

Tuesday, May 7

SWPAC To Host June 27 Field Day

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The Southwest Purdue Agricultural Center will host a field day on Thursday, June 27 — with a full schedule of presentations and opportunities to observe research production techniques.

Among the highlights are a featured lunch presentation with Fred Whitford, clinical engagement professor and director of Purdue Pesticide Programs, to discuss “A 150-Year Friendship With Farmers”; a presentation from Jamie Campbell Petty, founder and strategy advisor for the Indiana Hemp Industries Association Team; and a health fair provided by Vincennes’ Good Samaritan Hospital. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. at the center — located at 4369 N. Purdue Road in Vincennes.

Topics include:

- **Organic Tomato Production:** Dan Egel will discuss the Tomato Organic Management and Improvement Project — including foliar disease management of tomatoes.
- **High Tunnel Grafted Cucumber & Specialty Melon Production:** Wenjing Guan and Petrus Langenhoven will discuss cucumber and melon production in high tunnels.
- **Applying IPM Principles across Cropping Systems to Increase Insect Pollination and Profitability:** Laura Ingwell will discuss best management practices for watermelon production by quantifying pest pressures, pollinator health, and crop yields.
- **Termites to the Rescue:** In this presentation, Rick Meilan will discuss the use of enzymes derived from termites to control invasive woody species.
- **Removing Invasive and Cultivating Natives:** Join Will Drews to see SWPAC’s work to remove invasive plants around the property and create a native pollinator habitat.
- **Growing Hemp in Indiana:** Jamie Campbell Petty, Chuck Mansfield and Valerie Clingerman will offer an update on the use of this versatile plant — grown for its fiber, seed, or oil — across the state.
- **Eyes in the Sky...Decisions on the Ground:** Bob Nielsen discusses the benefit of aerial “reconnaissance” via unmanned aerial vehicles to scout crop problems or augment data.
- **Annual Strawberry Production with Retractable Low Tunnel Systems:** Wenjing Guan will discuss annual plastic culture for strawberry production in southern Indiana.

A meal will be included, and PARP classes also will be available after lunch. To register, email joynerb@purdue.edu, call 812-886-0198, or go online at https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8pnF8z1CwyqIrGI **by Monday, June 17.**

Please provide your name, organization, full mailing address with ZIP, phone number, email, and attendee names. If you require reasonable accommodations to participate or a vegetarian meal, please make note. Those receiving PARP credit must bring a Private Applicators card and \$10.

The SWPAC is one of eight Purdue Agricultural Centers across Indiana — offering hands-on opportunities for Purdue campus specialists to discover new community information that can improve local food and fiber production while maintaining or enhancing environmental quality. For more information, call 812-886-0198 or email nowaskie@purdue.edu.