

Purdue Extension

Greene County Agriculture & Natural Resource Newsletter

On Local Government Webinar

This free webinar will cover the Tax Increment Finance (TIF), which has been a hot topic in Indiana the past several years. The share of assessed value in TIF districts has increased from 0.5% in 1990 to 7.3% in 2015. With increased popularity also comes scrutiny. In this special On Local Government, we'll explore how TIF works, what happens when it's used inappropriately, and recent research findings funded by the Office of Community and Rural Affairs about whether TIF adds to development and shifts taxes and revenues among local governments.

All individuals involved in county and local government budgeting are encouraged to attend on Wednesday, December 7 from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Purdue Extension – Greene County Office (4503 W State Road 54, Bloomfield, IN 47424). This program will also be delivered via video streaming. Register to receive the link.

Please register by Friday, December 2 to 812-659-2122 or davis186@purdue.edu.

Beef Cow/Calf Improvement Seminar

The seminar will take place on Saturday, January 21, 2017 at the Orange County Community Center (1075 N Sandy Hood Rd, Paoli, IN 47454) beginning at 9:30 AM and ending at 3:15 PM. The theme for this year's seminar is "Factors Affecting Meat Quality."

The 2017 seminar will allow beef producers the opportunity to learn about many aspects of meat quality. We will explore nutrition, genetics and environmental influences on meat quality. Consumer preferences and demands for beef will be discussed and how Indiana beef producers can manage their herds to meet these demands and needs of their consumers. The day's speakers have a wide range of expertise and will share the reasons management practices may affect the quality of beef produced.

Early registration costs \$20 and will end on January 9. All students with advisors or parents will be \$15 before or on January 9. All registrations received after January 9 will be \$30. For a registration form or for additional information, please contact the Greene County Purdue Extension Office at 812-659-2122 or email at davis186@purdue.edu.

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Important Upcoming Dates:

On Local Government Webinar

Wednesday, Dec. 7

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Greene County Community Event Center

Post-Harvest Ag Outlook Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 8

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Greene County Community Event Center

Sheep & Goat Webinar

Thursday, Dec. 8

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Greene County Community Event Center

Indiana Master Cattleman Program

The Indiana Master Cattleman program is designed to help beef producers improve profitability through an increase in production efficiency, forage utilization, reproductive success, genetic selection, herd health and business management. This advanced, in-depth educational experience offers beef producers the opportunity to take their operations to the next level.



Each participant (or farm, if there are additional registrants) will receive the Indiana Master Cattleman educational materials, a Forage Field Guide, *Cow-Calf Production in the U.S. Corn Belt* and soil/hay analyses. Master Cattleman certified producers will:

- Develop a business plan
- Perform a cow-herd assessment and set goals
- Improve marketing strategies
- Improve nutrition, forage management, reproduction and genetics programs
- Become Beef Quality Assurance Certified
- Participate in exclusive hands-on field days
- Gain access to the member's only program website
- Network with other Indiana beef producers and industry professionals

This 10 week program will be offered on Tuesdays from 6:00-9:00 PM beginning on November 29, 2016 and ending on February 14, 2017 (snow date of February 21, 2017). These classes will be hosted at the Greene County Community Event Center (4503 W State Road 54, Bloomfield, IN 47424). Registration is \$200/person and additional attendees from a farm are \$100/person. Class size is limited to 25 producers.

For more information about the Indiana Master Cattleman program, please visit www.mastercattleman.com or contact Sadie Davis at davis186@purdue.edu or 812-659-2122.

Indiana IBCA/Purdue Area V Beef Meeting

The 2016-2017 Indiana Beef Cattle Association (IBCA) and Purdue Area V Beef Meeting will take place on Thursday, December 15 at the Owen County Fairgrounds 4-H Building in Spencer, Indiana, beginning at 6:30 PM.

The meeting will feature great food and valuable information on a variety of beef topics. IBCA will provide an update on current policy and programs. Purdue Department of Animal Sciences will provide the educational presentation.

The counties within Area V include Clay, Greene, Monroe, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo.

Registrations are due by December 8 to the Owen County Extension Office at 812-829-5020.



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Post-Harvest Ag Outlook Meeting

Purdue Extension – Greene County will be hosting a Post-Harvest Ag Outlook Meeting on Thursday, December 8 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. This meeting will take place at the Purdue Extension – Greene County offices located at 4503 West State Road 54, Bloomfield, IN 47424.

Topics to be covered will include post-harvest farm economy outlook, land rent trends and expectations, critical conversations for farmers and agronomic tools to help with tight margins.

A special thank you to our sponsor, Green Crop Services, for their support towards this program!

For more information or requests for special accommodations please contact the Purdue Extension—Greene County Office at 812-659-2122 or davis186@purdue.edu.

Sheep and Goat Webinar

Purdue University and Kentucky State University will hold a **FREE** webinar for sheep and goat producers on Thursday, December 8, 2016 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm EST. The theme of the program is marketing opportunities and understanding carcass and cuts from sheep and goats.



Denise Martin, a Kentucky goat producer, has developed a unique program for opportunities to market her farm's products. She will speak on, "Direct Marketing of Goats: The Martin Meadow Experience." Dr. Stacy Zuelly, Meat Science Specialist from Purdue will present, "Understanding Our End Products: Lamb and Goat Carcass Evaluation and What that Means for Your Customers".

The webinar is available via two options: 1) Viewing stations located at County Extension Offices in Indiana and Kentucky; or 2) Direct access to the program at www.ansc.tv. Simply click this link and turn on your volume. A list of viewing station sites are located on the flyer located at <https://ag.purdue.edu/ansc/Documents/SheepWebinarFlyer.pdf> along with program details. There is no charge to access the webinar in-person or online.



For more information, call 812-659-2122 or email davis186@purdue.edu. You can also contact Dr. Mike Neary (mneary@purdue.edu; (765-494-4849), Mark Kepler (mkepler@purdue.edu; (574-223-3397) or Dr. Kenneth Andries (Kenneth.andries@kysu.edu; (502-597-5094).

Oral Agreements – Termination of Farm Leases

Termination of a lease or rental agreement may be necessary for a number of reasons, the most common reasons being to make the land available for another tenant or for the sale or transfer of the property. Indiana law (IC 32-31-1-3) says a three month notice may be required. When a lease agreement does not otherwise specify, the end of the lease year is likely to be the last day of February. This implies that the lease notice must be delivered **before December 1** of the prior year.

For more information on Farm Leases, visit the Purdue Publication at:

<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ec/ec-257-w.pdf>

Source: *Dubois Co. AgriNews* - November 2016

IDNR Tree Orders and Information

The IDNR - Division of Forestry has released order forms for bulk seedlings for the 2017 spring season. Order forms are available either online or through the Purdue Extension office, with seedlings being available for spring pick-up. Orders will be taken through May 1, 2017, with trees available as long as supplies are available from the DNR Vallonia Tree Nursery.

To order trees you can contact the Vallonia Nursery directly at ph.(812)358-3621, or order online after October 3rd at:

www.INForestryX.com For contact information on local DNR Foresters, visit their website at:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/4750.htm>

Source: *Dubois Co. AgriNews* - November 2016

Bringing Houseplants Back Indoors

Many houseplants thrive during the long, bright summer days, especially when properly moved outdoors. But these plants may have some trouble adjusting back to indoor conditions when colder weather strikes.

Many of our common indoor plants are native to the tropical or subtropical climates and cannot tolerate cold temperatures. Houseplants should be brought back inside before the outdoor temperature drops to 55 F. If days are warm but night temperatures are cold, you might consider bringing the plants indoors for the night and putting them back out in the morning.

Many plants will drop leaves in response to the lower light conditions inside most homes. Gradually exposing the plants to lower light intensity before permanently moving them indoors should help lessen the shock. However, some leaf drop is unavoidable.

Plants will likely slow down their growth considerably, so less water and fertilizer will be needed. The best moisture meter is your finger. For most plants, you should allow the soil to dry slightly between waterings. Reduce your fertilizer applications or discontinue them if plants seem to be in a resting period.

Be sure to inspect your plants closely for signs or symptoms of insect attack. Insect pests such as white flies and aphids can be prolific outdoors and may further increase their population once they are brought indoors. And, these pests may spread to other plants very quickly.

Often a sharp spray from the garden hose will remove insect pests from houseplant foliage. Insecticidal soaps also work well, particularly on soft-bodied insects such as aphids. Several treatments may be necessary to be sure that the pests are gone. Start checking your plants now, so that control measures will have time to work before you bring the plants indoors.

Source: *Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulturalist*



'Tis the Season for Sage

Thanksgiving dinners filled with the fragrance of sage-dusted turkey and dressing may be an American tradition, so it may surprise you to know that the sage plant, *Salvia officinalis*, is native to the Mediterranean.

Sage is actually a diverse group of herbs belonging to the genus *Salvia*, many species of which are well adapted to the home garden. Common sage, *S. officinalis*, is grown for its leathery gray-green foliage on 1½-2 foot tall stems that become slightly woody with age. Frequent cutting of the stems will encourage stronger new growth to emerge. Plants can be propagated by division, stem cuttings or seed. There are a number of cultivars available in variegated foliage colors: 'Berggarten' with its large, dusty blue-green leaves, 'Tricolor' with red, white and green leaves, 'Purpurea' with purple leaves, and 'Icterina' with yellow-edged green leaves.

Sage performs best in full sun with well-drained soil. Garden sage will grow easily from seed, though harvest will be small the first year. After its second growing season, sage should be trimmed back in the spring to avoid the center of the plant becoming semi woody.



If left to flower, sage will produce blue blooms that attract butterflies, but this leaves less oil content, translating to reduced flavor in the leaves. Sage plants should be able to provide a dependable supply of fresh-cut leaves for three to five years, after which the plants should be replaced or divided to rejuvenate.

Source & Photo: *Rosie Lerner, Purdue Consumer Horticulturalist*

For additional information, please visit our website at:

www.extension.purdue.edu/greene



You can also find the Greene County Purdue Extension Office on
Social Media!



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