

Purdue Extension

# Greene County Agriculture & Natural Resource Newsletter

## 2018 IBCA Annual Convention

Be sure to join your fellow Indiana cattlemen and women for a day of fun, fellowship and networking at the Indiana Beef Cattle Association Annual Convention & Business Meeting on January 27, 2018 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Indianapolis- Airport in Indianapolis.

The IBCA Convention and Annual Business Meeting along with the Trade Show creates a unique, fun environment for Indiana cattle industry members to come together to network, create policy for the industry and to have some fun! Registration fee includes admission to all programs, snacks, lunch, dinner and the Las Vegas "Cow"sino Night Party.

IBCA is excited to announce that for the 2018 annual convention, the Indiana Hereford and Simmental Associations will be joining us for their annual business meetings. Featured speakers include Craig Uden- NCBA President, Caitlin Mondelli- NCBA Communication Outreach and Brian Cardinal- Former NBA player and Purdue basketball legend.

Nominations are currently being taken for 2017 IBCA Cattleman of the Year and Young Cattleman of the Year. Completed forms may be emailed to Callie Cleveland at [ccleveland@indianabeef.org](mailto:ccleveland@indianabeef.org) or faxed to (317) 295-8421.

Please call to book your room today: (317) 244-6861. To register for the Convention, visit the following website: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eesintx865493777&llr=noiquidab>.

## 2018 Beef Cow/Calf Improvement Seminar

The seminar will take place on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at the Orange County Community Center (1075 N Sandy Hood Rd, Paoli, IN 47454) beginning at 9:00 AM and ending at 3:45 PM. The theme for this year's seminar is "Grazing Management for Today's Cow Herd."

Different grazing strategies will be discussed, as well as grazing capabilities and current programs, grants and technical assistance available to producers. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about how grazing myths impact profitability. While there is still much potential to profitably expand grazing in Indiana, it is also possible to have too much of a good thing. During this seminar, common grazing misconceptions that can reduce profitability will be highlighted. Using multiple production and cost scenarios, this seminar will allow producers to answer the optimal stocking rate/hay feeding question based on the specifics of their farms. Producers can find out how these are simultaneously possible with a low-impact, low-stress winter feeding technique. Each of the day's speakers have a wide range of knowledge and expertise which they are excited to share.

Early registration costs \$20 and will end on January 12. All students with advisors or parents will be \$20 before or on January 12. All registrations received after January 9 will be \$30. For a registration form or for additional information, please contact the Purdue Extension – Greene County Office at 812-659-2122 or email at [davis186@purdue.edu](mailto:davis186@purdue.edu).

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## Important Upcoming Dates:

Ag/Rural Opioid Addiction Symposium

Friday, Jan. 5  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Boone County Fairgrounds

<https://extension.purdue.edu/Pages/article.aspx?intitle=27565>

Sheep & Goat Webinar

Thursday, Feb. 15  
7:00 – 9:00 PM

Greene County Community Event Center

2018 Midwest Women in Ag State Conference

Wed.-Thurs., Feb. 21-22  
Horizon Convention Center  
Muncie, IN

\*More information coming soon!!!

## Networking opportunities, educational sessions highlight 2018 Indiana Small Farm Conference agenda

Small-scale farming has become an increasingly important part of Indiana's \$11.2 billion agricultural industry. According to the 2012 U.S. Census of Agriculture, approximately 75 percent of Hoosier farms were less than 180 acres. Other studies show that nearly half the farms in the state are 50 acres or fewer.

The annual Indiana Small Farm Conference and trade show provides both novice and experienced small-scale producers with an opportunity to learn about the latest trends, network with fellow farmers and get practical, hands-on guidance from nationally recognized experts on a wide range of critical topics, from crop production and equipment to marketing, new business development and legal issues. Registration is now open for this year's conference, scheduled for March 1-3 at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Complex, 1900 E. Main Street, Danville.

"We've experienced tremendous growth in the five years we've hosted the conference," said Michael O'Donnell, Purdue Extension diversified and organic agriculture educator and one of the event organizers. "It's very gratifying that we've been able to expand our educational offerings and build such rewarding partnerships to better serve the small-scale farming community."

For many small-scale producers throughout the state, the conference has become an annual ritual, a chance to renew old acquaintances and learn new strategies to increase efficiency and profitability.

"This conference does a couple of things for me," said Jeff Hawkins of Hawkins Family Farm, a three-generation, community-supported agriculture poultry producer in North Manchester. "First of all, I think it's a marvelous mix of imagination and pragmatics. There are things to learn. You just love hearing how somebody tried a new way of doing something or developed a new tool and think about doing that on your own farm."

This year's conference begins with a series of daylong workshops on March 1. Topics include Regenerating Your Farm Using Diversified Livestock Systems, Farm Viability and Financial Management, and On-Farm Food Safety for Fruit and Vegetable Growers: Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training. There will also be an off-site farm tour focusing on four-season production using hoop houses and other methods.

Educational sessions March 2-3 will cover topics ranging from urban agriculture, crop diversification, disease management, weed control and specialty crops to farm finances, marketing and employee relations.

The March 2 keynote panel will include:

- \* Greg Gunthorp, operator Gunthorp Farms in LaGrange and a prominent advocate for small farms, small processors, rural development, sustainable operations and antibiotic-free animals.
- \* Martha Hoover, owner of Patachou Inc., an Indianapolis-based group of 12 locally-sourced restaurants, and founder of the Patachou Foundation to provide healthy meals to Indianapolis children living in a food-insecure environment.
- \* Chef Tyler Herald of Patachou, Inc. Herald is responsible for menu development, ingredient sourcing and overall kitchen management for all Patachou locations.

The keynote speaker for March 3 is Chris Blanchard, host of the Farmer to Farmer podcast. Blanchard has more than 25 years of experience as a farmer and educator and provides consulting and coaching for farmers, food businesses and institutions throughout the U.S. and Canada.

For those who register through Feb. 5, cost is \$75 for one day, \$135 for two days and \$190 for three days. Admission for children age 12 and younger is \$20, \$35 and \$45. After Feb. 5, the cost will be \$90, \$162 and \$228.

For more information or to sign up, visit the Indiana Small Farm Conference website at <https://www.purdue.edu/dffs/smallfarms/>.

Source: Darrin J Pack, Writer/Editor

## State chemist office offers required training for dicamba applicators

The Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC) based at Purdue University is offering state-required training for commercial and private applicators working with the new dicamba herbicide products Engenia, FeXapan and XtendiMax. These and other herbicide products containing at least 6.5 percent dicamba are now classified as restricted-use pesticides (RUPs) in Indiana.

"The objective of the training is to prepare the applicator for the regulatory and practical rigors of applying these three products safely and effectively so we can maintain the availability of this weed control option in the future," said David Scott, state pesticide administrator.

Only training programs sanctioned by the OISC and led by OISC-approved trainers will be accepted for dicamba applicators seeking the label-mandated training in 2018.

"Starting Jan. 1, all training will be run through the existing Continuing Certification Hour (CCH) program for commercial applicators and Private Applicator Recertification Program (PARP) for private applicators," Scott said. "Every 2018 training program for private applicators will include dicamba training. Likewise, many Category 1 CCH training sessions for commercial applicators will include the required dicamba training."

The full schedule for private applicator training is available at <https://ppp.purdue.edu/private-applicators/recertification-parp/parp-events/>. For the full schedule of commercial applicator training programs, go to <https://www.oisc.purdue.edu/oiscweb/#!/publicrecords/pesticide/conferences> and type the word "dicamba" in the conference search box.

Each hour-long training session covers all legal application requirements for dicamba herbicides. Topics for both the private and commercial training sessions include:

- \* Recordkeeping
- \* Buffer requirements
- \* Chemistry
- \* Handling
- \* Associated application challenges and risks
- \* Weed management practices
- \* Protection of susceptible crops
- \* Mixing
- \* Window of application

No certificate or special license designation will be issued. However, the training instructor and OISC will maintain a roster of those who complete the training and will record the applicator's name, address and license number. Attendees must keep a record with the training date, location and the CCH or PARP conference number as part of the mandatory label-required recordkeeping procedures for dicamba products.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will decide after December 2018 whether dicamba pesticides will continue to be registered for use in the U.S. The training requirement might be revised at that time, Scott said. "But for now, you must complete the required training before using these products in Indiana in 2018," he added.

Cost for private applicator training is \$10. The cost of commercial training varies. For more information, go to the OISC website at <https://www.oisc.purdue.edu/>.

Source: Darrin J Pack, Writer/Editor

## Another warm winter? State climatologists say it depends on La Niña

According to the latest seasonal outlook from the Indiana State Climate Office based at Purdue University, Hoosiers could be in for a repeat of last winter, when a weak La Niña system fizzled early in the season and unusually mild conditions prevailed during the last half of January and February.

But Dev Niyogi, state climatologist, suggests keeping the scarves and mittens handy - just in case.

"El Niño or La Niña cause notable shifts in weather patterns and Indiana will see those effects again," he said.

Like last year, a weak La Niña system is expected to influence weather throughout the Midwest in the coming months. According to the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC), a typical La Niña winter in Indiana brings above normal precipitation. Temperature patterns, however, are more difficult to predict.

"The big question is how long this La Niña will last and how strong it will be," said Ken Scheeringa, associate state climatologist. "Last year it was a weak system and it was finished in early January."

Scheeringa said factoring in La Niña makes forecasting this winter's weather more difficult.

"We rely on records from previous La Niña winters for future projections," he explained. "Based on those observations, there was a pretty strong signal that precipitation would be higher, but there was no strong pattern indicating what kinds of temperatures we could expect."

Recent La Niña winters in Indiana include 2007-2008, 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, as well as last year.

Central Indiana experienced an unseasonably mild stretch starting in the last two weeks of January 2017, followed by the warmest February on record with temperatures 10 to 13 degrees above average in the region. Precipitation during the period was below normal, indicating the influence of the La Niña system had waned.

A similar pattern could be in store for 2018, but if this year's La Niña turns out to be stronger or more persistent than initially thought, Hoosiers could be in store for snowier conditions. That could be good news for producers of winter wheat, which requires a blanket of snow cover to protect it from cold temperatures. A video of Niyogi and Scheeringa discussing Indiana's winter weather outlook is available at <https://youtu.be/jx-wGUc-V1o>.

The CPC forecast for December calls for equal chances of above, normal or below normal temperatures and precipitation. Average maximum daily temperatures in Indiana range from 35 degrees F in northern counties to 42 degrees in the south. Daily minimums typically range between 21 and 25 degrees statewide. Average precipitation varies from 2.4 inches in the northwest up to 3.4 inches in south central Indiana. For January and February, the CPC forecast calls for above-normal precipitation with equal chances of above-normal, near-normal or below-normal temperatures.

The Indiana average maximum temperature for January ranges from 32 degrees F in northern counties to 39 degrees in the southern third of the state. Minimums average from about 17 to 22 degrees across the state. In February, typical maximum temperatures range from 36 to 44 degrees across the state, while minimums range from 20 degrees in northern Indiana to 25 along the Ohio River.

Normal winter precipitation in Indiana is about 2.9 inches in December, 2.2 inches in January and 2 inches in February. This includes normal melted snowfall equivalent amounts. Normal snowfall for the season can vary widely, from just 10 inches in extreme southwest Indiana to more than 70 inches in the South Bend area, where the lake effect is the greatest. The Indiana State Climate Office is a partner in the Useful to Usable initiative, which offers an online tool enabling farmers and agricultural advisers to better assess how climate patterns in other parts of the world can influence local conditions and corn yields across the Corn Belt. The Climate Patterns Viewer, co-developed by the climate office, can help growers make more informed farm management decisions during different phases of the El Niño and La Niña Southern Oscillation and Arctic Oscillation. It relates historical events of those phases to the effects of associated precipitation and temperatures over the course of a year.

"A shift in peak winter late into February or even March is not unlikely," Niyogi said.

Source: Darrin J Pack, Writer/Editor

## Purdue Top Farmer Conference

Take part in one of the most successful and longest-running management programs geared specifically for farmers — the Purdue Top Farmer Conference, now in its 50th year. A half day pre-conference workshop happens on January 8, followed by the one-day Top Farmer Conference on January 9.

Both portions of the program feature faculty and staff experts from Purdue's Center for Commercial Agriculture. The conference also includes sessions led by faculty from Kansas State University and leading industry experts. Surrounded by farm management, farm policy, agricultural finance and marketing experts, and a group of your peers, the conference will stimulate your thinking about agriculture's future and how you can position your farm to be successful in the years ahead.

Topics include:

- The Future Food Consumer: Implications for Producers
- Managing Your Way Through Agricultural Cycles
- Before You Make 2018 Decisions: Rethink Your Risk Management Strategy
- Lowering Your Production Cost without Reducing Yield Potential
- A Discussion with Purdue's Top Crop Scientists

Register for the 2018 Top Farmer Conference at <https://www.cvent.com/events/purdue-top-farmer-conference-2018/registration-3712092b35f246e08cdecbdb432cc1c.aspx?fqp=true>. Fees are \$50 per person for the pre-conference meeting on Jan. 8, \$150 for the one-day conference on Jan. 9, or \$175 total for both days.



January 9  
Beck Agricultural Center  
West Lafayette  
with optional pre-conference tours  
January 8

For additional information, please visit our website at:

[www.extension.purdue.edu/greene](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/greene)



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



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*Wishing you and your family all the best during this holiday season.*

*All of us at Purdue Extension - Greene County are thankful for the opportunity to work with each of you.*

*We are looking forward to another great year of programming in 2018.*