

Morgan County Cooperative Extension Service

March/ April
2016

Agriculture, Horticulture, &

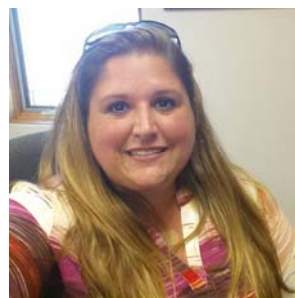
Natural Resources

Newsletter



In the office

The Morgan County Agriculture, Horticulture, and Natural Resources Newsletter is published 6 times a year and is distributed to over 500 households within Morgan County, Indiana. For more information on these stories, please call (765) 342-1010 or drop by the Purdue Extension office at 180 S Main St, Martinsville or email Amanda Dickson at dicksona@purdue.edu



Hello Morgan County!

I think it may be safe to say, but with fingers crossed, it's almost spring time! The past few days with temperatures in the 60's and 70's have me ready for warm sunny days. I know all you gardeners out there are itching to dig around in the

dirt, but I urge you to hold off for now. We have some upcoming programs that will help you curb your digging appetite. Farmers, I know you've already been thinking about your planting strategy, and I have some upcoming programs that will also help you.

Cheers! Here's to watching things green up! ~ Amanda

Weather: Farmer's Almanac

March 2016

Temp. 42° (3° below avg); precip. 3" (1" below avg.)

March 1-8: Snow, then snow showers, turning warm;

March 9-23: Snow showers, cold;

March 24-31: Rain, then sunny, cool.

April 2016

Temp. 54° (1° below avg); precip. 2.5" (1" below avg)

April 1-6: Isolated t-storms, mild;

April 7-13: Sunny, warm;

April 14-19: Showers, then sunny, cool;

April 20-27: Showers, cool;

April 28-30: Rainstorm.

******If you can receive your newsletter by e-mail, please contact us! It will help us save money!*

"Like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/purduemorgancounty

Local & Area Programs

Quad County PARP

When: Friday, March 4th
Time: 8:00 am—1:00 pm
Where: Equipment Technologies, Inc., Mooresville, IN
Cost: \$10 PARP fee
RSPV: March 1
Agriculture Outlook, Adjuncts & the Power of the Spray Droplet, Precision Agriculture, and DOT are topics for the day.
More info on page 6.

GardenFest

When: Friday, March 18 (12 pm—7pm); Saturday, March 19 (8 am—3 pm)
Where: Hoosier Harvest Church, 4085 Leonard Rd, Martinsville, IN
Cost: FREE
Annual pansy sale, vendors, education programs, Q & A booth hosted by Master Gardeners. Proceeds support community service projects.
More info on page 5.

Morgan County Bull Test

When: Tuesday, April 12
Where: Scott Whaley Farm—Mahalasville & Townsend Rd
Time: 8:30 am
Cost: \$40 per bull
Dr. Jerry Rusch will again conduct the testing for us. You can contact him directly for concerns regarding testing procedures, 812-849-4525.

77th IBEP Bull Sale

When: Thursday, April 14
Time: 6:00 pm
Where: Springville Feeder Auction
130 Bulls: Angus, Charolais, Gelbvieh, Hereford, Lim-Flex, Red Angus, Simmental, and SimAngus.
Only top-indexing bulls of their breed that pass the structural and breeding soundness exams sell. Complete performance, carcass, ultrasound and EPD provided on every bull.

The Truth About GMO's

When: Thursday, April 21
Where: Morgan County Admin Building
Time: 6:30 pm
Cost: FREE
RSVP: Wednesday, April 22 at 4 pm
Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) have been a hot topic among industries and especially consumers as their desire to eat healthier has grown in recent year. Dr. Peter Goldsbrough from Purdue will be our speaker.

On-Farm Food Safety for Produce Direct Marketers

When: Tuesday, April 26
Where: Morgan County Admin Building
Time: 7 pm—9 pm
Cost: \$15
The target audience is produce growers who sell directly to the consumer through farmers' markets, roadside stands, or other venues. These growers are usually smaller operators and not farming full-time. For more info, call me at 765-342-1010.

Horticulture News

Blue & Gold gardens celebrate Indiana's bicentennial

To celebrate Indiana's bicentennial this year, the Garden Club of Indiana and the Indiana Bicentennial Commission are hoping gardeners will join the Blue & Gold garden tribute to Indiana's state flag. It's an easy way for all Indiana residents to commemorate the bicentennial. If you don't have a traditional garden bed, there are many fine choices for container gardens.

There's a vast array of garden flowers that can fit in the blue-and-gold theme. Some "blue" flowers are more purple than blue and, likewise, some "gold" flowers are more yellow. Most annual flowers will bloom throughout the growing season.

The following flowers can be grown throughout the state. All are full-sun plants unless otherwise noted.

Annuals with Blue Flowers

(Note: Some may be purplish blue.)

Ageratum
Alyssum
Anagallis
Angelonia
Aster
Bacopa
Borage
Brachyscome
(swan river daisy)



Corn Flower

Browalia (semi-shade)
Calibrachoa
Callistephus (China aster)
Cornflower
Felicia (blue daisy)
Heliotrope
Limonium (annual statice)
Lisianthus
Lobelia (semi-shade)
Mimulus (shade)
Forget-Me-Not
Morning Glory
Nemesia
Nicotiana
Nierembergia (semi-shade)
Nigella
Pansy
Petunia
Phlox
Salvia
Scaevola (fan flower)
Sweet Pea
Torenia
Verbena

Yellow/Gold-Flowered Annuals

African Daisy
Begonia, Tuberous (semi-shade, shade)
Bidens
Calendula
Calibrachoa
California Poppy
Coreopsis
Cape Marigold
Celosia
Coleus (some w/ yellow foliage)

Cosmos
Dahlia
Four O'Clock
Gaillardia
Gazania
Gerbera
Iresine (some w/ yellow foliage)
Lantana
Marguerite Daisy
Marigold
Melampodium
Mimulus (shade)
Nasturtium (semi-shade)
Nemesia



Rudbeckia

Nicotiana
Pansy
Petunia
Portulaca
Rudbeckia
Sanvitalia
Snapdragon
Strawflower
Sunflower
Thunbergia
Tithonia

Torenia
Zinnia

For more information on Indiana's bicentennial activities, see <http://www.gardenclubofindiana.org/> and <http://www.in.gov/ibc/>.

Have an idea for an article or would you like to contribute?

Let us know!

765-342-1010

Amanda at

dicksona@purdue.edu

Spring Garden Shows Cure Winter Blues *By Rosie Lerner*

Whether you're new to gardening or a seasoned green thumb, you'll find lots of inspiring ideas at area gardening shows this spring.

No matter what your location, you'll find at least one show within reach for a one-day excursion. Indianapolis, Chicago, Cincinnati and Fort Wayne are just a sampling of the great garden shows we can eagerly anticipate.

March 12-20:
Indiana Flower and Patio Show
Indiana State Fairgrounds
Indianapolis
www.indianaflowerandpatioshow.com

March 18-20:
Louisville Home and Garden Show
Expo Center
Louisville, Kentucky

www.louisvillehomeshow.com

April 13-17:
Cincinnati Flower Show
Yeatman's Cove
Cincinnati, Ohio
www.cincyflowershow.com

April 15-16:
Indiana Daffodil Show
Holliday Park Nature Center
Indianapolis
www.indianadaffodilsociety.org

April 16-17:
Indiana Orchid Show
Garfield Park Conservatory
Indianapolis, IN
www.indianagourdsociety.org/stateshow.htm

Idea Corner—Simple Seed Viability Test

Step One: Moisten a paper towel

Step Three: Fold towel in half, and in half again

Step One: Moisten a paper towel

Step Two: Place 20 seeds upon the towel.

Step Three: Fold towel in half and in half again.

Step Four: Place folded towel in a plastic bag, and place in a warm place to sprout

Step Five: Check for germination daily. Use the seed packet days to germination as a guideline for when to end the test. Then, count the sprouted seeds and calculate % viability

Step Five: Count sprouts and figure viability

GardenFest



Friday, March 18, 12 pm—7 pm

Saturday, March 19, 8 am—3 pm

Hoosier Harvest Church
4085 Leonard Rd, Martinsville



FEATURING OUR ANNUAL PANSY SALE

6" potted pansies, \$4 each or \$22 a flat
3 plants per pot, 6 pots per flat

Proceeds support community service projects and a Purdue Scholarship
“Helping Morgan County Grow”

30+ vendors of lawn and garden products and services

Rustic Furniture	Pond Supplies	Concrete Garden Art
Composter	Daylilies	Hypertufas
Rain Barrels	Worm Bins & Castings	Shade Plants
Metal Yard Art	Pine needle Baskets	Gladiolus Bulbs
Honey & Hive Products	Alpines	Herbal Soaps
Heirloom Plants and Flowers	Weber Grills	Stained Glass
Hand carved Wooden Items	Crystal Bird Baths	

Friday Speakers:

1:00 pm– Ruth Pelouch– Daffodils: Not Just Yellow but Orange?

3:30 pm– David Mow– The Wild Side of “Mushroom”

5:00 pm– Greg Marlett– Intensive Backyard Sustainable Gardening

Saturday Speakers:

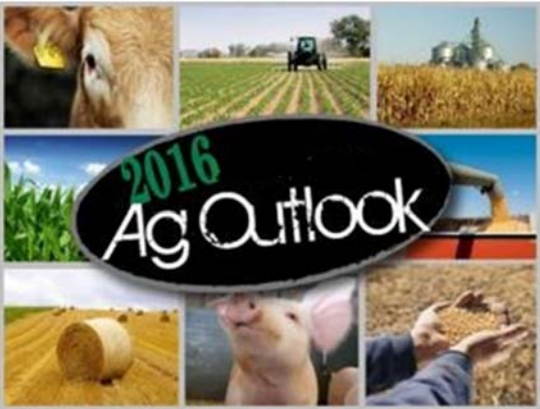
9:00 am– Jim Barbour– What You Need to Know About Vegetable Gardening

11:00 am– Colleta Kosiba- “Choose Your Weapon”

1:00 pm– Tom Flatt– Bambi in the Garden

Agriculture News

Quad County PARP Program



Date: March 4, 2016

Location: Equipment Technologies, Inc
455 Merriman Road, Mooresville, IN 46158

Cost: \$10 PARP program fee

RSVP: March 1, 2016

Private Pesticide Applicators participating in the program will obtain one credit towards license renewal requirement. Please be sure to bring your Private Applicator Card.

Program Agenda

- 7:30 - 8:00 amRegistration & Continental Breakfast
- 8:00 - 8:10 amWelcome from Equipment Technologies, Inc.
- 8:10 – 9:45 am..... *Agriculture Outlook* presented by Dr. Chris Hurt,
Purdue Agricultural Economics Professor
- 9:55 - 10:55 am*Adjuvants & the Power of the Spray Droplet* presented by
Dr. Fred Whitford, Purdue Pesticide Program
- 11:00 – 12:00 pm.....*Department of Transportation* presented by Dr. Fred
Whitford, Purdue Pesticide Program
- 12:00 – 12:30 pm*Precision Agriculture* presented by Amanda Dickson, Morgan
County Extension Educator
- 12:30 – 12:45 pmQuestions and Paperwork
- 12:45 pm.....Lunch sponsored by Equipment Technologies, Inc.

For more information or to register, please contact the Purdue Extension – Morgan County Office at 765-342-1010 or dicksona@purdue.edu

Interactive Online Budgeting Tools Available for Small-Scale Livestock Producers *By Darrin Pack*

Purdue Extension has developed a pair of Web-based, interactive resources to help new producers and anyone thinking about starting a small-scale livestock operation to make critical budgeting decisions.

The Purdue Comparative Decision Support matrix, known as PCDS, includes a spreadsheet tool that allows users to create an operating budget based on their own fixed and variable costs, cash flow and expected revenue. The PCDS2 profit/loss analysis function uses cost and price information to calculate potential earnings.

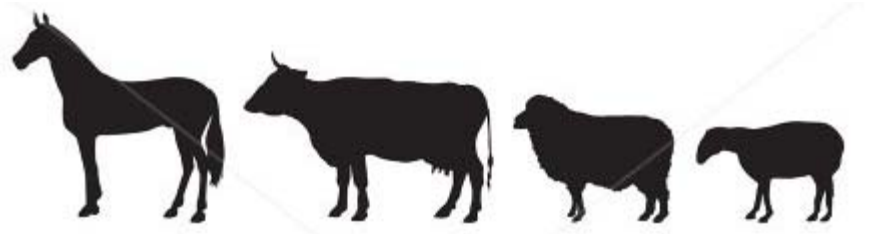
Before committing to a small-scale livestock operation, producers should use the tools to assess their goals and financial situation, including how much they want to earn or could afford to lose, said [Joan Fulton](#), professor of agricultural economics and one of the creators of PCDS. “All investment decisions are individual, and investing in a small-scale livestock operation is no different,” she said. “Only you can decide whether it is right for you.”

The PCDS and PCDS2 budgeting tools were developed with support from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program. They are available online at <https://ag.purdue.edu/Agecon/Pages/Livestock-Enterprise.aspx>.

To help producers use the tools most effectively, Extension is offering a series of six companion publications focusing on different types of small-scale livestock operations. All publications in the Small-Scale Livestock Enterprises series are available for free download from Purdue’s [The Education Store](#).

Titles in the series are:

- * *Tools for Choosing the Right Enterprise for You*
- * *Cow-Calf Enterprise Budget*
- * *Dairy Steer Enterprise Budget*
- * *Goat Enterprise Budget*
- * *Sheep Enterprise Budget*
- * *Turkey Enterprise Budget*



For more information about the series, or to download the publications, visit The Education Store at www.edustore.purdue.edu.

Strengthening Dairy & Beef Industries

WASHINGTON — In order to strengthen the ongoing partnership between the dairy and beef segments of the cattle industry on animal-care issues, the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) and the national beef checkoff's Beef Quality Assurance program today announced they will jointly be offering more training opportunities for farmers and ranchers in 2016.

NMPF has been working for the last year to identify areas where its Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) program can further coordinate with the Dairy Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Program. Both programs focus on educating cattle producers about the best practices in animal care, to assure consumers that their meat and milk comes from animals that receive optimal care throughout their lives.

At the 2016 Cattle Industry Convention last month, the BQA Advisory Board approved an addition to its program whereby any dairy producer evaluated using the FARM program's upcoming version 3.0, due out in January 2017, will also receive their BQA certification. BQA will also be working with the FARM program in the coming years to create training opportunities for dairy producers to preserve the beef quality of their cows. These training sessions will focus on stockmanship, residue prevention, and transportation. Many of these will be available at the state level, implemented by BQA state coordinators.

“This partnership will maximize the value of the beef checkoff's investment in animal care, which is an issue of greater importance today because of consumers' interest in the source of their beef, and the treatment of cows,” said Dan Kniffen, Ph.D., vice chairman of the BQA Advisory Board.

Emily Meredith, NMPF's vice president of animal care and director of the FARM program, said “education is the key to preventing health and wellness problems for cattle further down the road. This collaboration with BQA will extend the reach of the FARM program's educational materials and harness the expertise that BQA state network of educators can provide to dairy farmers.”

In addition to regional training sessions and additional educational materials, the FARM program and BQA will jointly produce online stockmanship training resources that will be made available to dairy farmers in 2016.

For more information about your beef checkoff investment, visit MyBeefCheckoff.com.

—National Milk Producers Federation

Published on February 17, 2016 at <https://www.morningagclips.com>

Solar Energy Improving

MCPHERSON Kan. — The last thing Cheri Harper wanted to do was to stand in front of a group of semi-strangers and talk about renewable solar energy. It wasn't due to any lack of knowledge or experience or technical proficiency, or passion, for that matter, because she practically vibrated with intensity when rattling off prices and tax credits and kilowatt hours and returns on investment, but more that she was used to the doing-of-things rather than the telling-of-things.

And yet here she was, a slight, soft-spoken 66-year-old social worker holding the microphone as if it might bite, her voice quavering from nervousness.

"I'm afraid of electricity and I never learned to program a VCR, but I like to be on the roof with my tool belt," she said. "I like doing things, but I really like putting up solar panels. I'm a social worker, I'm a psychotherapist, but I can install solar panels, and you can, too."

Harper, vice-president and cofounder of the Flint Hills Renewable Energy and Efficiency Cooperative, Inc. (FHREEC), addressed members of the Kansas Farmers Union during their annual state convention held mid-December in Topeka. With her were Bill Dorsett, also of FHREEC, and Bill Wood, project developer for Cromwell Solar, located in Lawrence. Patty Clark, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Kansas, also spoke on the USDA Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), which provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for the purchase or installation of renewable energy systems or energy efficiency improvements.

FHREEC has a unique approach to marketing renewable energy based on neighbors helping neighbors. The company has no paid staff but consists entirely of volunteers who educate and, in many cases, assist homeowners with installing solar panels in what Harper described as an "old-fashioned barn-raising." In order for homeowners' insurance policies to provide coverage, volunteers must be invited onto roofs to help in installation. Overall costs are reduced by buying in bulk. "Our goal," Harper said, "is to make renewable energy and efficiency affordable and available to as many people in the Kansas Flint Hills as possible."

The cooperative started out by installing solar panels on their own roofs and expanded outward from there, often going house to house and in the process making new friends and new solar energy advocates. In less than three years they have helped others install 42 systems.

Today's solar technology is not like that of a decade ago or even five years ago, Harper said. Supply costs keep dropping while efficiency keeps rising. An average ten-panel solar system costs around \$5,900 before the 30% federal rebate, and with energy utility prices expected to keep climbing, there has never been a better time to install solar panels.

Clark agreed. "This is really, really important for our rural areas," she said. "Solar makes a huge difference for peak load on the grid. It allows businesses to cut their utilities costs and reduce operating expenses for grocers as well as farmers and ranchers. That could mean as much to operating expenses as commodities prices or an increase in revenue from other sources."

The REAP program is notably effective for rural grocers, Clark said. It provides grant assistance up to 25 percent of the total cost of eligible projects, and also provides guaranteed loans to small businesses that employ less than 50 employees or have less than a million dollars of capital.

Continued on page 10...

Solar Energy Improving Continued

Centralia's Haverkamp Grocery Store applied for a \$31,000 grant for new energy-efficient coolers, and the cost savings in utilities have been substantial, she said. "When they can cut their utility costs, they don't have to worry as much about increasing their grocery sales," she said. "One of the toughest challenges our grocery stores have in rural areas is meeting the minimum purchase they have to meet to get their groceries from wholesale suppliers."

Livestock producers and farmers can also gain from REAP grants, she said. Foster Dairy in Fort Scott applied for a \$13,000 grant to upgrade fans in their milking and feeding barns. The grant allowed the business to replace 24 36-inch fans with six new fans, three of them 12-foot and three 16-foot. "They're new, they're more energy efficient, and they're making the barn itself a lot more compatible for the animals when they're milking," Clark said. "The environment for the livestock is better."

REAP grants offer financial assistance toward the purchase, installation and construction of renewable energy systems for eligible agricultural-based projects such as solar generation or anaerobic digesters, and for energy efficiency improvements such as high efficiency HVAC systems, insulation, lighting, electric, solar or gravity pumps for sprinkler pivots, or switching from a diesel to electric irrigation motor. Grants offer up to 25 percent of eligible project costs, and guaranteed loan assistance offers up to 75 percent of eligible project costs. Loan guarantee applications are taken throughout the year, but the next deadline for grants or grant-loan requests is April 30, 2016, Clark said. More information can be found under Programs and Services at the USDA's Web site at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/>.

The future of solar is now, Clark said. "Solar energy isn't something that only hippies do," she said. "It's something we should all be doing."

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