

Newton County Ag Scene

January/ February
2016



Andrew Martin, Extension Educator, ANR

andrewmartin@purdue.edu

Upcoming Calendar Dates

Gardening Conference

Beef House Restaurant

January 28, 2016

5pm–8pm CST

*Vegetable Gardening in Small Spaces, and Edible Landscaping: Choices and Challenges

Spring PARP Workshop

Beaver Township Community Building

(Morocco Firehouse)

March 8, 2016

9am–1pm CST

*Cleaning Sprayers, Mixing Chemicals, and Triple Rinsing Containers

City Farmer

Hazelden Country Club, Brook

6:30 CST

January 20– *The New World of Drones*

February 17– Bob Nielsen—*Corn N-loss and Compaction*

March 16– Gene Matzat– *Northern Counties Agricultural and What's Trending*

*Cost for all 3 programs & meals is \$50.00

Illiana Vegetable Growers Symposium

Teibel's Restaurant, Schererville

January 5, 2016

8am–4pm CST

*Network with other growers, meet seed company reps and suppliers, and learn from University specialists

Crop Water Management

Beaver Township Community Building

(Morocco Firehouse)

January 27, 2016

9am–1pm CST

*Monitoring Soil Moisture, Nutrient Management, Tissue Sampling, New Indiana Legislation on Water Level Monitoring, and more

The 2016 Midwest Women in Agriculture

Conference will be held in Columbus, IN,

February 17-18, 2016



For questions or registration contact Andrew Martin at 219-285-8620 or email andrewmartin@purdue.edu



Planning for Retirement and Estate Management



What alternatives do you have to fund your retirement?
How do you plan for possible long term care?
How do you account for sweat equity in the business?



Join us at the Jasper County Fairgrounds for a 2-day experience! On March 1st from 9am-4pm, topics will include: Sweat Equity, Estate Planning/Insurance, Generational Differences, Retirement Planning, and Long-term Care Options. Lunch is included! On March 2nd, appointments to be made for a complimentary 1-hour farm family meeting with the Farm Succession Planning Team.

Spring PARP Workshop



Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Benton, Jasper, Lake & Newton Counties

On Tuesday March 8, 2016 from 9am-1pm CST at the Beaver Township Community Building (409 S Polk St, Morocco) speakers Fred Whitford and Andrew Martin, will be discussing topics such as: cleaning sprayers, mixing chemicals, and triple rinsing containers. Lunch will be provided, sponsored by Wilson's Fertilizer. This counts towards PARP Credit for Indiana Private Pesticide. Be sure to bring your license and \$10 (PARP fee). Must RSVP by March 1, 2016 to Andrew Martin at 219-285-8620.



Crop Water Management



Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Benton, Jasper, Lake & Newton Counties

On January 27, 2016 from 9am-1pm CST at the Beaver Township Community Building (409 S Polk St, Morocco) Andrew Martin and Lyndon Kelley, both from Purdue Extension, along with Betsy Bower from Ceres Solutions will be discussing topics of Crop Water Management. Lunch is sponsored by Ceres Solutions– Ade Branch, and by Indiana Aqua Irrigation. Be sure to bring your CCA card with you, as this program is 3 credits for S & W. Must RSVP by January 20, 2016 to Andrew Martin at 219-285-8620 or Rose Morgan Newton Co SWCD at 219-285-2217.



Gardening Conference

On Thursday, January 28 from 5pm-8pm CST, the annual Bi-State Gardening Conference will be held at the Beef House Restaurant (16501 IN-63) in Covington, Indiana. Master Gardener Education Hours will be awarded! Topics will include: Vegetable Gardening in Small Places, and Edible Landscaping; Choices and Challenges. Register by January 27 by calling 765-762-3231 or go online to web.extension.illinois.edu/cfiv. The cost is \$20 per person, which includes a meal.



Considering Tree Fruits for Your Backyard?

By: Andrew Martin, ANR Extension Educator

Credits to Maurice Ogutu, Former Illinois Extension Educator



Homeowners with limited space in their backyards often prefer growing trees on dwarfing or semi-dwarfing rootstocks. Furthermore, extreme winter conditions are a huge limiting factor when considering tree fruits for the backyard. The best choices for the northern Indiana region include apples, pears, sour cherries, and plums.

When choosing a site to plant your tree fruit crop, find a place that gets a lot of sunlight. Also, be sure to choose a site that has a well-drained soil area. Be sure to also consider a site where the soil pH ranges from 5.6 to 7.0. This range is best for tree fruit crops. The Newton County Purdue Extension Office has soil testing kits located in the office for sale upon request. Call the office at 219-285-8620 for information.

Apples and other fruit trees are usually planted in the spring. Dig a hole that will accommodate all the roots. Cut dead roots, and long roots that cannot fit in the hole. Plant trees that are grafted on seedling rootstocks with graft union below the soil line or at the same depth as they were growing at the nursery. Tree fruits grafted on dwarfing or semi-dwarfing rootstocks need to be planted so that the graft union is 3-4 inches above the soil line. Trees will be more productive if the area underneath is mulched. Do not over fertilize fruit trees. Simply be sure to water trees during drought periods.

Fruit trees need to be pruned on a regular basis to remain productive. Pruning should be done in the early spring when still in the dormant state. Regular pruning will help support a load of fruit productivity, and assure good airflow through the tree.

Protect trunks of fruit trees, especially younger trees, from gnawing animals in winter. Moles or field mice will gnaw on bark close to the soil. Clear away any vegetation and place a cylinder of hardware cloth around the base of the trunk for protection. Rabbits are also likely to damage trees during the winter. Poultry wire can be placed around trunks for protection. Note that tree fruits develop maximum flavor and quality when allowed to mature on the tree.