

Newton County Ag Scene

May/June 2019

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Upcoming Calendar Dates

For questions and registration contact
Andrew Martin at 219-285-8620 ext. 2801
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Crop Diagnostic Training & Research Center Workshops

ACRE, West Lafayette

7:30 am—3:30 pm CST

June 11 — Early Season Diagnostic (\$140/per)

July 17 — Mid-Season Diagnostic (\$140/per)

August 7 — Forage Mgt Workshop (\$100/per)

held at the Feldun Purdue Ag Center

August 13—Post Harvest Workshop (\$100/per)

CCH & CEU Credits Available

For more information, visit:

www.ag.purdue.edu/agry/dtc

Pinney Purdue 100 Year Celebration

June 22

Pinney Purdue Ag Center, Wanatah

The Pinney Purdue Agricultural Center is celebrating 100 years, 1919-2019. Save the date to celebrate a century in northwest Indiana, thanks to a 1919 gift from William Pinney and his daughter, Myra Pinney Clark. Lunch will be provided.

For more information, visit:

<http://purdue.ag/pinney2019>

Agribusiness Marketing:

Building the Foundations of Agri-Marketing

July 23-25

Purdue University, West Lafayette

For more information, visit:

<https://agribusiness.purdue.edu/seminars-and-events>

North American Manure Expo

July 31—August 1

Fair Oaks Farms

<https://www.manureexpo.org/>

Crops Field Day

September 5

ACRE, West Lafayette

This is a FREE program with lunch provided to all registered attendees. PARP, CCH, and CEU credits will be available.

Register at the following link by August 29:

bit.ly/2019CropsFieldDay

Local Bee Meetings—Honey & the Hive

Newton County Bee Meetings

One of the best ways to have a successful bee yard is to get involved in your beekeeping community. Go to the meetings, chat about seasonal blooms, troubleshoot common problems, and learn a lot, while having fun with your neighbors!

For more information, contact Andrew Martin

andrewmartin@purdue.edu

Terrestrial Invasive Species Rule

Kainen Morgan

The Invasive Terrestrial Plant Rule was signed by Governor Holcomb and published on March 18, 2019. The rule goes into effect 30 days after publishing, so it will be effective in April.

The Rule States that a person must not:

1. Sell, offer or grow for sale, gift, barter, exchange, or distribute a species;
2. Transport or transfer a species;
3. Introduce a species

with respect to the 44 invasive plant species (see full list in the Landscape Report).

Note: Selling, offering, distributing and transporting doesn't go into effect until April of 2020, so nurseries will have some time to sell down their stock. This is an important component of the rule to minimize economic loss to nurseries that grow and/or sell the few commercially available species that are on the list. Currently there is no mandate to eradicate existing plantings in nurseries, landscapes, or forested areas.

To learn more about what an invasive species is, what damage they do, what Indiana is doing, and more please read the Landscape Report, Terrestrial Invasive Species Rule Signed by Indiana Governor.

Resources

Invasive Plant Species in Hardwood Tree Plantations, The Education Store
Invasive Plant Species: Callery Pear, Purdue Extension The Education Store
Invasive Plant Species: Wintercreeper, Purdue Extension The Education Store
Invasive Plant Species Oriental Bittersweet, Purdue Extension The Education Store

Lindsey Purcell, Urban Forestry Specialist
Forestry and Natural Resources



Does the Implementation of Technology Improve Farm Profitability?

C. Robert Holcomb and Joleen Hadrich

In 2017, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Farm Business Management Program, the Southwest Minnesota Farm Business Management Association (SWMFBMA), and the University of Minnesota Extension conducted a survey to identify management skills and tendencies of highly successful producers. Only 6% of all farms considered themselves innovators, adopting technology at its earliest availability. Forty-five percent of the respondents consider themselves early adopters, making investments in new technology once proven by a small number of success stories. This group does not consider themselves innovators though.

Type of Technology Adopted Matters

Producers using computerized accounting software, email, and online purchasing options had higher levels of profitability. Using these types of technology by producers demonstrates higher management acumen, leading to higher profits. In general, most producers use a computer and the internet. Therefore there is no competitive advantage to having these commonplace technologies at work in today's farming operation.

Summary

In conclusion, is an investment in technology a worthy investment for the farming operation in times of tight margins? There is a profitability advantage to those taking a risk and adopting technology early on. Yet, every investment in the farming operation needs to have a business purpose with a reasonable rate of return on investment.

Condensed by Andrew Martin