

# September/October 2021

## Welcome to Fall!!

I LOVE spring and summer but doesn't mean that I don't enjoy fall! Fall is an exciting time because harvest begins! It is an opportunity to review our management practices, take note of what works and what needs to improve for the next season. Fall is a time for cozy clothes, apple crisp (I've already made 3 in the last 2 weeks), I love seeing the color differences between hybrids of corn in the grain tank on the combine, football, the beginning of the holiday season, pumpkin everything, day length gets shorter and that means getting on the couch earlier and watching a movie while snuggled up in a blanket with popcorn, time to read more, firepits get used more - Smores, yum, and comfort food!! What do you enjoy about fall? Try to find something positive everyday!

September 1 began our next programming year. I want to share with you some new programs that I will be offering as well as some updates on others. Programs/events that will be scheduled: Silo the movie; Managing Farm Stress; Livestock 101 for people who are interested in learning more about raising their own animals; Chick embryology and Backyard Chickens; Grass to Garden - Community and Public Gardens, this information is also great for at home gardeners, we have installed three gardens here at the office and will install more next spring; Help Save the Pollinators; Purdue Davis Field Day - August 2022; UAV - Drone class; Read, Taste, Touch - Reading program; Nature of Teaching; Worms Eat My Garbage; Day on the Farm for 1st grade; these are just the beginning of what we will be doing here in Randolph County. A Day on the Farm for adults to let them see agriculture up close. I am very excited about the upcoming program year. Please look for updates and registrations for these and several others. Information will be provided through this newsletter, social media, email, radio and newspaper. As I prepare for the upcoming programming year please let me know if you have any special requests. I am always open to new ideas!!

Fall also brings a time to remind everyone about farm safety. Please check out the advocating for agriculture article on page 5.

Before you head to the field please make your farm equipment more visible by:

- Outlining your equipment with reflective tape.
- Use a slow-moving vehicle emblem. Make sure it is clean, bright and visible.
- Make sure all lights are working on your equipment. Consider purchasing extra lighting that can be easily attached with magnets.
- Add red taillights to all equipment that is being towed.

Other harvest safety habits to implement:

- Have all safety lights flashing when you are on the road even in the day time.
- Try to reduce traveling on roadways during peak travel times and at night.
- Be mindful of powerlines, low or narrow bridges.

Tips for motorists:

- SLOW down. During harvest and planting consider leaving earlier or avoid routes that you know are busy during harvest.
- Give equipment plenty of room. You may think the driver is pulling over for you to pass when they may be pulling over to make a wide turn.
- Watch for hand signals. Many farmers will communicate with you when it is safe to pass.

Let's have a safe and wonderful fall season!



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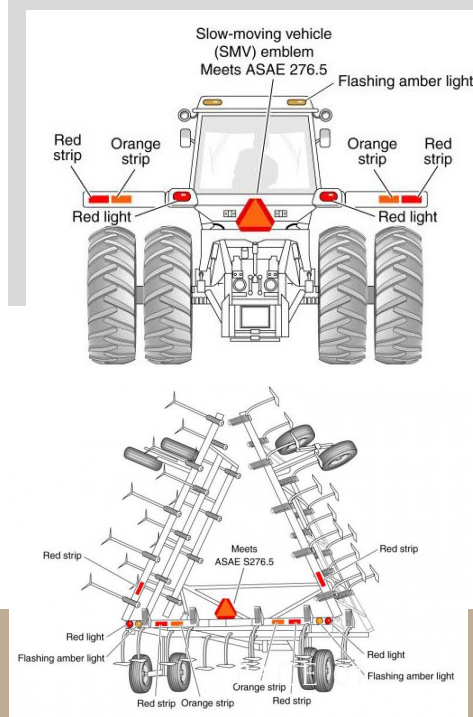
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Farm Equipment Road Safety



## September

- 19 - 25 National Farm Safety Week.
- 29 Silo the moving planning meeting Noon in the conference room. Anyone is welcome to attend.

## October

- 6, 13, 20, 27 Invasive Species Program , DPAC more info on page 4
- 9 @ 6:30 4-H Awards Night
- 14 Noon National Apple Crunch

## November

- TBD Worms Eat My Garbage
- 15 All category training at Lake Placid
- 18 @ 6:00 Farmers' Achievement Planning Meeting

## December

- TBD Randolph County PARP Program including Category 14

## January

- TBD UAV - Drone Basics
- TBD Farmer Coffee Hours

## February

- TBD Silo the Movie
- TBD Managing Farm/Agriculture Stress
- 20-26 Grain Bin Safety Week

## March

- TBD Livestock 101 - Learn the basics of raising livestock.
- TBD Grass to Garden - Private, Community & Public Gardens
- TBD Farmers' Achievement Banquet
- TBD Chicken embryology/Backyard Chickens

## April

- TBD Chicken embryology/Backyard Chickens
- TBD Nature of Teaching

## May

- TBD Read Taste Touch - Reading Program for ages 3-9
- TBD Planting for Pollinators

## June

## July

- 15-21 Randolph County 4-H Fair

## August

- DPAC Field Day

## September

- Help Save the Pollinators

## SHARE THE ROAD

Changes in the season also bring changes on the road, and if you live or drive anywhere near a rural community you'll probably be seeing a lot more farm equipment sharing your roadways in the coming weeks. Sharing the road with farmers and ranchers means practicing extra caution. Keep these safety tips in mind this season to keep you and farmers safe.

### READ THE SIGNS

Slow-Moving Vehicle (SMV) signs are orange or red triangular signs that are placed on the back of equipment. This is your warning to slow down. Did you know it takes just five seconds for a car traveling 55 miles per hour to close a distance the size of a football field on a tractor or combine? Stay back!

### PASS CAREFULLY

It's easy to get impatient when you find yourself behind a slow-moving piece of farm equipment, but resist the urge to pass illegally. That means following the same rules that would apply to other vehicles: never pass on curves or hills, when nearing intersections, or at railroad crossings, bridges, or tunnels.

### HAND SIGNALS

Most farm equipment is huge compared to your average car, requiring the driver to make wide left turns. If equipment veers right, don't take this as automatic permission to pass; check the vehicle's cab for hand signals from the driver first. It's not always safe for farmers to drive their equipment on the shoulder, and they could just be preparing for a left-hand turn.

### DON'T SPEED BY

When you do pass, be courteous and don't just roar by. Air turbulence from a speeding vehicle can cause farm equipment to sway and become unsteady.

### WIDE LOAD

Be aware of the distance needed to safely clear the equipment when you go by. Flashing lights or reflective tape are often used to mark the far right and left edges of the equipment, which may be wider than the road lanes.

## HARVEST SEASON IS NOW

**DRIVERS: SLOW DOWN AND WATCH OUT FOR FARMERS AND THEIR EQUIPMENT!**

**SID DILLON**  
You are what drives us!



**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.

**Indiana: Register for the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch!  
Thursday, October 14, 2021 OR any day in October**

Join the 2021 Great Apple Crunch to celebrate Indiana's farmers, healthy kids, and strong communities this October. Participating in the Crunch is simple: buy, serve, and Crunch into locally grown apples! Since 2014, we have highlighted National Farm to School Month with MILLIONS of Crunches across the region. Register your Crunch to add to the Crunch count, get free stickers\*, score the scoop on purchasing and serving local apples, and receive the Crunch Guide. Everyone is invited to help us reach the goal of ONE MILLION CRUNCHES in 2021.



Noon on Thursday, October 14, 2021 is the official Crunch date, but we welcome your Crunch any time this October. No event is too small to register! If your Crunch is not hosted by a school or organization, skip any questions that don't apply to you.

If you would like me to organize your apple crunch with some activities please let me know! [aalka@purdue.edu](mailto:aalka@purdue.edu) or call the office 584-2271

\*Crunch stickers are available for all registrants, while supplies last. The deadline to request stickers is Thursday, September 30th, sticker availability may change at any time. Questions? Please visit [www.cias.wisc.edu/applecrunch](http://www.cias.wisc.edu/applecrunch)





## PURDUE EXTENSION'S INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM IS COMING!

### Register Today to Protect Indiana From Invasive Species

Registration is now open for Purdue Extension's new Invasive Species Signature Program, where you can help protect Indiana's ecology and economy by learning how to prevent the spread of invasive species.

*Details on how to register are below. Don't miss your chance to help keep Indiana's public and private lands safe!*

**Dates:** Wednesdays, October 6, 13, 20, and 27

**Times:** 6-8:30 PM ET

**Location:** Davis Purdue Agricultural Center, 6230 IN-1, Farmland, IN 47340

**Cost:** \$75 per person, registration includes all sessions

**Registration Link:** <https://cvent.me/NxkWPR>

For more information or questions, contact:

Laurynn Thieme at 765.747.7732 or [ljthieme@purdue.edu](mailto:ljthieme@purdue.edu)

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## Helpful Websites!!

- **Dan Quinn the new Purdue Corn Specialist website.** <http://thekernel.info>
- **For timely agronomic information check out The Chat 'n Chew Café online at:** [www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/café](http://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/café)
- **Purdue Succession Planning** <https://www.cdext.purdue.edu/collaborative-projects/succession-planning/>
- **Purdue Horticulture Extension** <https://ag.purdue.edu/hla/Extension/Pages/Home.aspx>
- **Purdue Pest & Crop Newsletter** <https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/pestcrop/>
- **Purdue Landscape Report** <https://www.purduelandscape.com/>
- **Purdue Chat 'n Chew Cafe** <https://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/cafe/index.html>
- **Indiana Monarch and Pollinator Conservation Hub** <https://indianawildlife.org/monarchs/>
- **Purdue Vegetable Crops Hotline** <https://vegcropshotline.org/>
- **Pond and Wildlife Management resources:** <https://extension.purdue.edu/pondwildlife/>
- **Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture.** <https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag/home/>
- **Purdue Institute for Family Businesses (PIFB)** <https://ag.purdue.edu/agecon/fambiz/Pages/home.aspx>
- **Purdue Center for Food and Agricultural Business.** <https://agribusiness.purdue.edu/>
- **Indiana Department of Natural Resources.** <https://events.in.gov/dnr>

Trivia Question #1 The tradition began in Ireland. A myth about a man named "Stingy Jack" who tricked the devil. Jack was not allowed into heaven or hell so he has to wander with no where to go. Jack's lanterns were carved and placed in the windows to frighten away Stingy Jack and other wandering evil spirits. Hence, Jack-o-lanterns.



# ADVOCATING FOR AGRICULTURE

Cultivating Freedom!! These are the two words that the thesaurus provided when I looked up, Farm Safety! How can I make you want to read this information and take heed? I have been trying to come up with an exciting way to share this most important topic. My fear is that you will pass right by this information and onto the next article. PLEASE DON'T!!

Agriculture has some of the highest rates of fatalities and serious injuries among all professions. Deaths from agriculture related accidents have been in the news much too frequently! Several weeks ago three brothers across the state line in Ohio lost their lives when working on a manure pit. Just this past weekend a 37 year old in Hendricks County died in a grain entrapment. Both of these incidents are grave reminders of the hazards that those involved in agriculture face every day. Many of the common activities that we perform day in and day out become so routine that we lose sight of the potential perils. What can I say that will cause you to stop, think and act in a prudent manner? If the two cases above do not get your attention then how about some of the following facts! In 2019 there were a total of 21 farm-related fatalities in Indiana! Of those fatalities eight were during the use of tractors or skid steer loaders. Three victims were the age of 5 and under, eleven victims were over 60 and fourteen who ranged in age of 6 to 60. Age doesn't matter!!

The statistics are staggering however, consider that many agriculture/farm related accidents go unreported these numbers are probably even larger. The 2020 stats from Purdue revealed that across the United States that there were at least 64 accidents involving agricultural confined spaces; at least 35 of those were grain related entrapments. There were eight grain dust explosions. When looking at injuries and fatalities between 1962 and 2020 the data revealed that 64% of accidents were when working with grain storage, 15% were related to manure storage/handling, 8% involved grain transport vehicles, and 4% involved forage storage. As I read the part of grain transport it reminded me how 5 years ago a person who was not paying attention rear ended our grain truck while the driver was slowing down to turn. Fortunately, no one was seriously hurt and the grain truck was repaired. However, this is a reminder that things do happen close to home. There is not a mandatory incident reporting system therefore, this particular incident was not reported to be included in the statistics. The fatal cases sometimes end up in the news nonetheless many go unreported. Historically, Indiana has had the largest number of agriculture related incidents. Between 1962 and 2020 there were 273 agriculture related fatalities. (Full disclosure, this may be due to the fact that Purdue has an agriculture safety and health program and they are looking for this data.)

There is a plethora of information and groups focused on agriculture safety. Commitment to a safe and productive workplace is extremely important! Purdue has published a nine page list of agriculture related safety information. If you or someone you know would like training on these safety topics please let me know. If you have youth working for you on the farm consider looking at these training programs. Contact me here at the office and I would be more than happy to provide the instruction. Most of these sessions are short and simple. A few minutes of guidance may prevent a tragedy. Adults will also benefit from these simple reminders. Safety training will give participants the awareness and information needed to reduce safety hazards. Many times we don't think about safety until it's too late.





# Get Ready For Spring This Fall!!!



## Topic Fertilizer

- One of the most limiting factors for your lawn and garden can be soil nutrient levels. To reduce nutrient level issues now is the time to soil sample! Adding too much or too little fertilizer could be detrimental. Plants have specific nutrient and pH levels for optimum growth.
- Learn the proper procedure for soil sampling. Contact me for a Purdue Extension Publication explaining this process.

## Lawns

- Remove leaves and needles from around trees as this can harbor disease, insects and can smother the grass.
- Mow the lawn a few inches taller the last mowing of the season.
- Reseed bare spots.
- Apply a broadleaf weed killer. Read and follow label directions.
- Apply fall fertilizer to help with spring recovery. Remember roots remain active when the soil temperatures are at 35 degrees or more.

## Indoor plants

- Bring plants that you set outside in for the winter. Check for spiders and other insects that may have made an egg case or cocoon under the rim of the pot or in the drip tray.
- Gradually decrease the amount of light the plant receives to help reduce leaf drop when you return the plant to the house.
- Water indoor plants less frequently and discontinue fertilizer as plants will slow growing as the amount of sunlight diminishes in the coming months.
- Move indoor plants closer to a south or west window to maintain the amount of light they receive. As day length shortens this may help reduce the amount of leaf drop.

## Woody ornamentals and fruit trees

- Plant container grown or balled-and-burlapped nursery stock. Mulch to protect against temperature and moisture fluctuations. Do not place mulch in a "volcano" shape up against the bark. Rodents may make a nest and eat the plants bark.
- Keep plants well watered until the ground freezes.
- For young and thin-barked trees prevent frost cracks and sunscald by wrapping trunks with tree wrap. Wrap from the bottom up and remember to remove in the spring.

## Flowers

- Plant, transplant or divide peonies, daylilies, iris and phlox.
- Plant spring-flowering bulbs in late September.
- Dig and store gladiolus corms, caladiums, geraniums, and tuberous begonias. Dig canna and dahlia after a heavy frost.



## Gardens

- Remove plant debris to help reduce next years disease and insects.
- Apply mulch in late November to protect strawberries from extreme temperatures. Applying too early will cause crown rot.
- Fall tillage helps with soil warming faster in the spring.
- Do not remove asparagus growth, this allows snow collection for insulation and moisture.



# Farm Equipment Road Safety.



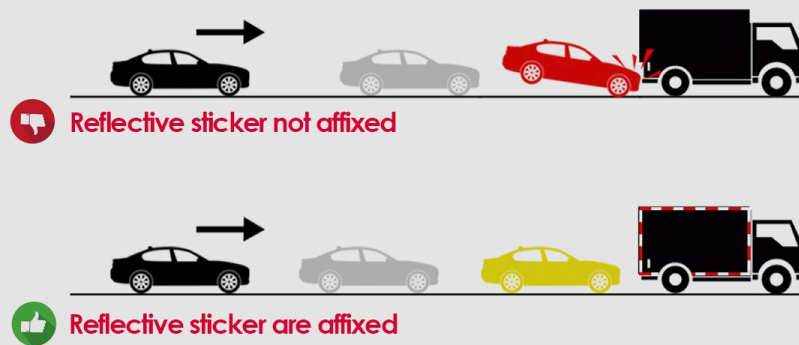
The picture below is one that I took in the fall of 2018. (I wasn't driving.) As we are traveling down the road we very quickly came upon the wagon in the picture below. It was a dark, foggy morning. This wagon was being pulled at about 25 mph. The truck pulling it did not have on any flashers, the wagon's SMV sign was worn and faded and there were no additional lights! WHY?? This is an accident waiting to happen!! If you are pulling farm implements please do not travel the roadways in foggy conditions! Also, please have flashing lights, bright reflective SMV signs and it is simple to add reflective tape to all equipment. Every year during planting and harvest I get a little testy about people who do not operate in a safe fashion. Just ask Mike, people quickly anger me; from farmers who do not use flashing lights or reflective tape to those non-farm people who go past our grain trucks sitting along the road at a dangerous rate of speed. Why can't everyone slow down and practice safety?

A 200 foot by 2" roll of reflective tape costs \$16.99 on Amazon!!

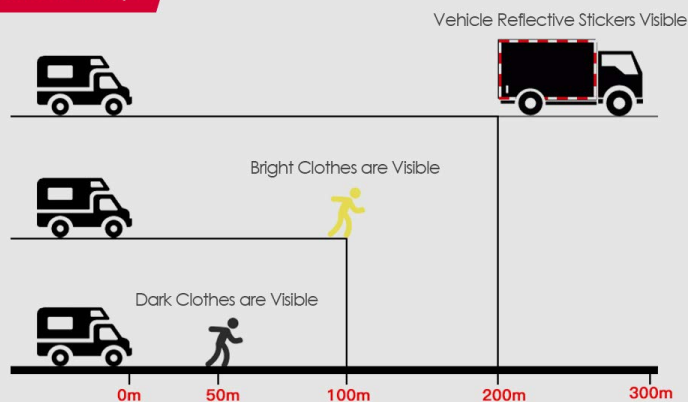


## Why needs reflective safety tape?

Provides high visibility and prevents night accidents



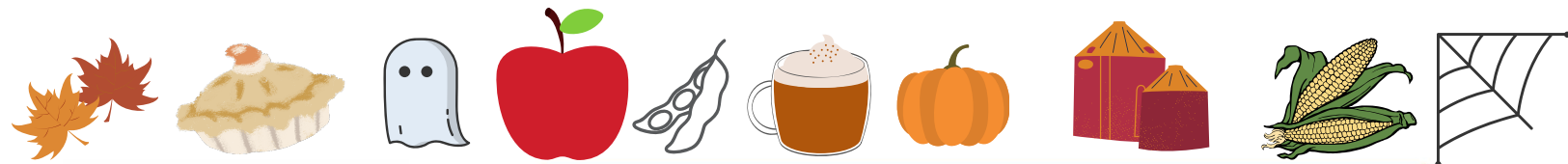
Visible 200 metres away



Please consider purchasing reflective tape to put on your farm equipment. Studies show that using reflective tape could reduce farm equipment accidents by 60%

A roll of reflective tape like the one below that is available on Amazon is 2" X 164 ft. The cost is \$37.58





# TRIVIA

## Trivia Questions Answers inside

1. How did carving pumpkins begin?
2. What pigment decreases in plant during autumn causing leaf color to change?
3. What is leaf peeping?
4. Which insect migrates from the US to Mexico?
5. Name the longest-running motoring event that takes place during fall.

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