

»»» PURDUE EXTENSION «««

# JOHNSON COUNTY AGRI-TIMES

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024



Extension - Agriculture  
and Natural Resources

## »»» BREAKING NEWS

### 2025 MASTER GARDENER CLASSES

Mark your calendars and save the date! Extension Master Gardener classes will begin in January 2025 and run until April. We will be meeting on Wednesday afternoons from 1pm-4pm at the extension office!

# EDUCATOR NOTES

## AN INTRODUCTION



### >>> ABOUT ME

Hey Johnson County agriculture! My name is Shalee Bradley and I am THRILLED to be the Agriculture & Natural Resources Educator here in my home county. Born and raised in Bargsville, I know how deep the roots of agriculture run here in Johnson County.

I am no stranger to the extension program. I am a 10 year 4-H member and spent my years participating in the swine, beef cattle, and sheep projects. In 2017, I served as a summer intern in the Johnson County office. I have been a 4-H volunteer and currently serve on the 100 Year of 4-H Celebration Committee. I am also a Johnson County Fair Board member.

I am a 2020 Purdue University graduate and have a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Education. Upon graduation, I accepted a job with Indian Creek High School where I taught 8th-12th grade agriculture courses. After two years at IC, I made the move to Southwestern-Shelby County Jr/Sr High School and taught there for a year and a half. I also served as the FFA advisor at both schools.

Now living in Trafalgar, my husband, daughter and I farm alongside our family. We raise corn, soybeans, wheat and hay. When not doing educator duties, you can find me working ground in the spring, raking and round baling hay in the summer, and running the combine in the fall. Aside from being a wife, mother, and farmer, I love making new recipes and traveling. This summer I will be traveling to Ireland for an Agriculture in Ireland tour!

### >>> VISION FOR THIS POSITION

- Preserving the Past - Continuing programs that we all know and love.
- Connections - Connect to agriculturalists and farmers in the county.
- Community Needs Assessment - Utilizing connections to create a better understanding on what the Johnson County agriculture community needs.
- Advisory Board - Construct a brand new advisory board made up of business owners, farmers, master gardeners, teachers, and friends of extension.
- New Programs - Using the community needs assessment to provide new programs for Johnson County.
  - Field Crops, Diversified Farming, Farm Management, Animal Science

# BULL BREEDING SOUNDESS EVALUATION PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 24TH, 2024

## ➤➤➤ BULL TESTING

We had a great turn out for our 2024 bull breeding soundness evaluation program. Dr. Susan Powers checked 23 Johnson County owned bulls, this is an increase compared to years past. Thanks to the Johnson County Beef Cattle Association, the fee for Johnson County owned bulls was covered.

## ➤➤➤ SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Susan Powers  
 Johnson County Beef Cattle Association  
 Keegan Poe  
 Mike Hardamon  
 Ann Robards  
 Alle Robards



## AG DAY BREAKFAST

# PURDUE EXTENSION JOHNSON COUNTY ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 20, 2024

Thank you to those who attended the Johnson County Ag Day Breakfast and Annual Meeting combined event! We recognized the 2024 Farm Family of the year to J.C. Linville Family as well as the 2023 Farm Family, Andy & Ralph Duckworth. The Friend of Extension award was given to Rob & Barbara Souchon.



# YARD & GARDEN CALENDAR

## THINGS TO KNOW FOR APRIL

### >>>HOME

- Start seeds of warm-season plants (including tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, marigolds, zinnias, and petunias) indoors for transplanting later to the garden.
- Harden off transplants started earlier in spring before planting outdoors. Gradually expose the young plants to outdoor conditions of wind, brighter sunlight, and lower moisture.
- Apply fertilizer to houseplants according to label directions as days grow brighter and longer and new growth begins. Foliage plants require relatively high-nitrogen fertilizer, while blooming plants thrive on formulations that are higher in phosphorus.
- Keep Easter lily in a bright, cool location, out of direct sunlight. Water as soil begins to dry. You can remove the yellow, pollen-bearing anthers inside the flower by pinching to prevent staining the petals.

### >>>YARD

- Plant a tree in celebration of Arbor Day, April 24. You should plant bare-root stock before new top growth begins. You can plant balled and burlapped and containerized stock later in spring.
- Complete pruning chores. Remove dead and injured branches first.
- Apply a prebloom, multipurpose orchard spray to fruit trees.
- Remove winter coverings from roses, but keep mulch nearby to protect them from late freezes. Prune and fertilize as needed.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicide to control crabgrass in lawns. Approximate application dates are late March to mid-April in southern Indiana and mid-April to early May in northern Indiana. Exact timing varies each year with weather conditions. For more precise application timing based on Growing Degree Days (GDD), visit Michigan State University's [GDD Tracker](#). Enter your ZIP code and select "Crabgrass Pre." The target GDD window for crabgrass prevention is 250-500.

### >>>GARDEN

- Plant seeds of cool-season crops directly in the garden as soon as the soil dries enough to be worked. When squeezed, soil should crumble instead of forming a ball. Cool-season crops that can be direct-seeded include peas, lettuce, spinach, carrots, beets, turnips, parsnips and Swiss chard.
- Plant transplants of cool-season crops, such as broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, kohlrabi and onions.
- Plant or transplant asparagus and rhubarb crowns. For best plant establishment, do not harvest until the third year after planting.
- Allow the foliage of spring-flowering bulbs to remain in place after blooms fade. Leaves manufacture the food reserves, which are then stored in the bulb for a repeat showing next year.
- Plant hardy perennials, such as daylilies and delphiniums.
- Remove winter mulch from strawberries, but keep mulch handy in case late frosts are predicted and to help keep weeds under control.

# PROGRAMMING SURVEY

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN THE ANR PROGRAM?

**AGRONOMY**      **AGRIBUSINESS**      **AG TECHNOLOGY**  
**ANIMAL SCIENCE**      **HORTICULTURE**      **BEGINNING FARMS**

**My goal is to provide programs based on what the county wants and needs. Please feel free to reach out via email or phone expressing what needs you see are necessary.**

## CONTACT ME

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# OPEN CLASS EXHIBITS



**JULY 14-20, 2024**

**Enter exhibits into Open Class this year!**

Agriculture & Natural Resources Exhibits include:

- Horticulture
- Crops: Grain & Hay
- Honey
- Vegetables

**Open Class books will be mailed on May 1st**

New to open class? Email [sdaming@purdue.edu](mailto:sdaming@purdue.edu) to get on the mailing list!



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