-Wilson

- County Extension Director (CED)
- Extension Educator
- Agriculture and Natural Resources

Tara Beckman

- Extension Educator
- Health and Human Sciences & Community Development

Anna Denny

- Extension Educator
- 4-H & Youth Development

Cindy Finerfrock

- Nutrition Education Program Advisor (NEPA)
- Floyd, Clark, and Harrison Counties

Mary Eve

Office Manager

Sallie Carter

• Extension Program Assistant

Tammy Alcorn

• Administrative Assistant

Sarah Gilmer

• Admin Program Assistant

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extension.purdue.edu/Harrison



facebook.com/HarrisonCoExtension



Phone: 812 738-4236 Fax: 812 738-2259

Address: 247 Atwood St. Corydon, IN

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