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Perry County Ag News

PURDUE EXTENSION - PERRY COUNTY

Educator's Corner

It seems like winter just doesn't want to leave! After a cooler than average March, we're looking at a cool, wet start to April. This is likely to delay planting for many of our farmers.

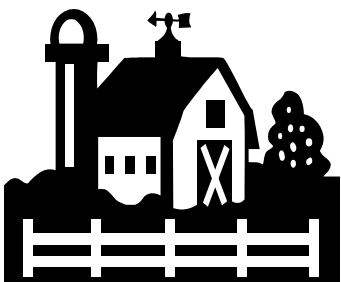
With uncertainty in the future of our trade markets, farmers should look at diversifying crops when possible. Soybeans have held strong for us the past few years, but that may change if we get in a trade war with China. Consider improving hay crops to counterbalance low corn prices. Horse-quality square bales may be more profitable than corn this year.

The livestock sector may continue to take a hit as many dairy producers are losing their markets, and beef and pork prices remain low. Consider investing in value-added production such as direct marketing of meat.

As spring comes, there will be changes in the Extension Office. I will be starting maternity leave at the end of May, so be prepared to contact my counterparts in other counties with your Ag questions from June-August. I will return in late August.

Sara

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Herb Gardening Webinar: April 25, 2018 12:00-1:00 p.m. EST

What will this webinar be about?

If you love to cook, especially with fresh herbs, then you might enjoy a culinary herb garden. Nothing beats the flavor of freshly picked herbs in soups, stews, sauces, casseroles, pastas, salad and many other dishes. Join Gina Anderson, ANR Extension Educator with Purdue Extension in Floyd County as she explains the steps to creating an amazing herb garden.

How do I join?

Go to the link below and register. You will then receive a confirmation email with the link to participate in the webinar at noon on April 25, 2018. You will also receive a reminder 24 hours before the webinar is about to start.

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/y83ma4k4>

What if I can't participate on April 25th? Go ahead and register at the link above. Following the completion of the webinar, we will send all registered participants a link to the recorded webinar.

YQCA Classes Offered

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a new training required for all 4-H members who intend to exhibit cattle, goats, poultry, rabbits, sheep, or swine at the Perry County 4-H Fair. Cost is \$3 per person for face to face trainings and \$12 per person for online trainings.

Two face to face YQCA trainings are planned for Perry County in April.

The first training is offered April 10 from 3:15-5:15 PM at Perry Central School (location TBD based on number of participants).

The second training is offered April 15 from 2:00-4:00 PM CDT at the Perry County 4-H Fairgrounds. This training will be followed by a hands-on introduction to showmanship for all species.

To register for a training, please go to yqca.learnrow.io and sign in through 4-H Online. Then contact the office at 812-547-7084 with the session you've chosen.

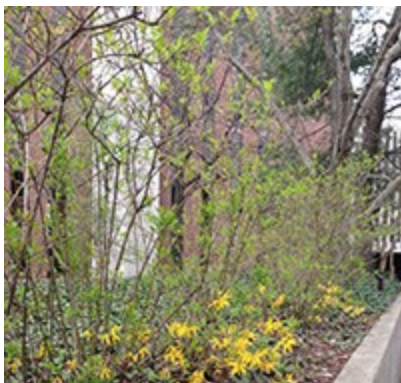


Where Have All the Flowers Gone?

By: B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulturist

Winter 2017-18 was pretty harsh compared to most years. Much of central and northern Indiana experienced 13 or more days well below zero, while southern Indiana had four to five days just a few degrees below zero. In addition, gusty winds further injured plants by desiccating buds and twigs.

The consequences remain to be seen. While some spring flowering trees and shrubs may perform admirably this season, some species will have few or no blooms at all, particularly in the northern half of the state. In addition, some plants may be late to leaf out, leaving us concerned that they died overwinter.



Forsythia blooms survived only on lower branches
Photo provided by Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension.



Brown center of forsythia bud indicating cold injury
Photo provided by Bruce Bordelon, Purdue Extension.

Some shrubs (such as forsythia) may flower only on the lower branches, where snow cover and leaf litter insulated them well. But for many specimens, there may be no flowers at all. A recent check of buds on forsythia plants on the Purdue West Lafayette campus revealed significant

flower bud damage, evidenced by a brown center in the bud.

Many roses have experienced considerable dieback - some nearly to the ground. Some of these roses will still be able to bloom on new twigs that develop later this spring.



Winter dieback on roses.
Photo provided by Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension.

For plants such as magnolia and lilac, our bud checks look pretty good, but there's still more weather to get through before we know for sure.

While it is still possible that these plants may continue to show effects from the harsh winter, most should recover and return to normal blooming next year - assuming reasonable weather.

We recommend conservative pruning to remove only dead branches and to conserve as much foliage as possible, so that plants can maximize leaf area for photosynthesis to aid recovery.



Prune to remove winter dieback on rose twigs.
Photo provided by Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension.

Source: Purdue Yard & Garden News, 03-21-18

Perry County Beekeepers to Offer Hive Starting Demonstration

Want to learn how to move honeybees from a "nuc" to a full hive? Bring your bee jacket and join the Perry County Beekeepers on Thursday, April 19. Beekeepers are encouraged to bring extra jackets and hoods for those who do not yet have protective equipment.

Meet at Perry Central School at 5:15 PM CDT in the lower parking lot and carpool or meet at Marlene James' residence located at 16767 Old State Road 37, Leopold, IN at 5:30. Experienced beekeeper Bill Gibson will guide you step by step as he demon-

strates moving honeybees from a "nuc" to a hive body. You will learn how to find the queen, and identify brood and eggs.

Following the demonstration, we will travel to the Perry Central FFA building at approximately 6:00 PM to discuss observations and answer questions. Please bring a snack to share.

This meeting is free and open to the public. Anyone who has bees or is interested in beekeeping is invited to attend. For more information, contact Sara Dzimianski at sdzimian@purdue.edu



By the time you receive this newsletter, you will have received an email with enrollment instructions and your beef and dairy cattle should already be enrolled. Beef and dairy enrollment is now closed. If you plan to exhibit other species, here is a refresher on how to enroll.

Reminder: you MUST have a premise ID before attempting to enroll your animals. If you do not have a premise ID, your application will be rejected. If you do not yet have a premise ID, visit the Board of Animal Health website to request a premise ID. <http://www.in.gov/boah/2328.htm>

ALL enrollment will be online through the 4-H online system AND Fair Entry. Livestock MUST be tagged or tattooed (if registered) PRIOR to enrolling. Sheep, goats, swine, and horses must be enrolled in 4-H online and entered in Fair Entry by May 5. Rabbits and Poultry do not need to be enrolled in 4-H Online.

To enroll your livestock in 4-HOnline:

1. Login to your family profile at: <https://in.4honline.com> using your family email address and password you created at the time of family profile creation.
2. Click the orange 'Continue to Family' button.
3. Find the 4-H member's name in the Member/Volunteer list for your family.
4. Click 'Edit' next to the 4-H member's name to which you wish to identify animals for in the system.
5. Click the text that says 'Animals/Livestock'. Select the appropriate Animal Type from the Add an Animal drop-down menu for the animal you first wish to identify. There will be different options for each species.
7. Click the 'Add animal' button.
8. Read the on-screen instructions for Animal ID requirements for Indiana State Fair Exhibition.
9. You must complete all fields with BOLD titles.
10. Complete all other visible fields as applicable.
11. Once the information is complete, click 'Save'.
12. Verify that the animal is now listed in the Animal List below the Add Animal button.
13. Repeat steps 6 – 11 for each animal the member needs to identify.
14. Members are able to edit Animal ID information until the species specific Animal ID deadline.
15. Click the 'My Member List' in the upper right to return to the list of family members to select another 4-H member to identify animals.

Family Enrollment of Animals

Animals may be co-enrolled within the same family (Siblings and step-siblings). The animals may be listed under a single 4-H member, and at a later point, the animal may be associated with a different sibling. With this capability in 4HOnline, animals do not need to be entered under each 4-H member in the family. It is strongly suggested that at least 1 animal be identified by each member enrolled in the project.

Changing the Animal to another Member of the Family

1. Login to the member record that currently has the animal listed.
2. Click the Animals/Livestock text to navigate to the Animal ID area.
3. Click the Edit/View button next to the animal you need to move to a different member of the family.
4. Use the drop-down menu to change the member the animal is associated, and click Save.
5. Animals may be changed to a different member of the family up to the County Fair check-in.

All animals including rabbits and poultry MUST be entered in Fair Entry by May 4. You received an email with detailed instructions on how to enter animals in Fair Entry. If you need further instructions, email rhauenst@purdue.edu or call 812-547-7084. Go to <http://perrycountyindiana.fairentry.com> to enter your animals.

Swine must have a visual 840 tag and an ear notch to exhibit at the Perry County 4-H Fair. If you think you may want to exhibit at State Fair, contact the Extension Office to learn about State Fair tagging requirements. Swine must be enrolled first in 4-H Online and then entered in FairEntry. Photos of tagged swine must be submitted to the Extension Office by **May 4**.

Sheep and Goat ID rules are the same as last year. Ewes and does may be exhibited with either a Scrapie tag or a County tag. Registered does may show with a tattoo. Wethers must have a county tag. All sheep and any meat goat wethers going to State Fair must be retinal scanned. Contact the Extension Office if you are thinking about exhibiting at State Fair. Sheep and goats must be enrolled first in 4-H Online and then entered in FairEntry. Photos of tagged goats must be submitted to the Extension Office by **May 4**.

Horses and ponies must be identified by photograph upon enrollment. Photos will be uploaded directly into the 4-H online system. At least two photos should be submitted, one photo should show facial markings, and the other photo should be a side view showing all four feet. Horses must be enrolled first in 4-H Online and then entered in FairEntry by **May 4**.

Poultry will be required to have a numbered leg band. These bands will be available for free from the Extension Office. Poultry must be entered in FairEntry and Photos of banded poultry should be submitted to the Extension Office by **May 4**.

Rabbits must be identified with either a tattoo or a name and entered in FairEntry by **May 4**. Photos of rabbits to be exhibited should be submitted to the Extension Office by **May 4**.

Photos for all species except horses should be emailed to rhauenst@purdue.edu or mailed to 65 Park Ave., Tell City.

If there are any questions please feel free to contact the Extension Office at 547-7084 or e-mail Sara at sdzimian@purdue.edu or Cathy at boerste@purdue.edu .



Soil Scoop!

Perry County Soil and Water Conservation District



Grazing Bites by Victor Shelton, NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist

It wasn't too long ago that you were hearing that some parts of the state were actually still in drought status. I believe it is safe to say, without even looking it up, that that is no longer a problem. Instead, completely thawed and very soggy ground is prevalent.

It's been a few years since I've seen this wet of an early spring. In fact, maybe about twenty years. We are quite often still blessed with some free "concrete" this time of year. As much as I like the warmer days right now, I probably wouldn't turn down some frozen ground to reduce mud and the impact of very saturated ground. One guy told me that if it were just a hair warmer, he might go barefoot since he was tired of getting his boots stuck in the mud.

If you are not prepared for such wet weather, then it can be quite frustrating. Mud is certainly worse around feeding, watering, and other concentrated areas. One of the best solutions for these concentrated areas is to install a conservation practice called a Heavy Use Area Protection (HUAP), e.g., feed and watering pads. HUAPs are fairly simple to construct and better yet, very economical. Retired NRCS technician Mary Lee Smith recently noted that HUAP's were the best thing since sliced bread; just a fantastic practice! HUAPs are available for cost-share through some NRCS and conservation district programs; contact your local USDA field office for more information.

Due to drier conditions in parts of Indiana last August and September, stockpiled forage, additional hay cuttings, and fall annuals were just not what they should have been. This lack of sufficient growth reduced fall and early winter grazing days and root growth. That growth is important because it not only provides some valuable forage to graze, but good top growth means good root growth. The combination of the two is stabilizing when grazed under wetter conditions. The less growth present above and below the ground, the more potential damage to a field when livestock are present. Truthfully, once the frost layer breaks through and conditions are wet like they are right now, you are usually better off having animals off the pasture and in a sacrifice area, especially if you are working with soils with fragipans. Soils with fragipans (a thin and very heavy layer of pure clay) tend to hold the water more at the surface level, keeping the top layer very wet and more likely to be damaged by livestock. It is better to sacrifice a small area than a whole field that might require totally replanting afterwards. I have seen some poorly chosen sites utilized for sacrifice areas that have been left in a horrible disturbed condition. When areas such as creek bottoms, woods and erodible sloping ground are used as a sacrifice area, water quality is almost always adversely affected. Try to choose a stable site that is suitable for these areas and rotate them if possible and provide a grass filter between the site and any water bodies. Sometimes, these sacrifice areas can be paddock(s) that you plan to renovate anyway. Ideally, plant a cover-crop such as oats, sorghum-sudan or millet on the area after excess manure is collected and spread appropriately where needed. These areas can then be grazed later in the year. In the southern part of Indiana, we are getting some early green growth already. This is certainly a delightful attraction for grazing livestock and also for producers who are already running short on hay. It is ever so tempting to just open the gates and let them have at it. Keep in mind, most pastures are under a little more pressure than usual due to the lack of normal growth last fall. They really need some extra rest prior to turnout this year. So, here is how to answer the real question of "when do I start grazing?" Preferably, you want to start grazing when the plants are about 6 to 8 inches tall (tall cool-season forages such as fescues and orchardgrass) and the ground is dry enough to support the weight of the livestock without causing damage to the forage base. In a well-managed, rotated grazing system you can start grazing fairly early as long as you use some control... animal control. Don't leave it up to the cow, you have to manage her! *Grazing Bits* issues— <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/in/technical/landuse/pasture>

Upcoming Events

Apr. 10 - SWCD
monthly board
meeting at 7 pm

May (TBA) - SWCD
monthly board
meeting at 7 pm

Perry County SWCD

Board of Supervisors

Randy Rennie - Chair
Brad Harth - Vice Chair
John Woebkenberg
Scott Harpenau
Isaac Schroeder

We are located at

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USDA,

District Conservation- **ist**

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Amy Sims

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Perry County Soil