



Clover Gazette

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023

Important Dates

Please check newsletter for trip specific club and project meeting dates/information!

4-H Enrollment Deadline January 15th

Extension Office Closed

- Jan. 2nd New Year's
- Jan. 16th Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Feb. 20th President's Day

Fair Board Meeting

- January 9th @ 6PM
- February 13th @ 6PM

Center Board Meeting

- January 9th @ 7PM
- February 13th @ 7PM

4-H Leader Meeting

- January 17th @ 6PM

4-H Council Meeting

- January 17th @ 7PM
- February 21st @ 7PM

Fair Dates

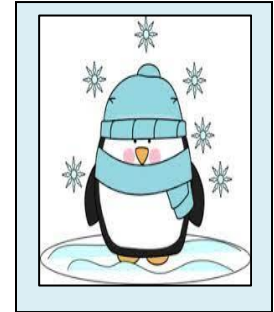
Warrick County 4-H Fair
July 17-22, 2023

Indiana State Fair

July 28-Aug. 20, 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Hopefully you and yours have enjoyed a wonderful holiday season filled with family fun and thankful reminders. As you look ahead to 2023 and to all the new and exciting adventures the new year brings, I hope that Warrick County 4-H is one adventure that fills you with great anticipation.



Get Enrolled for 2023...

Please know that enrolling by January 15th is vital for communication. After January 15th we will no longer pull inactive member reports (those enrolled in 2021-2022, but have not enrolled in 2022-2023) for communication. 4-H enrollment is an easy 2-step process. To be included in all future communication, please visit v2.4honline.com and enroll today. If you need enrollment help, visit our website at <https://extension.purdue.edu/warrick> and click on the 4-H page. Here you will also be able to view the Clover Gazette Newsletter at your fingertips and be kept in the loop of all the opportunities and changes for the new programming year. Be sure to follow us on Facebook at Warrick County 4-H too!

Enrolling in 4-H...Easy as 1...2!!

1. Complete enrollment via the 4-H Online Enrollment system-see website for help v2.4honline.com
2. Pay annual 4-H Program Fee
 - \$5.00 for Mini 4-H (Grades K - 2)
 - \$30.00 for 4-H (Grades 3-12)



Please join us in giving a warm Purdue Extension welcome to Mrs. Heidi Kellems. She will make a happy addition to this already great group of ladies in our Warrick County office. Her role is Secretary. WELCOME Heidi! 😊



Annual Pork Chop Dinner/Basket Auction March 11, 2023

Make plans now for our annual 4-H Pork Chop Dinner & Basket Auction, to be held on Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 5:00PM. We will share more details in the next newsletter. Baskets for the auction are appreciated and can be dropped off at the Extension Office.

4-H Shooting Sports 2023

The focus of all 4-H programs is the development of youth as individuals and as responsible productive citizens. The National 4-H Shooting Sports Program stands out as an example. Youth learn marksmanship, the safe and responsible use of firearms, the principles of hunting and archery, and much, much, more. The activities of the program and the support of caring adult leaders provide young people with opportunities to develop life skills, self-worth, and conservation ethics.

Steps to getting enrolled in Shooting Sports Projects

1. Get enrolled in 4-H by January 15th at v2.4honline.com.
2. Sign Up for desired project(s).
3. Attend first session for desired discipline(s)

Shooting sports can be gratifying to youngsters, especially those who aren't athletes. The program provides a supportive environment in which young people can experience hands-on, fun learning experiences.

Rifle:

Watch for information to come!



Shotgun:

Shotgun meeting dates are May 3, May 18, June 8 and June 20, 2023. Each meeting is from 6:00PM to 8:00PM at the Campbell Township Conservation Club located just east of Interstate 69, south of Millersburg Road at the end of County Line Road. We will shoot trap at each meeting and we provide eye and ear protection, 20-gauge shotguns with ammunition, and drinks and snacks. You are welcome to bring your own shotgun, but it will be inspected to ensure it is in good operating condition prior to being allowed to shoot.

If you have any questions, please call Jason Fox at (812)319-2585.

IN 4-H SCHOLARSHIPS:

Indiana 4-H Scholarships are available for youth in grades 10th-12th.

Scholarship application information can be found at

<https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/get-involved/scholarships.html>

An on-line scholarship resource will be available in early January to help youth prepare their applications.

Applications are due on January 25th via 4-H online.

Tractor Project Workshop

Do you want to learn how to drive a farm tractor? Operate a riding mower? How about just improve your skill set? Then this workshop is for you!

Join us for our Tractor Workshop series. All you need to do is be an active member enrolled in 4-H and sign up for the Tractor project.

Workshop dates will be held at the 4-H Fairgrounds beginning at 1PM. The following dates have been set so far...

January 22nd @ 1PM

February 26th @ 1PM

March 19th @ 1PM

If you have any questions, please contact Dwayne Schmitt at (812)305-3902, Kendra Schmitt at Kendraschmitt45@gmail.com or Ian Rudolph at irudolph97@aol.com.



ACHIEVEMENT BANQUET FEBRUARY 18, 2023 AT 6PM

All 4-Hers, families, and volunteers are invited to the 2023 Achievement Banquet regardless of award or trip status. Everyone is invited to attend this special event that is held in the Alcoa Building. This is a time set aside to recognize 4-Hers who will receive awards and trips, and hear from 4-Hers that attended trips last year.

This year, the banquet will be catered by Double D's. The 4-H Council will pay for 4-Hers plus 2 guests. If you have additional guests the cost is \$10 per person and must be paid in advance. The Council will also pay for all volunteers. Those who plan to attend will need to fill out the RSVP card which will be mailed out to families in January. **Please Join Us!**

2022-2023 Warrick County

Trips & Activities Application due to Extension Office by 12/27/2022. All 4Hers grades 9th-12th welcome to apply.

Round-UP Application due to Extension Office by 12/29/2022. All 4Hers grades 7th- 9th are welcome to apply.

Lost your form? You can find it at <https://extension.purdue.edu/warrick>

Rabbit Club: Join us Sunday, January 15th 2:30PM in the Alcoa building for our first rabbit meeting of the year. All new and interested 4-Hers are welcome to attend. For those who are interested in joining the rabbit project, please text or email Brandi to briefly introduce yourself and join our Facebook Group – **Warrick County 4-H Rabbit Club**. Here you will find the latest information. If you have any questions, please contact Brandi at (812) 202-1153.

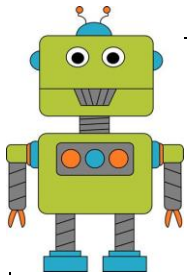
Additional Meeting Dates: Sunday, February 19th @ 2:30PM; Sunday, March 19th @ 2:30PM in the Alcoa Building. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Brandi at 812-202-1153 or by email at stahlb1219@gmail.co.

Yearly Volunteer Commitment

Volunteers must recommit volunteer efforts annually in order to continue serving in a volunteer role with the Warrick County 4-H Program. You may simply log into your v2.4online account to complete this process.

Enrollment opened October 1st. Please make re-enrolling a priority and complete ASAP. There are re-enrollment instructions on the website at <https://extension.purdue.edu/warrick>. Once page is open, scroll down to Warrick County 4-H. Click on Learn About Our 4-H Program. Click on 4-H How Do I Join? Scroll down to instructions.

Volunteer recommitment includes updating contact information, selecting volunteer role and viewing the required training videos. Once these steps are complete on your end you will enter "Awaiting Review". We will then review your enrollment, confirm everything required is complete and accept volunteer recommitment as needed for all available positions.



Robotics Club

January 5th
February 2nd
From 6PM-7:30PM at Zion Church
10 W. 1st Street, Newburgh

Newsletter Info...

CLUB LEADERS/BOARDS INTERESTED:

If you would like to submit information to the newsletter, please email to franzl0@purdue.edu. The deadline to submit information for the 2023 March/April Newsletter is February 15, 2023. Thank you!

4-H Camp Counselors

The Camp Counselor Overnight is scheduled for March 18, 2023 at 7pm in the Alcoa Bldg.

Counselor applications will be mailed in January to those in grades 9-12 and enrolled in 4-H.

4-H Campers

4-H Camp will be June 1 – 4, 2023 at the Historic Santa Claus Campground.

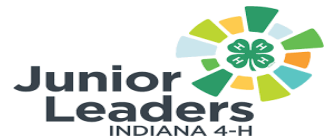


The Junior Leaders completed our annual Christmas Child service event early in December. We had a lot of participation and this year we were able to serve 16 youth within Warrick County!!! A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who came and helped to make this year's Christmas child event a success!

Upcoming meetings: Jan. 12th @ 6:30PM – Alcoa Bldg.
Feb. 18th @ 3:00PM – Alcoa Bldg.

Questions about Jr. Leaders??? Contact Tom Stallings 812-205-6329 or email: stallingsfamily6@gmail.com.

All youth enrolled in 4-H, grades 7th and up are invited to join!



Leaders Meeting

Our first Leaders' meeting of 2023 will be held on Tuesday, January 17th from 6PM to 7PM in the Alcoa Building. Please attend.



NEWS FROM DEGONIA...

Degonia 4-H Club is off to a good start with community service projects. We provided Christmas gifts for two Warrick County students. The club recently had an annual cookie exchange. We are looking forward to a great year!!!

Questions??? Call Candice Carroll @ 812-455-2108.

Meetings Coming Up:

Jan. 15th @ 1PM

Feb. 19th @ 1PM

Alcoa Bldg. 4-H Fairgrounds

MINI 4-H NEWS...

Mini 4-H will have their first meeting January 23rd. We have a lot of activities planned for this year! You received a t-shirt order form with your welcome letter. Don't forget t-shirt orders are due. Cost is \$10.00 If you have not paid the \$5 enrollment fee, please pay at the first meeting.

If you are an older 4-H member and are interested in helping with meetings, contact Candice 812-455-2108. See you soon!

SOUTHSIDE NEWS...

Meeting dates:

January 30th 6PM-7PM

February 27th 6PM-7PM

Meetings are held in the Alcoa Building at the Warrick County Fairgrounds.

We will be determining a Spring Fundraiser and breaking off into committees for some big projects in 2023. Projects such as the flower bed, t-shirt design, etc. Questions??? See Nora Titzer @ 812-216-7552.



PARADISE 4-H CLUB cleans up the landscaping around the Fair Office. Thanks!

PARADISE 4-H CLUB

We meet on the 3rd Monday of each month from 6-7:30PM at the library located at 4111 Lakeshore Drive, Newburgh.

Contact Aaron Beatty if you have questions at 812-480-5273 or by email:

ajbeatty2011@gmail.com.

Forgot your newsletter at home and can't remember a deadline? Oh no! The office is closed! No worries! You can pull up the information you need at anytime of the day or night by visiting the website. The Warrick County Newsletter will now be easily accessible on your smart phone or computer by visiting: <https://extension.purdue.edu/warrick>. We know the website will be a great resource for all of us and will also greatly cut costs and time restraints!

****Call the office if you DO NOT have access to internet to arrange to receive a hard copy of the bi-monthly newsletter. Happy browsing!**



REMINIDER TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR NEWSLETTER UPDATES,
ENROLLMENT HELPS AND ETC.

JOIN 4-H! LEARN to SEW!

Elastic Waist Skirt or Drawstring Bag Boys & Girls Welcome

Suitable for First-Year Sewing Project & Fashion Revue

NO CHARGE for Workshops

Participants must bring own sewing machine to first workshop*

***Please make sure your machine is in good working condition & bring your manual;
we have a limited number of loaner machines.**

One Parent/Guardian is strongly encouraged to attend the workshop with each participant.



#1 - JANUARY 28 - Make a Pillow Case

#2 - FEBRUARY 11 - Start Your Project (Skirt or Bag)

#3 - FEBRUARY 25 - Finish Your Project (Skirt or Bag)

**All workshops are on SATURDAYS and will be held at the
Warrick County Fairgrounds - Home Ec Building
(9am - 12Noon)**

SKILLS You Will LEARN Upon Completion of these workshops:

- How to thread your sewing machine
- How to sew straight and curved lines
- Fabric selection
- How to read, lay out and cut out a pattern/fabric
- Ironing basics
- What are the different sewing notions/tools for?
- What is 4-H Fashion Revue and how to prepare?
- What to expect when exhibiting your sewing project at the fair
- And more!



**Contact the Warrick County Extension Office to Register by January 15
812.897.6100 - maximum participants: 20**



Extension - Warrick County

107 W. Locust Street, Suite 111
Boonville, IN 47601

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ENROLL IN 4-H TODAY

4-H Enrollment October 1 - January 15

ENROLL ONLINE AT:
[V2.4HONLINE.COM](http://v2.4honline.com)



COMPLETE YOUR INITIAL ENROLLMENT NOW TO AVOID MISSING OUT ON ANY IMPORTANT DETAILS. REMEMBER YOU CAN GO BACK IN AND ADD MORE PROJECTS LATER.

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Extension - Warrick County

CONTACT US:

Purdue Extension—Warrick County

Open 8AM to 4:00PM Monday—Friday
107 W. Locust St., Suite 111
Boonville, IN 47601
812-897-6100

Online at:

Purdue Extension Website:

extension.purdue.edu/warrick

v2.4honline.com

Sign Up for 4-H, Add/Drop 4-H Projects,
Enroll Livestock, Upload Scholarships,
Register for 4-H Camp/Trip Opportunities

warrickcountyindiana.fairentry.com

Make entries for specific exhibits intended
for exhibition at the Warrick County 4-H
Fair



STAY CONNECTED

Follow **Warrick County 4-H** on Facebook for important updates and reminders in addition to pictures from events and opportunities.



Food, Family, Money & Health

Purdue Extension - Warrick County
Health & Human Sciences

COOKING WITH BEANS - Eat healthy and save money!

BURRITO SOUP



Prep time:
5 minutes



Cook time:
45 minutes



Servings:
10 cups

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped zucchini
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 can (15.5 ounces) refried beans
- 1 can (28 ounces) diced tomatoes, with juice
- 1 can (28 ounces) crushed tomatoes, with juice
- 2 cans (15.5 ounces) corn, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15.5 ounces) black beans, drained and rinsed
- 2 tablespoons taco seasoning

DIRECTIONS

1. Sauté onion and zucchini in oil until soft.
2. Add refried beans and stir to break up beans.
3. Add tomatoes, corn, black beans and taco seasoning.
4. Simmer over medium heat for about 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours, or freeze for another meal.

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JAN-FEB 2023



PURDUE
UNIVERSITY®

Extension - Health and Human Sciences



JO GILREATH
HHS EDUCATOR
812-897-6100
jgilreat@purdue.edu

FOR MORE RECIPES GO TO:

<https://www.eatgathergo.org>

Healthy Living Series

The New Year is a great time to look at increasing healthy lifestyle choices and behaviors. Join us for information, tips and support to help guide you!

Thursdays: Jan. 12th, 19th , 26th
11:30am-12:30pm

Zion United Church of Christ 165 Elm St. Elberfeld

Food Budgeting & Meal Planning
Resolve To Move More
Cost Saving Tips



** No Cost to attend **

For more info & to reserve your spot:
Call 812-897-6100 or email jgilreat@purdue.edu

The Dangers of Vaping and Electronic Cigarettes among Youth

Source: Purdue Extension Publication HHS-840-W

What are Electronic Cigarettes? Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) are devices that produce an aerosol vapor by heating a liquid inside the device. Users inhale the aerosol into their lungs through the device. The aerosol usually includes nicotine, flavorings and other chemicals. The devices, known by the names “e-cigs,” “e-hookahs,” “mods,” “vape pens” or “vapes,” can look like everyday items, such as pens or USB drives, or like regular cigarettes, cigars or pipes. **How Do Electronic Cigarettes Work?** Electronic cigarettes usually have four components: A cartridge used to hold a liquid solution that consists of nicotine, flavorings, and other chemicals; a heater or vaporizer, a power source (generally a rechargeable battery), a mouthpiece from which users inhale the vapor. Teens often do not know that the liquids in the devices contain nicotine. The liquids can also contain volatile organic compounds, ultrafine particles, cancer-causing chemicals, heavy metals (nickel/tin/lead), and flavorings. One chemical, diacetyl, is common and is linked to severe lung damage.

Who is at risk? Nicotine addiction in teenagers is increasing at an alarming rate. In February 2019, the National Youth Tobacco Survey reported that use of e-cigarettes increased 78% from 2017 to 2018. A typical e-cigarette cartridge, or “pod,” contains about as much nicotine as a pack of 20 regular cigarettes. (U.S. Surgeon General, 2018.) E-cigarette use increased from 11.7% to 20.8% among high school students and from 3.3% to 4.9% among middle school students from 2017 to 2018. There were 1.5 million more youth e-cigarette users in 2018 when compared to 2017. In 2019, according to statistics from NIDA, 25% of 12th-graders, 20% of 10th-graders and 9% of eighth-graders are vaping nicotine. There are currently 3.6 million youth using e-cigarette products.

What are the Health Hazards for Teenagers? Most teenagers do not recognize the negative health effects of e-cigarette usage – or even recognize that e-cigarettes contain nicotine. Teens generally believe that e-cigarettes are safe. In 2018, it was reported that approximately two thirds of e-cigarette users age 15-24 do not know that e-cigarettes always contain nicotine. For teenagers, the use of e-cigarettes can cause major issues in brain development and respiratory function. External safety risks include fires and explosions.

Brain development and addiction: A teenager’s brain is rapidly changing and developing new connections. Nicotine changes the way that the brain is formed and has been shown to harm parts of the brain that control attention and learning. E-cigarette use affects brain development by increasing the risk of nicotine addiction, mood disorders, and the permanent lowering of impulse control. Being addicted to nicotine can increase the risk of teenagers becoming addicted to more dangerous substances, such as cocaine, marijuana or alcohol.

Respiratory Problems: Adolescent e-cigarette users are at increased risk of coughing, wheezing, lung tissue injuries/damage, and asthma exacerbations. Flavorings used in e-cigarettes (such as diacetyl) have been shown to damage lung tissues. Diacetyl is reported to cause what is commonly called “popcorn lung,” an irreversible condition that causes the thickening and narrowing of airways. In a report published by Environmental Health Perspectives, it was found that after testing 51 e-cigarette liquids, diacetyl was found in 39 of them. According to data published in October 2019, there have been 1,080 cases of lung injury reported from 48 states, 1 U.S. territory, and 26 deaths in 21 states. All of these cases show a history of e-cigarette product use or vaping. 16% of reported cases are in teenagers under the age of 18; 80% of reported cases are in people between the ages of 18 and 34.

Authors: Azza H. Ahmed, DNSc, IBCLC, CPNP, FAAN, Deborah Spoerner, DNP, MSN, APRN, CPNP, Kelly Stephenson - College of Health and Human Sciences, Purdue University

Access article at: <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/HHS/HHS-840-W.pdf>



WARRICK COUNTY EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS CLUB

Hello from your County President & Treasurer

We want to remind everyone of the next **COUNCIL MEETING** Monday January 16th at 5:30pm, in the Homemaker Building. We would like to see all clubs represented; we will be handing out the **ANNUAL PACKETS** of Homemaker forms used throughout the year. Due dates will be included; state and county dues will need to be paid. Anytime you mail in checks please make them payable to Warrick County Homemakers, write in the memo section what it is for, and mail to Lori Taylor 4294 Martha Ct. Newburgh IN 47630.

Pleasant Hill club is in charge of the **BAKELESS BAKE SALE** and it will be in February. Please contact Brenda Sutton at 812-629-6689 if you have questions. After collecting your donations send one check to Lori.

The **\$20.00 Gift Certificates** to *Family Roots* are available from Terri or Lori. NOTE: these certificates are good till December 31, 2023. This is our fundraiser and we need to sell these, as we already purchased them and unsold ones are not returnable. *Family Roots* has a very nice gift shop including candy, candles, wreaths, jewelry; check out their website or make a trip to their shop. And of course in the Spring they will have many plants of all kinds, seeds, hanging baskets. Get a group together and have a great day shopping! We need cooperation from all the clubs in order to make this a success.

For clubs who pre-ordered them, **PROGAM BOOKS** are available for pick-up, \$2.50 each, please send one check to Lori. Books can be picked up in the Extension office or at the Jan. 16th Council Meeting. There are 7 "extras", for anyone interested who did not pre-order. Thank you Charlotte Webber for your hard work putting these together!

Lori would like to thank the following clubs for their generous cash donations for this year's **CHRISTMAS GIFT LIFT**. The money was used to purchase sweat suits, warm socks, and slippers - all of the residents of local care facilities join us in telling you thank you for your generosity!

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Country Friends ...\$100 | Daisy Mae's...\$80 |
| Friend's Night Out ...\$50 | Southern Comforters...\$130 |
| Town and Country...\$25 | Mailbox Member Susie ...2 items |



HAPPY NEW YEAR,
Terri Dicus & Lori Taylor
-President -Treasurer

Welcome!

This is the first newsletter from the Diverse Corn Belt project (#DCB), a five-year, multi-disciplinary research program exploring opportunities beyond corn and soybeans for Midwestern farmers. Our goal is to plant the seeds for new opportunities and enhanced resilience for all types of farmers—large and small, conventional, organic, or anywhere in between. To make it happen, more than 30 investigators on this team and scores of farmers and other stakeholders are working to envision more diverse agricultural systems in the Midwest and chart roadmaps to help the region get to them. We are digging deep into a wide range of factors that affect the viability of new options in a deeply entrenched system, including:

Agronomic, entomological and soil health effects in Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa

- Equipment and management changes needed to diversify
- Markets and infrastructure needed for additional crops or livestock
- Receptivity of lenders and other influencers to diverse alternatives
- Policy changes required to encourage diversification
- Social and psychological influences on diversification
- and more.

In this newsletter, we will describe the foundation of the project and how our broad-based research team is approaching the challenge. We will introduce you to some of our team members. And we will ask for your insight. After all, we need the help of farmers, crop advisors, policy makers, bankers, processors, retailers, non-farm neighbors and others to get our arms around diversity and map the future together.

I hope we will be able to team up as we explore a diverse Corn Belt.

Linda S. Prokopy, Ph.D.

Purdue University
Diverse Corn Belt Project Director

Diverse Corn Belt Project | 625 Agriculture Mall Dr.,
West Lafayette, IN 47906 www.diversecornbelt.org

What Is Diversity?

The term "diversity" has several meanings to the Diverse Corn Belt team. It can refer to crops beyond commodity corn and soybeans, or incorporating grazing or perennial crops into corn/soybean operations. It can refer to creating new markets for the products farmers produce. And it can reflect the backgrounds of the people doing the farming and the way they farm.

Members of the Diverse Corn Belt team are exploring three levels of diversity:

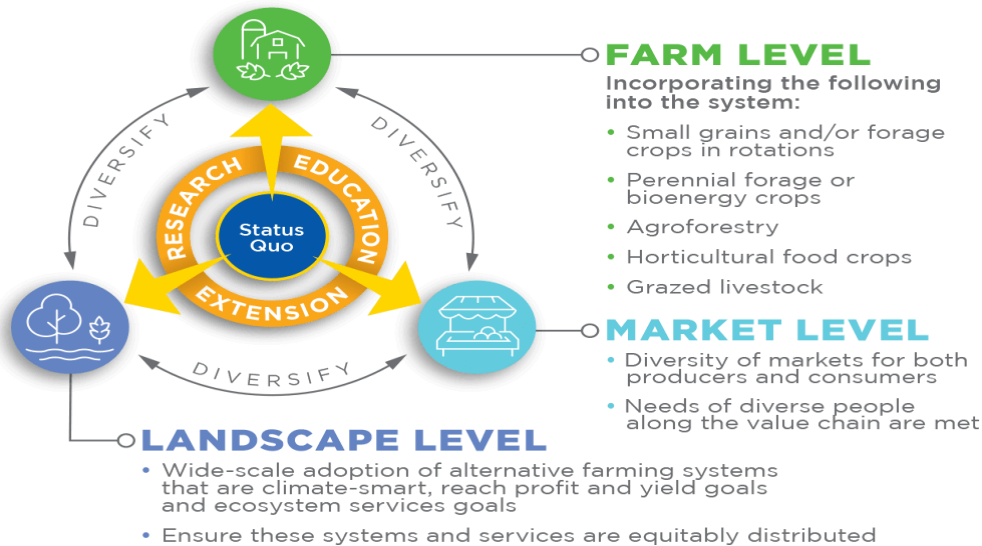
- **Farm-level diversity**, which includes more options for crop rotations, perennial crops for forage or bioenergy, grazing livestock, agroforestry, and horticultural crops.



• **Market-level diversity**, creating channels for processing and marketing a wider variety of agricultural products and meeting the needs of diverse people all along the value chain.

• **Landscape-level diversity**, a wide-scale proliferation of profitable, resilient, climate-smart farming systems that achieve yield, ecosystem, and equity goals.

Our hypothesis is that greater diversity will have benefits on the farm, market and landscape levels as well as on the community level. Through this five-year project, we will test that hypothesis in biological, economic, policy, and sociological terms.



DCB Objectives

The overall vision of the Diverse Corn Belt project is a more diverse, more resilient, more economically and environmentally sustainable rural community in the Midwest. To achieve that goal, the DCB team has created a long list of objectives, including:

- Co-produce research. That means our researchers are working hand-in-hand with producers, policymakers, processors, and other stakeholders to define diversity, identify the barriers to various options, and help guide the direction of our research.
- Model economic and ecosystem effects of diversified systems and validate them with field observations.
- Conduct visioning sessions with producers and other stakeholders to define diversity, explore barriers to adoption, and consider ethical choices and sustainability outcomes.
- Develop policy guidelines that would reduce barriers to adoption and help achieve resilient intensification through diversified farms, markets, and landscapes.
- Reach out to stakeholders to share our findings.
- Create, pilot, and publish educational materials to help prepare a workforce that is ready and able to support a diversified Midwestern landscape.

Achieving those objectives requires a team that represents a wide range of skills and expertise. We have agronomists, economists, entomologists, educators, social scientists, communicators and more. Some of our researchers are experts in computer modeling, while others are field researchers. We also have researchers who specialize in interviews and focus groups—skilled in asking questions and analyzing the answers.

The team has met in the Quad Cities twice over the past year, and the specialized teams have met regularly in-person or via online conference call all year long. Each team is moving forward on study design, logistics and—in the case of the focus group team—have begun gathering data.

Sharpening Our Focus with Focus Groups

ANR NEWS JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023

This spring and summer, we held 10 focus groups in our three study states of Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa. During those meetings, we gathered insight and ideas from 53 farmers representing a range of ages, farm sizes, and degrees of diversification. The farmers who participated were open, honest, and frank. They told us why they have diversified their operations, or why they haven't—exactly what we need to know. They also shared perspective on all sorts of observations in their communities, from the scarcity of labor in farm country to the abundance of small, diverse operations in Amish communities. Members of the team are analyzing the data now. We will be conducting more focus groups in the coming year. Stay tuned and if you are invited to participate, please join us!



Emily Usher

Project Manager Purdue University

Emily Usher is a natural resource social scientist working at Purdue University as the Project Manager for the Diverse Corn Belt project. Originally from the Midwest, Emily values the environmental, economic and social opportunities our natural environment provides. Understanding the balance between these three components drives her interests in understanding

motivators and barriers to practice adoption, public policy development, and community engagement. Emily wears many hats as Project Manager as she coordinates DCB research teams, mentors students, and promotes DCB across the Corn Belt. Outside of work, Emily is an enthusiastic gardener, novice home improver, and aspiring chef for her friends and family.

Get Involved!

The Diverse Corn Belt project needs insight from stakeholders in Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa. Diversified farmers and conventional corn/soybean growers, livestock producers and crop farmers, landlords and tenants...we are looking for a wide range of perspectives for our interviews, RAD teams, and field research sites.

RAD Idea: The DCB RAD Teams

The DCB team is gathering insight from farmers and other stakeholders in three key ways:

· Focus groups Individual Interviews RAD Teams Surveys

Each method has key strengths. Focus groups bring participants together for a few hours to provide not just answers to questions, but to share thoughts and ideas through a guided discussion. Researchers listen carefully to the conversations and observe how thinking evolves, barriers are addressed, or different ideas on diversity come to light.

Individual interviews provide researchers with an opportunity to explore participants' beliefs and statements more deeply. The one-on-one format allows participants to share their views without peers in the room, and permits the interviewers to follow up on comments they hear during the conversation.

RAD Teams—which stands for Reimagining Agricultural Diversity—are a unique feature of the DCB project. In a way, RAD Teams are like long-standing focus groups, providing a chance for dialogue, comparison, and exploration that will last for the duration of the project. RAD Team members will help set the course of the research, aid in defining key aspects of diversification in the Corn Belt, and create a vision for the future. They will also provide invaluable feedback as data come in and conclusions are being discussed.

While focus groups center specifically on farmers, RAD Teams will include a wider range of stakeholders from throughout the agricultural value chain, including crop advisers, bankers, processors, retailers, non-farming landowners, policymakers, and more. Surveys will help us quantify the barriers and benefits that emerge in interviews and focus groups. Over the course of the project, we will be surveying farmers, consumers, marketers, and others.

We are currently recruiting for RAD Teams and individual interview opportunities in Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa. Keep reading to learn more about how you can participate.



This event is being held virtually.

Beginning Farmer Online Program

Event is held every Thursday starting January 12, 2023 and continuing to March 9, 2023.

Program will meet for 8 sessions. No Session on March 2, 2023.

Program is held 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM each Thursday.

Registration

Deadline

January 5, 2023 11:59 PM ET

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 sessions. You'll emerge with a clear perspective on planning farm projects and moving forward with confidence!

Because of the popularity of this workshop, credit card payment is STRONGLY RECOMMENDED. If a workshop's registration includes a manual, it will NOT be shipped until payment is received. This includes check payments, so checks should be mailed immediately following registration.

Refund and Cancellation Policy: All cancellations are subject to a 12% registration fee + \$5 processing fee. Manuals are non-refundable. NO REFUNDS will be processed after January 5, 2023. If a participant of a virtual event experiences technical difficulties that prevent participation (other than event-wide difficulties), NO REFUNDS will be issued after the link to join that event has been provided. For virtual events, the link to join will not be provided until payment is received.

Questions? Email Amy Thompson: afthompson@purdue.edu

Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action university. If you require special accommodations to attend this event or have any questions about this event, please email Amy Thompson.

Registration link for the program: <https://cvent.me/XPZeGe>

For registration questions, contact The Education Store at edustore@purdue.edu.

CUSTOM RATE SURVEY...

We are conducting a custom rate survey again this year. Your participation is helpful and needed. Producers or custom rate applicators, please fill out survey as soon as possible. This survey is widely use by our constituents. You can find a Qualtrics version of the survey: https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2shSaYGT7GvuLpY. This survey is to be filled out both by those that perform custom services and those that hire custom services. Even if a producer can only fill out one or two items on the survey, your information is still very important to us.

This survey will also be available on our Warrick County website at <https://extension.purdue.edu/warrick>.

Ag and Natural Resource Newsletter

January/February 2023

Save the Date!

**March 2–3,
2023**

**Hendricks County
Fairgrounds**

Danville, Indiana

Diversified Farming and Food Systems

P PURDUE UNIVERSITY Extension

2023

**INDIANA
SMALL FARM
CONFERENCE**

March 2-3 *Hendricks County Fairgrounds
Danville, Indiana*



What is the Indiana Small Farm Conference?

The Indiana Small Farm Conference is a unique space to learn new techniques, see what works and network with others.

- Hosts over 500 attendees
- 50+ exhibitor and vendor trade shows (If you are interested in being a trade show vendor, please contact Phil Cox @ cox119@purdue.edu.)

Learn more about the conference and the work that Purdue Extension team does to make your small farming program work.

purdue.ag/sfc
(765) 496-1930

Amy Thompson, Conference Chair
afthompson@purdue.edu

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