

## April 2022

Spring is officially here, on the calendar anyway. One thing is for sure, warmer longer days are ahead!! Along with spring we are offering many new programs. Be sure to check out our newsletters and Purdue Extension Randolph County Facebook page so that you don't miss out!!

Before highlighting upcoming events I want to thank all of those who were a part of the Grain Entrapment Rescue Training Event. The day was a huge success! Thank you! Buckeye Mutual Insurance, Chicago Pizza, Co-Alliance, Farm Bureau Inc., Farm Bureau Insurance, Matchett & Ward Insurance, Randolph County United, and Reid Health. A GREAT BIG PERSONAL THANK YOU TO: John Adams, Cheryl Jones, Jonathan Nicolson, Paul Wolfe, and Mike Alka. Thank you to all the attendees! Since the training there have been three grain rescues in Indiana. The need for this training and equipment continues to be important.

Spring brings a sense of renewal and the start of a new gardening season. I will be offering several gardening programs that will cover various topics, more information can be found in this newsletter or on our Facebook page. Plans are in place to install two more raised garden beds here at the fairgrounds. These two additional gardens will give us a total of five garden beds. I am looking for volunteers to help construct the two new beds and to help care for the gardens. If you would like to garden but do not have a location please feel free to join me. The gardens are easily accessible for all. If you have an interest please call me at 765-584-2271 or email [aalka@purdue.edu](mailto:aalka@purdue.edu).

If you have any agricultural or natural resource needs please let me know. "Happiness held is the seed; Happiness shared is the flower." John Harrigan



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**GRASS TO GARDEN**  
LEARN ABOUT COMMUNITY GARDENING?

May 11, 2022  
Session 1:  
Pre-Garden Planning

May 18, 2022  
Session 2:  
Garden policies &  
Community Engagement

May 25, 2022  
Session 3:  
Site Selection &  
Preparation

June 1, 2022  
Session 4:  
Growing &  
Harvesting

Each Session will be 6-8 pm  
Conference Room at the Fairgrounds  
Cost: \$50.00

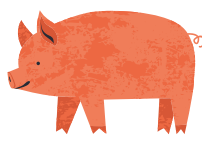
If interested in participating contact  
Amy Alka @ 765-584-2271 [aalka@purdue.edu](mailto:aalka@purdue.edu)  
By: May 4th



**CONTROLLING PESTS  
IN THE GARDEN**

April 13, 2022  
6 pm  
Conference Room at Fairgrounds  
Reserve you seat by calling 765-584-2271  
or email: [aalka@purdue.edu](mailto:aalka@purdue.edu)

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# ANR Calendar



## April

- 6-7 Randolph County Ag Days
- April 11 - 13 From Egg to Chickens to Eggs - Pick up your chicks.
- 13 Gardening class - Methods of Controlling Pests 6:00 pm
- 20 Gardening class - Weed Control 6:00 pm
- 26 Class Beginners Guide to Composting Outdoors 6:00 pm
- 29 sign up for Planting for Pollinators & Grass to Garden - Community garden

## May

- 4 Planting for Pollinators 6:30 - 7:30 pm.
- 5 I have worms and you should too!! Make & Take workshop Composting with Red Worms 6:00 pm
- 11 6-8 pm Grass to Garden Session 1: Pre-Garden Planning
- 18 6-8 pm Grass to Garden Session 2: Garden Policies & Community Engagement
- 25 6-8 pm Grass to Garden Session 3: Site Selection and Preparation

## June

- 1 6-9 pm Grass to Garden Session 4: Growing and Harvesting
- 6 RT2 - Read, Taste, Touch begins

## July

- 15-21 Randolph County 4-H Fair

## August

- 23 DPAC Field Day



## Spring Garden Calendar

- Apply fertilizer according to plant needs and label directions.
- Remove spent leaves.
- Prune, repot and clean leaves.
- Start seeds of warm-season crops for transplanting into garden later.
- Prune trees and shrubs. Those that bloom in the spring should be pruned after flowering.
- Fertilize woody plants before new growth begins but after soil temperatures have reached 40 degrees F.
- Remove tree wrap from trunks.
- Remove winter coverings from landscape plants.
- Plant a tree on Arbor Day. April 29, 2022
- Bare-root stock should be planted before new top growth begins.
- Remove and destroy overwintering bagworms from landscape.
- Review orchard spray schedule to prepare to control insects and diseases. Read & follow label.
- Seed bare spots in lawn.
- Apply pre-emergence herbicides to control crabgrass.
- Prepare garden soil for planting. Do not work ground when soil is wet.
- Remove old asparagus & rhubarb tops, and side dress with nitrogen as recommended.
- Plant cool season vegetables and flowers as soon as ground is dry enough to work.
- Harden off plants before transplanting by gradually exposing to wind, sunlight and lower moisture.
- Plant/transplant asparagus, rhubarb, strawberries & berries.
- Plant potatoes.
- Remove winter mulch from strawberries as new growth begins but protect from frost.
- Remove raspberry canes that are weak, diseased or damaged and shorten remaining canes.
- Prune grape vines.



**All of the following information may be found at [www.oisc.purdue.edu](http://www.oisc.purdue.edu)  
How many PARP points do I have?**

- 1st go to: [oisc.purdue.edu](http://oisc.purdue.edu)
- 2nd Click on: My Records - gold bar across the top
- 3rd Click on: Applicator Login - down the left side at bottom.
- 4th You will be prompted to enter your first & last name and the last four digits of your social security number.
- You will be taken to a page with all of your information concerning your license.
- A reminder that every five years you need to earn three points. Once you have your three credits and prior to your license expiring you must reapply by sending in the appropriate form and \$20 to activate your license.



**Watch out for the Spotted Lanternfly!!**

This leafhopper type insect is approximately one inch long and has distinctive coloring. Adults have wings however, they are poor fliers and generally crawl around. The Spotted Lanternfly although beautiful is invasive and can be devastating. Their ability to feed on a wide range of plants and adapt to varying climates make this pest difficult to control.

The SLF is a thirsty critter. The SLF feeds off the sap of trees making the tree weak and susceptible to disease. If the tree is young, already suffering from disease or stress the additional feeding can cause the tree to die. Some of the SLF favorite foods are grapevines & walnut trees, both of which are valuable Indiana crops. They also love to feed on orchard plants, maples, oak, pines, lilac, roses and many others.

The SLF damages surfaces where they release "honeydew" or sugar water urine. This "honeydew" attracts bees, wasps and ants. When the "honeydew" dries it is nearly impossible to remove from any surface.

SLF will lay their eggs on any surface but smooth surfaces are preferred. Their eggs look like mud making them difficult to identify. This allows for SLF to travel anywhere on vehicle making control and elimination difficult.

Should you find this nasty invasive you should: 1. Take a picture so that the insects identification can be verified. 2. Report your find to the DNR by calling 866-663-9684 or emailing [DEPP@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:DEPP@dnr.IN.gov). Or call our office and I will help you report 765-584-2271.



# Avian Influenza



What you need to know if you have backyard poultry.

According to the most recent information in the Indiana BOAH and DNR websites avian influenza has been detected in commercial turkey flocks in Dubois and Greene Counties. The following is a summary of avian influenza.

What can happen if your flock contacts Avian Influenza. Reduced egg production, general illness and death to all poultry species.

How to keep your flock safe Practice biosecurity - reduce all foot traffic into flock areas, avoid visiting other flocks, wear boot covers at all times. Prevent exposure to wild birds.

How the disease is spread. Anything can be contaminated such as: vehicles, equipment, clothing, and shoes. Prevent contact with wild birds. Many wild birds can carry the disease without becoming ill or dying. Keep your poultry confined in a coop or fenced space to reduce exposure to wild birds or other contaminants.

Signs of illness: sudden death for no apparent reason, loss of energy, loss of appetite, reduced egg production, malformed eggs, swelling of head areas, purple discoloration of wattles, combs and legs, nasal discharge, coughing, sneezing, diarrhea, loss of coordination.

What to do if you suspect infection. Call 866-536-7593

Other important information. Poultry & eggs are tested to ensure avian influenza will not be moved into the food supply. No cases of human illness have been reported in the United States. Practice good hygiene and sanitation.

- The infected flocks have been depopulated.
- Wild birds in and around the area of infected locations are being monitored.
- On March 15, 2022, control areas around Greene County were lifted.
- Other farms in the area of the infected farms are being monitored.

## Spring Road Safety for Farmers and Motorists

### Farmers

- Watch for overhead powerlines.
- Have all equipment highly visible with new slow moving vehicle signs & reflective tape at equipment edges.
- Avoid parking on roadway if possible.

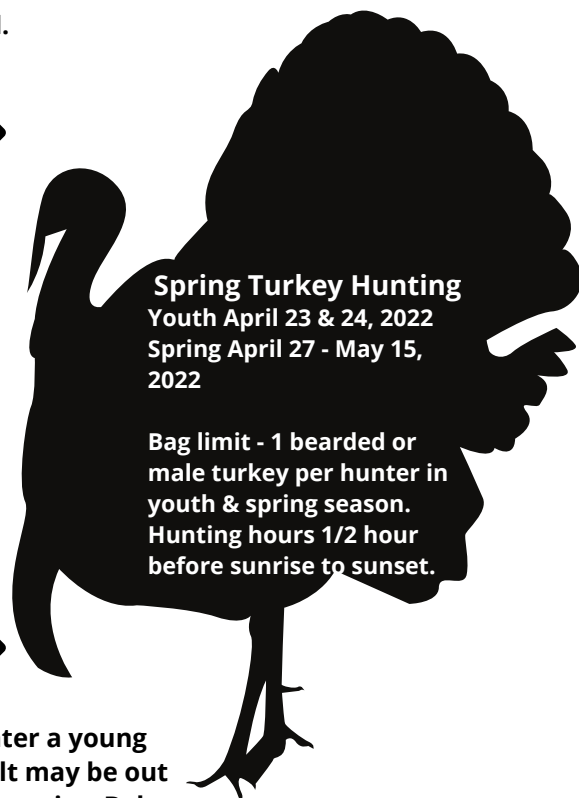
### Motorists

- SLOW DOWN!!!
- Leave early and allow extra time.
- Don't assume a farmer can see you.



**Spring Turkey Hunting**  
 Youth April 23 & 24, 2022  
 Spring April 27 - May 15, 2022

Bag limit - 1 bearded or male turkey per hunter in youth & spring season.  
 Hunting hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.



## Keep Wildlife Wild

Spring is the time of year when many baby animals are born. If you encounter a young animal, remember that adult animals rarely abandon their young. The adult may be out of sight gathering food. Leaving the young unattended is normal for many species. Baby animals should not be handled. Though human scent may not cause parents to abandon their young, it can alert predator to the young animal's presence. Remember, removing wildlife without a permit is prohibited



# ADVOCATING FOR AGRICULTURE

In March I attended the Advocate for Action sponsored by Land O' Lakes. Several take-aways are below.

- To quote a Luke Bryan song, "Most people are good."
  - Many of the participants in the Advocate for Action sessions were young farmers/couples who were early in their agriculture careers. These young adults (millennial's) were nothing like what I have seen portrayed on TV, social media or any other platform. I had been swayed by the very same methods that I am contending against. The people we interacted with for four days were intelligent, motivated, innovative and willing to learn from others. I thought wow, in spite of what we are fed on a daily basis America and American agriculture will be in good hands with these young adults.
- The squeaky wheel gets the grease. Most of the time the only news is bad news. If you think about it any good news story is short and generally at the end of the broadcast. What the general public believes to be true is usually far from the truth.
  - It is time to share the grassroots, boots on the ground story of agriculture.
  - It is time to share your (our) story.
  - It is time to learn how to respond to questions about the agriculture industry.

## How to advocate for agriculture.

- Everyone can be an advocate! If you don't tell your story, someone else will.
- Many times the stories shared are from those who have a bias against agriculture. Don't let the vocal minority share their version of your story.
- Studies show that the public have a high level of trust for farmers/ranchers. So share your story!
- Talk about what you do and why.
- Remember you are the expert on what you do!
- Have pictures on your phone to share.
- Share what you are passionate about.
- Sharing does not require a special event. Share on social media, blog or write an article for a publication.

## RT2 = Read, Taste, Touch Summer Reading Program

Summer reading program for 3 yrs through 2nd grade.

Participants will receive:

- A link to the story of the week. Beginning June 6th for 6 weeks.
- Activity ideas
- Snack recipes
- Special invitation to the Randolph County Fair RT2 Celebration.
  - Hands on activities, tasty snack & touch animals.
  - Farm Bureau Book of the Year will be given to all who sign up and attend.

To sign up email [aalka@purdue.edu](mailto:aalka@purdue.edu) or call 765-584-2271



### COMPOSTING WITH RED WORMS MAKE & TAKE WORKSHOP

MAY 5, 2022 @ 6:00 PM

Conference room fairgrounds  
1885 S. US 27  
Winchester, In 47394

Sign up by calling 765-584-2271 or  
email [aalka@purdue.edu](mailto:aalka@purdue.edu)

Cost \$30.00



# Purdue Ag Week Virtual Spring Fest

Do you know of any K-12 students who enjoy hands-on learning activities? If so, please encourage them to participate in virtual afterschool lessons during Purdue Ag Week from April 4-7, 2022. For more information about the lessons, please check out this webpage: <https://ag.purdue.edu/springfest/home/ag-stem/>

## Chronic stress is affecting us all!

Considering the ongoing challenges of labor shortages, supply chain issues, input costs, trade disruptions, inflation, weather, the war in Ukraine it is easy to understand why we are stressed!! So much of what we do in agriculture is actually dependent on factors outside of our control. Amid all of these adverse conditions how do we stay positive?

- Remember, mental health is just as important as our physical health.
- Take time to notice something beautiful.
- Listen to a favorite song.
- Make a list of what you are grateful for.
- Call a favorite relative or friend.
- Be aware of and accept your feelings.
- Manage stress with healthy coping strategies.
- Cultivate your creativity with music, art, crafts, gardening or favorite hobby.
- Practice a healthy self-concept; know, respect and like yourself.
- Plan time for relaxation, gratitude or focused breathing.

For more information or additional resources

- <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/>
- <https://extension.purdue.edu/farmstress>
- <https://www.fb.org/land/fsom>
- <https://www.infarmbureau.org/resources/mental-health-resources>

## Helpful Websites

- <https://thekernel.info/>
  - The latest corn research & Management information for farmers and agriculture professional.
- [driftwatch.org](https://driftwatch.org). Drift Watch is a voluntary communication tool that enables crop producers, beekeepers and pesticide applicators to work together to protect specialty crops and apiaries.
- <https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/pestcrop/> Purdue pest & crop newsletter



**Controlling Weeds in the Garden**

- ✓ April 20, 2022
- ✓ 6:00 pm
- ✓ Conference Room at Fairgrounds
- ✓ Sign up by calling 765-584-2271 or email [aalka@purdue.edu](mailto:aalka@purdue.edu)



**COMPOSTING FOR BEGINNERS**

April 26, 2022

6:00 pm

Conference Room at Fairgrounds  
1885 S. US 27 Winchester, IN

Sign up by calling: 765-584-2271 or email [aalka@purdue.edu](mailto:aalka@purdue.edu)

# RANDOLPH COUNTY AG DAYS

## APRIL 6 & 7



Best Way Disposal Center  
Randolph County Fairgrounds  
1885 S. US 27 Winchester Indiana 17394

### Wednesday, April 6

6:30 - 10 am Farmer's Share Breakfast \$1.00  
6:30 - 10:30 Ascension St. Vincent Health Fair  
11:30 - 1:30 Lunch by El Carreton  
5-7:30 Chicken Dinner by Saratoga Lions Club  
5:30 pm Kiddie Tractor Pull  
7:00 pm Baked Goods Auction Proceeds to Scholarship Fund  
All Day - Booths & Farmer Brown's Barn

### Thursday, April 7

7-9 am Breakfast - Sausage gravy, biscuit,  
fruit & drink  
9-2 Booths & Farmer Brown's Barn  
11:30 - 1:30 Lunch by Chicago Pizza

## Planting for Pollinators

Wednesday, May 4th @ 6:30 pm  
Conference Room at Randolph County Fairgrounds  
1885 South US Hwy 27, Winchester Indiana

Program is free!

- Why we need pollinators.
- Who are the pollinators.
- How you can help.
- Plant the right plants.

Seed packets will be available for you to take home to establish your own pollinator garden!



Register by calling 765-584-2271 or Email  
aalka@purdue.edu  
Please RSVP by April 29th



# TRIVIA

## Trivia Questions Answers inside

1. What are the state colors of Indiana?
2. What is the Indiana state flower?
3. What is the Indiana state insect?
4. What is the Indiana state motto?
5. How many Vice Presidents have been from Indiana? For a bonus can you name them?

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*[www.extension.purdue.edu/randolph](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/randolph)*



Extension - Randolph County

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