



Agri-Scope

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August 2019

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EXTENSION

Pinney Purdue Field Day – August 21

The 2019 edition of Pinney Purdue Field Day is scheduled for Wednesday, August 21, 2019. Pinney Purdue Agriculture Center is located at 11402 South County Line Road, Wanatah, two miles west of US 421 and ½ mile north of U.S. 30. Participants will have opportunities to get updates on current ag production issues, visit with neighbors and fellow producers as well as ag supply and service exhibitors, and enjoy a great sponsored meal. Registration and exhibitor booths open at 7:30 a.m. CDT in the new machinery shed on the east side of County Line Road; parking is also on the east side of the road. The Field Day program starts at 8:15 a.m. CDT.

The program begins at 8:15 a.m. CDT when Dr. Jason Henderson, Purdue's Associate Ag Dean and Extension Director, will discuss *Farm Incomes: Glass Half-Full or Half-Empty?*

Field tours will begin at 9:20 a.m. CDT and will include stops with Purdue Extension Specialists Bill Johnson, weed science, who will give an update on this year's "war on weeds"; Darcy Telenko, field crops plant pathologist, on managing diseases in corn and soybean; and Shaun Casteel, soybean and small grains specialist, will talk about soybean management for top yields. Phil Woolery, Extension Educator in Starke and Pulaski Counties, will present ideas about tackling invasive species. Marguerite Bolt, Purdue Extension Hemp Specialist, will review hemp production options in Indiana.

The field day will conclude with a sponsored pork chop lunch cooked by Birky Family Farms of Kouts, IN. Participants are welcome to visit with Field Day exhibitors, who will be recognized for their help in sponsoring the Field Day, and talk to neighbors and presenters.

Important Dates to Remember

Aug. 2-18	Indiana State Fair	Aug. 21	Pinney Purdue Field Day
Aug. 6	Forest Assets Seminar	Aug. 22	NEPAC Field Day, Columbia City
Aug. 7	Forage Management Day	Aug. 27-29	Farm Progress Show, Decatur, IL
Aug. 10	Pond Management Workshop	Aug. 28	Land Use Summit
Aug. 13	Vegetable Field Day	Sept. 4	Crop Management/Diagnostic Session
Aug. 13	Post-Harvest Grain Mgt Wkshp	Sept. 5	Crops Field Day at Purdue Agry Farm
Aug. 19	Indiana 4R Field Day	Sept. 26-27	Drone (UAV) Training
Aug. 20	Clean Sweep-La Porte Co. Fairgrounds		

A twilight program is planned on the same day again this year for those unable to attend the morning programs. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and twilight presentations start at 6:00 p.m. CDT. Jim Camberato, Purdue Extension fertility specialist, will discuss key points for nutrient management in times of slim profit margins. Walt Sell, Purdue Extension soil health specialist, will demonstrate the characteristics and benefits of resilient soils in challenging weather. Gene Matzat, Purdue Extension educator in La Porte County, will give an update on the statewide voluntary *Driftwatch* program.

Those needing recertification credits for their private pesticide applicator licenses can receive a credit at either the field day or twilight program (a \$10 fee will be charged for PARP credits; please bring your license with you). Commercial pesticide applicators can get Continuing Certification Hours (CCHs). Certified Crop Advisers can also acquire needed continuing education units.

For more information, please call the Purdue Extension – La Porte County office at 219-324-9407. A field day flyer with more details can be accessed at www.extension.purdue.edu/laporte. More information is also at the Pinney Purdue Ag Center website at www.agriculture.purdue.edu/pac/ppac/.

If auxiliary aids and services due to disabilities are required, please contact the La Porte (219-324-9407) or Porter County (219-465-3555) Extension offices at least three days prior to the event.

Pinney to Host Forest Assets Seminar – August 6

Purdue Extension and Halderman Farm

Management are partnering to host a forestry seminar at Pinney Purdue Ag Center, 11402 South County Line Road, Wanatah, on Tuesday, August 6, beginning at 6:30 p.m. CDT. This *Realizing Forest Assets* seminar will help landowners with woodlots better understand ways that they can manage their trees for more profitable production.

Realizing Forest Assets Seminar



Seminar speakers will address timber price trends, income tax advantages when selling timber assets, property tax benefits of “classified forests” and timber appraisals. There will also be discussions of working with consultant foresters to manage woodlots and generating periodic income from selling trees. Timber production economics and woodland property ownership transfers will also be discussed.

The seminar is free, but those interested in attending are asked to RSVP to Toni at Halderman Farm Management by Tuesday, July 30th by emailing her at tonib@hladerman.com or calling 260-274-1611. A flyer with more information is at www.extension.purdue.edu/laporte.

Forage Management Day – August 7

Those in the business of raising forages or advising those who do won’t want to miss the Purdue Extension Forage Management Day on Wednesday, August 7, 2019, at the Feldun-Purdue Ag Center near Bedford, IN. This intensive, hands-on workshop will cover a variety of topics to assist with forage production and management.



Topics for the day include managing winter “sacrifice” forage lots, alternatives to reed canarygrass on poorly drained soils, identifying and controlling problematic weeds in forages, and staying safe when making hay and silage. The questions of “why did my hay mold?” and “why did my silage seep?” will be answered. Beef nutrition issues will be addressed, considering the late spring and poor quality hay harvest this year. And a demonstration of drone use to help with managing forage and livestock enterprises will be given.

Registration for this day-long training is \$100, which includes lunch and handouts. More information about the training is at www.beef tips.info. A registration form can be downloaded from the Purdue Diagnostic Training Center website at www://ag.purdue.edu/agry/dtc/Pages/Calendar.aspx.

Purdue Extension- Organic Agriculture Summer Program Series

Farmers interested in organic crop production should consider attending a Purdue Extension-sponsored series of programs to build your knowledge base in key areas of certified organic field crop production!



Visit these Indiana farms to learn about their organic transition strategies, crop rotation, nutrient management, weed management, and markets. You'll have the opportunity to network with other organic and transitional farmers and agricultural professionals from Indiana.

- **Friday, August 2** Klemp Family Farms Organic Field Day, Wheatfield, IN
- **Thursday, August 8** Ramerview Holstein Organic Field Day, New Paris, IN

Visit www.purdue.edu/dffs/organicag/events/ for more details and to register for each event.

If you are interested in hosting a field day, farm tour, or farmer gathering (even looking out to 2020), contact Michael O'Donnell at modonnel@purdue.edu or 765-284-8414.



Pond Management Workshop – August 10

To help pond owners with the management of their ponds, Purdue Extension is hosting a

Pond Management Workshop on Saturday, August 10, beginning at 1:00 pm Central Time. The workshop will be held at the Palmer Center for Aquatic Resources (6718 E. Winona Ave, Knox, IN near the northeast corner of Bass Lake).

Owning a pond can provide lots of enjoyment from fishing and swimming. Ponds also require some management to provide the best experiences from the pond. Vegetation can grow out of control and hamper swimming and fishing. Fish populations can also get out of balance and the fish in the pond can be stunted.

Pond vegetation can be a good thing because they provide habitat for fish, but too much can be

detrimental to recreation. Vegetation can be submerged, under the water, or emergent plants. Control methods for aquatic vegetation will vary by what species are present. A chemical that can be used to control emergent vegetation like cattails will have no effect on algae in the pond.

The most popular fish species for stocking in Indiana ponds are largemouth bass and bluegill. Both of these species will provide fishing opportunities. The bass will feed on the bluegill and provide a balance between these two species. If fish populations get too large in the pond, fish will be stunted. To increase the size of the fish, you will need to harvest more fish. This will free up resources for the remaining fish to grow larger.

The workshop will assist participants with aquatic plant identification and control. Mitch Zischke, Purdue assistant professor of fisheries, will discuss fish stocking and pond biology. The cost for the workshop is \$10. Please register by contacting Phil Woolery at pwooler@purdue.edu or call 574-772-9141, or register online at <https://tinyurl.com/pondmanagement>.

Vegetable Field Day/ Sweet Corn Tasting – August 13



The public and those who raise vegetables commercially or as a hobby are invited to a vegetable and high tunnel field day on Tuesday, August 13, at Pinney Purdue Ag Center (PAC), 11402 South County Line Road, Wanatah. This Purdue Extension program begins at 5:00 p.m. CDT.

Participants will hear some presentations from Purdue specialists then can choose a track on vegetable production or utilizing fresh vegetables. Laura Ingwell, Purdue Extension entomologist, will provide tips on organic insect management and will discuss the melon pollinator research project she is overseeing at Pinney PAC. Liz Maynard, Purdue Extension commercial vegetable specialist, will review and demonstrate the benefits of biodegradable plastic mulch for use with vegetables.

On the vegetable production track, Liz will discuss tips for raising pumpkins using cover crops and a no-till system. She will also review the traits of

a number of sweet corn varieties planted at Pinney PAC. Laura will discuss extending the growing season with the use of high tunnels and will have tips on insect management when using this technique.

For those interested more in enjoying the raised vegetables in a meal, folks can follow the track that will discuss raising heirloom vegetables, showing off the heirloom vegetable garden that was planted for Pinney PAC's centennial year in 2019. Annetta Jones, Purdue Extension educator from Porter County, will share some of her garden fresh recipes and how best to harvest and use fresh vegetables in meals.

Credits have been approved for private (PARP) and commercial (CCH) applicators. Crop advisers can also get continuing education units for attending the program. Please bring your license with you and \$10 for PARP fee.

A meal that includes taste testing varieties of sweet corn will follow the educational program. Those interested are asked to register for the program by Tuesday, August 6th, by emailing nikky@purdue.edu or calling the Porter County Extension office at 219-465-3555 or the La Porte County Extension office at 219-324-9407. There will be a **\$5 registration fee** collected at the door (**cash or check only**). Those 18 and younger are free with an accompanying adult.



Cover Crops Publication for Market Vegetable Growers Available

Cover crops can help fresh market vegetable growers address a variety of

challenges, from controlling pests to maintaining soil fertility. A newly updated version of *Cover Crops on the Intensive Market Farm* is available to assist growers in learning the ins and outs of incorporating cover crops on their farms. This 32-page publication delves into cover cropping equipment, time and sequencing, along with descriptions of specific cover crops. See <https://www.cias.wisc.edu/cover-crops-on-the-intensive-market-farm-2/> to download a free PDF version of the report.

Indiana 4R Field Day – August 19

Farmers are invited to attend the **2019 Indiana 4R Field Day** on Monday, August 19, presented by the Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance. The field day, a first in Indiana, will be held at the Corteva Agriscience Showcase, 7000 E State Road 47, Lebanon, IN, from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm EDT.



Participants will hear topics on proactive nutrient management, get recommendations for best management practices to maximize use efficiency in crops while still protecting the environment, learn from other farmers, and see in-field applications of these ideas.

The 4R nutrient stewardship principles provide a framework to achieve cropping system goals, such as increased production, increased farmer profitability, enhanced environmental protection and improved sustainability. To achieve these goals, the 4R concept incorporates the **Right fertilizer source** used at the **Right rate**, at the **Right time** and in the **Right place**.

Specific topics to be covered at the field day, sponsored in part by Corteva Agriscience, Mosaic, the Fertilizer Institute and Environmental Tillage Systems along with 4R Nutrient Stewardship, include nutrient planning to today's environment and integrating 4Rs into your nutrient management; nitrogen stabilizers; late season nitrogen applications; and digital ag technologies. Additional topics include conservation ag planning and weed control options for reduced tillage; strip tillage demonstration; managing nitrogen with cover crops and tile drainage; and cover crop mixes that maximize soil health.

While participation in the field day is free, registration is required by Monday, August 12, by registering online at www.inagnutrients.org/fieldday. The full field day agenda, including speakers, is also available at this website. For questions about the field day, please contact Ben Wicker at Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance at 317-690-0396.



Clean Sweep Project Coming to La Porte County – August 20

An **Indiana Pesticide Clean Sweep Project** designed to collect and dispose of suspended, canceled, banned, unusable, opened, unopened or just unwanted pesticides (weed killers, insecticides,

rodenticides, fungicides, miticides, etc.) is being sponsored by the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC), with support from the U.S. EPA. This disposal service is free of charge up to 250 pounds per participant. Over 250 pounds, there will be a \$2.00 per pound charge. This is a great opportunity for you to legally dispose of unwanted products at little or no cost.

Farmers, agriculture input suppliers, nurseries and other entities including schools and government units are eligible to participate. Delivery to specified locations may be made from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. local time on the designated dates. Dates and *Clean Sweep* locations closest to La Porte County include:

August 20, 2019: La Porte County Fairgrounds in La Porte, IN (swine barn area)

August 21, 2019: Huntington County Fairgrounds in Huntington, IN

August 22, 2019: Hendricks County Fairgrounds in Danville, IN

Participants are asked to complete the **Pesticide Clean Sweep Planning Form**, available to download at

http://www.oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/clean_sweep.html.

Fax or e-mail the completed form to Garret Creason of OISC at 765-494-1585 or gcreaso@purdue.edu before going to the collection site. Then bring your labeled, leak free and safe to transport containers to the collection site. **DO NOT mix materials.** In case of an emergency, you should bring with you a list of products you are carrying and a contact phone number. Please contact Garret Creason if you have any questions.

Indiana Land Use Summit – August 28



Purdue Extension, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, and the Indiana Land Resources Council (ILRC) invite you to a one-day community planning workshop to be held on August 28 at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Complex located at 1900 E. Main Street in Danville, Indiana.

The [Indiana Land Use Summit](#) will highlight a new document series designed to assist local governments on current and emerging land use issues. Titled, *Community Planning for Agriculture and Natural Resources: A Guide for Local Government*, this series will serve as the launching point for collaborative discussion, guest speakers, breakout sessions, and panel discussions featuring planning, operational, economic, government, and academic perspectives on multiple land use issues. The Summit is open to all attendees with an interest in integrating agriculture and natural resources as part of community land use planning efforts.

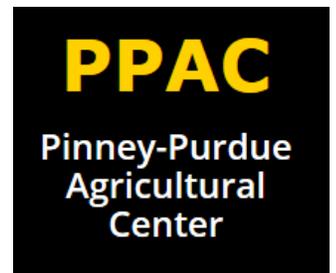
Registration is \$40, which will also include lunch and a hard copy of *Community Planning for Agriculture and Natural Resources: A Guide for Local Government*, which can be viewed or downloaded for free at puext.in/landuseguide. Please visit conf.purdue.edu/ilus to view the agenda and register now!

Additional resources, including model ordinances, cost of community services, agritourism and livestock production planning are available at the Indiana Land Resources Council website:

<https://www.in.gov/isda/2357.htm>.

Crop Management/Diagnostic Session at Pinney – September 4

Agribusiness professionals, consultants and educators who work with farmers will learn new strategies for identifying and responding to a variety of crop problems at a late



summer workshop at Purdue University's [Pinney Purdue Ag Center](#) (PPAC) near Wanatah, IN.

Participants will gain practical knowledge that will help them assist farmers in managing the nutrient, pest and environmental factors that influence plant growth and affect crop yields. The workshop is presented by experts from Purdue Extension Field Crops team.

The workshop schedule at Pinney Purdue Ag Center:

Wednesday, September 4, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
CDT: *Late Season Diagnostic Workshop*. Late season plant disease identification and management, late season and harvest issues for corn and soybean, weed management techniques going into the fall and overwinter.

Pinney Purdue Ag Center is located at 11402 South County Line Road, Wanatah, IN, about 2 miles west of Wanatah and ½ mile north of US 30 on the La Porte-Porter County Line. Continuing education credits will be available for crop advisers (4 CEUs) and commercial applicators. Private applicators may also receive one credit by attending and paying the \$10 PARP fee. Commercial applicators and farmers are reminded to bring their pesticide applicator cards for registration. Lunch is included with the registration fee.

Registration for the late summer diagnostic session at Pinney PAC is \$50 and is required at least one week before the diagnostic workshop or by Aug. 30. For more information, go to <https://extension.purdue.edu/LaPorte/> and click on "Agriculture" for a registration form and flyer. For specific details and available credits, please contact Gene Matzat at 219-324-9407 or email ematzat@purdue.edu.

Purdue Offering Drone (UAV) Training – September 26-27

Interested in becoming a Commercial Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) remote pilot or already flying a drone without the required Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Certification? You're in luck!



Purdue Extension is offering a UAV Signature Program teaching individuals UAV technology legal requirements, FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot Knowledge Test preparation, and useful UAV applications. Every participant will get hands-on experience flying both manual and planned UAV flights.

The UAV training will take place at Pinney Purdue Ag Center (PAC), located at 11402 S. County Line Road, Wanatah, on Thursday and Friday, September 26 and 27, 2019. Registration will be \$250 and includes meals, refreshments and an intensive schedule of topics to prepare the participant for getting a pilot's license to fly a drone under FAA rules. Registration needs to be completed by September 19 at <http://www.event.com/d/ryqj3>. Payment may be made by check or credit card.

Mark Carter, Purdue Extension educator in Delaware County, said UAV imaging could be much more effective for farmers than satellite imaging. Typically, satellite passes are a subscription base service and results come weekly or bi-weekly. UAVs, however, can produce a continuous series of images to track changes in crop damage, drainage problems, nutrient deficiency and disease over time.

"The exciting thing about UAVs is that they multiply a farmer's ability to collect data on everything from water use to nitrogen deficiency," Carter said. "But the challenge is to effectively collect and process that data so the results are meaningful."

Course topics will include UAV introduction, camera settings, sensors and artificial intelligence, FAA Part 107 test preparation, flight plans and recordkeeping, free flight and planned flight instructions, use of third party applications and processing software, data management, image quality and troubleshooting, and emergency preparation.

The course will be taught by Purdue Extension educators who are part of the "Quad Squad," a group of Extension staff who have received special training for using drones in their communities. If you have questions about the training, please direct them to Nikky Witkowski, Porter County Extension educator, at 219-465-3555 or nikky@purdue.edu. A flyer with additional information is at www.extension.purdue.edu/laporte.

Prevent Plant Forage Options for Farmers

Farmers who weren't able to plant because of flooding and excess rainfall this spring will benefit from the recent announcement by the USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA), who recently changed the haying and grazing date restriction for prevented planting acres. This announcement enables farmers who plant cover crops on prevented plant acres to hay, graze, ensile, or chop those fields earlier than November 1. For 2019, RMA will allow farmers to make forage on prevent plant acres after Sept. 1.

Keith Johnson, professor of agronomy, said some producers with prevent plant acres are considering using corn or soybeans as a cover crop, a practice recently approved and supported by the Extension Field Crop and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Specialists. "Farmers recognize that corn and soybeans have positive characteristics as a cover crop, since both crops can canopy quickly, reduce soil erosion, and scavenge nutrients," he said.

The late planting date includes additional agronomic recommendations for this 2019 forage harvest. Tony Vyn, professor of agronomy, said that even with the expectation of normal weather conditions for summer and fall, adapted corn hybrids might not reach one-half milk line (a crucial stage of development) before a killing frost occurs. "A one-half milk line in the kernels during the grain filling stage corresponds with a whole-plant moisture content essential for proper ensiling through lactic acid-based fermentation," Vyn explained. "Silage made too wet will result in seepage and poor quality" he added. Green chopping standing corn is also an option, but daily harvest is required to have daily uniformity of the ration being fed to livestock. Wet soil conditions can interrupt the process.

Using short-season hybrids for a given region is recommended. However, Purdue Plant Pathologist Darcy Telenko explains short-season hybrids, especially planted late, have a risk of higher levels of infection from foliar disease, so scouting for disease throughout the growing season is important. "It's important not to fertilize, especially nitrogen. Also, remember seeding rates should not be increased if the ultimate goal is forage, and stored grain with GMO traits cannot be used as a cheaper alternative seed source," Telenko said. "It's also a good idea check with your seed dealer to see if the GMO-traited seed

corn you plan to plant is approved as a cover crop. From the standpoint of early canopy closure, 15" rows are preferred over 30" she added.

Extension Soybean Specialist Shaun Casteel reminds farmers that treated soybean seed that cannot be returned to the seed dealer is a suitable cover crop source after checking to make sure the GMO-traited seed soybean varieties are approved for cover crops. "Farm-stored, treated soybean seed saved for 2020 planting will have reductions in germination potential, as well as a loss in seed treatment efficacy," Casteel said.

"Full season soybean varieties, for a given region, are preferred since they will produce more vegetative biomass and delay pod development and seed fill. Vegetative biomass is usually maximized halfway between R5 and R6 growth stages, though seed viability in the older pods and will likely begin at the point when harvested before leaf yellowing – with the approximate growth stage of R7, when the soybean is a viable forage source," he explained.

"Producers should consider the long-term rotation of a given field and evaluate the positives and negatives for choosing either of these two crops," said Casteel. He encourages farmers to ask questions like, "Do I have soybean cyst nematode?" "If so, am I planting a variety that will help reduce the population." It's also important to keep in mind that some cover crop species may help reduce the SCN population. Casteel prompts farmers to make future considerations, as well, including how the corn or beans planted will result in additional disease pressure in future years.

"Farmers need to think about and consider ramifications for the present and the future, including researching better cover crop species available that will help break up a corn or soybean cycle for at least one year. "Be sure to check seed and seed treatment labels to ensure that the seed source is approved for forage production and also be aware that previously applied herbicides can have a potential carry-over impact on cover crop germination, and select cover crop species to be planted accordingly," he encouraged.

Greg Bossaer, Purdue Extension assistant program leader for agriculture and natural resources, urged farmers to keep Crops Insurance Agents informed and get final approval for prevent plant, cover crop plans.

“Additional information on cover crop species for prevent plant acres are available, so we urge growers to consult with their local ANR Extension Educator or NRCS personnel,” Bossaer added. Farmers can get information about cover crops, assistance on what works best for their soils and situations, and seeding rates at the Midwest Cover Crops Council website: <http://mccc.msu.edu/>. Besides information about cover crops, producers may use web-based cover crops decision tools to assist them with selecting and planting cover crops suitable for their situations in both field crop and vegetable rotations. Additional resources are at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/prevented-planting-acres-and-cover-crops>.

Irrigation Provides Option for Nitrogen Application Following Late Wet Spring

Irrigated crop production has the advantage of fertigation as an option in nitrogen management. Fertigation is the process of applying fertilizer through irrigation water. Liquid 28% nitrogen is the most common product for applied through irrigation. Fertigation must be applied only when using the proper equipment.



Fertigation allows producers to evaluate nitrogen loss due to wet conditions or heavy rains, crop condition and the current market situation and adjust their nitrogen plan accordingly to meet crop needs and maximize profitability. The closer the nitrogen fertilizer is applied to the time of peak crop need, the lower the potential for nitrogen loss and the greater the return on your nitrogen investment.

Even if you never fertigate, irrigation still provides the opportunity to water in surface applied or knifed in nitrogen applications. Incorporation by irrigation reduces nitrogen loss to volatilization, increasing the amount of nitrogen available to the crop. In some situations, UAN is dribbled between rows in wet fields and if rain is not in the forecast, a small irrigation application can be used to reduce the volatilization loss to the air. This technique uses simple, readily available equipment and can cover

acres very quickly. In dire situations, dry forms of N (Ammonium Sulfate or Urea) can be applied by air and a small irrigation application can be used to incorporate it if timely rains do not occur.

The inherent risk of injecting fertilizer into a water system dictates the requirement for backflow protection. Both Indiana and Michigan have resource protection rules that require the use of chemigation valves for the protection of both surface and ground water sources. A chemigation valve creates an air gap downstream from the pump when the pump is shut down. The air gap breaks the suction created by returning water and prevents contaminants from entering surface or ground water. Chemigation valves, for most irrigation, are available from local irrigation dealers for less than \$700. Installation cost is much less at the time of pump construction and should be included in almost all new installations.

Detailed information on injection pumps, backflow protection, safety interlocks, and procedures for calibrating an injection system is available in bulletin E-2099 available from the Michigan State University Extension’s bulletin system or electronically in the irrigation web page: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/irrigation/>

A recent MSU Field Crops Team Webinar has information on N applications with the aid of irrigation and irrigation scheduling. A recording of the June 27 webinar is available at the same website: https://www.canr.msu.edu/field_crops/virtual-breakfast/

Fungicide Applications for Corn and Soybean?

It is time to get out and scout for corn and soybean diseases. The wet weather during the spring and recent hot and humid conditions have been perfect conditions for some diseases.

Corn: Even though recent weather conditions have been hot and dry, there are a number of corn diseases emerging in the lower canopy. Purdue Extension has confirmed both tar spot and southern rust in mid-July in Indiana as some fields were starting to tassel (VT). The most frequent question Darcy Telenko, Purdue Extension field crops plant pathologist, has received is, “Should we make a fungicide application?” Her response – What diseases are you finding in your field? What is your hybrid susceptibility and field history? What growth stage? Are you irrigating?

A fungicide application can be effective at reducing disease and protecting yield, but there are a number of factors that need to be considered: the field history/previous crop, the amount of disease present in the field, hybrid susceptibility, weather conditions, and the price of corn and cost of fungicide application.

Tar Spot: The first confirmation in the Midwest for 2019 occurred in Porter County on July 12. Tar spot was identified at an extremely low incidence in this field. Since then active tar spot infections have been found in two other fields – one each in Porter and LaPorte Counties.

Due to the recent hot and dry weather, Darcy recommends considering a fungicide application if a field meets **all** four of the following conditions:

1. Field history of severe tar spot in 2018 and was replanted to corn.
2. Corn nearing tasseling (growth stage VT – this is also the optimum timing for management of other foliar diseases when active, such as gray leaf spot and northern corn leaf blight).
3. Field is irrigated and receiving water weekly, and/or weather conditions change with lots of rain in the forecast.
4. If you find more than a few plants with tar spot when scouting a field.

If an application is made, leave a test strip to evaluate the effectiveness and benefit of the fungicide application. Several fungicides are labeled to help manage tar spot. Choose a product with multiple modes of action. The national Corn Disease Working Group has developed a very useful fungicide efficacy table for corn diseases. Go to <https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/>; go to “Publications” under “Resources” and look for “Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Corn Diseases.”

Due to the need to monitor both southern rust and tar spot on corn in Indiana, there will be **no charge** for **tar spot** and **southern rust** samples submitted to the Purdue PPDL for diagnostic confirmation. For more information on both tar spot and southern rust, visit the Pest & Crop Newsletter website: <https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/newsletters/pestandcrop/> (7-26-19 issue) and click on the article for southern rust and tar spot update.

Soybean: Frogeye leaf spot and Septoria brown spot are two foliar diseases that are prevalent in wet and humid weather. Septoria brown spot generally is not an economic threat to soybean, but may cause yield reductions if infection reaches the upper canopy. It is important to begin scouting soybean fields for frogeye leaf spot and Septoria brown spot around beginning flower (R1) to help make a foliar fungicide decision. Generally, fungicide applications for management of frogeye leaf spot on susceptible varieties are made at beginning pod (R3). It is not likely that foliar fungicide applications to soybean prior to reproductive stages will be economical. If using foliar fungicides to manage these diseases, use products that contain multiple fungicide classes, as resistance to strobilurin (quinone outside inhibitor) fungicides has been observed in multiple states by both the frogeye leaf spot and the Septoria brown spot fungi.

In the northern soybean-production regions (I- 80 and north) **white mold** (*Sclerotinia stem rot*) may be of concern. All stages of soybean are susceptible to infection by the white mold fungus, but most infection occurs through open flowers during periods of cool and wet weather. If we continue in a cool, wet weather pattern this year, late-planted soybeans will flower further into the growing season due to less accumulated growth days. Plants will be more susceptible to infection for a longer period of time when the weather is very conducive to disease.

In Indiana it will be very important to continue to monitor your crop and understand the yield potential in each field to determine if a fungicide application is justified. You will need to consider variety or hybrid susceptibility, growth stage, disease presence, environmental conditions (and future forecasted conditions).

A new article was just released by the Crop Protection Network, a collaboration of Midwestern land grant universities, to assist with foliar fungicide decisions for late-planted crops. For the full article, visit: <https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/>; click “Features” to access the article.

For the latest updates on status of crop diseases in Indiana, visit the Purdue Field Crop Pathology website at <https://extension.purdue.edu/fieldcroppathology/>.



Farm Service Agency Accepting County Committee Election Nominations

The county committee nomination period began on June 14, 2019. Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the La Porte County FSA office by close of business on August. 1, 2019.

For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas (LAA). Each LAA nominates and elects one producer to serve a three-year term on the FSA county committee. For 2019, an election will be held in LAA #2 which includes: Clinton, Noble, Union, Johnson, Cass, Hanna, Dewey and Prairie Townships in La Porte County.

To be eligible to serve on an FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate.

Farmers may nominate themselves or others. Organizations representing minorities and women also may nominate candidates. To become a candidate, an eligible individual must sign an FSA-669A nomination form. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at fsa.usda.gov/elections. For more information about the nomination and election process, contact the FSA office at (219) 362-2820.



Pinney-Purdue Ag Center Celebrates 100 Years

The date was Jan. 25, 1919 when William E. Pinney and his daughter, Myra Pinney Clark, made a gift of 486 acres of land on the La Porte and Porter county line to Purdue University. The gift of land was dedicated to “the advancement of agriculture and the enrichment of county life.” That statement is inscribed on a plaque that is affixed to a large rock that is located near the entrance of the Pinney Purdue Agricultural Center (PPAC) near Wanatah.

A century of progress in agricultural research and demonstrations in northwest Indiana was celebrated at Pinney-Purdue on Saturday, June 22, 2019. The morning program featured Purdue agronomists Bob Nielsen and Shaun Casteel discussing vintage corn

and soybean varieties. An “heirloom garden” displayed vegetables and other plants that would have been typical during the early 1900s. Also on display were a pair of Red poll cattle brought to Pinney-Purdue by Mike Shuter of Shuter Sunset Farms, Frankton. Red poll cattle were important in the early days of the center and for many decades Pinney-Purdue was known for its Red poll cattle herd, under the breeding supervision of Marshall Mohler, Pinney-Purdue superintendent from 1950 to 1987.

The history of the Pinney-Clark family is very interesting. William’s parents settled at the Pinney-Purdue farm in 1837. He was born on the farm in 1847 and became a lawyer after graduating from what is now Indiana University. Records show that with his banking and law connections, Pinney acquired about 4,000 acres of farmland in Porter, La Porte and Starke counties. The Pinney-Clark family trust still owns land in the area; it was an honor to have some of the family members attend the centennial celebration.

Other displays at the Pinney-Purdue celebration included a slide show depicting images of the rich history of the center, including past research projects and field days, employees and superintendents, equipment and research results.

An extensive display of tractors brought to the event by local farmers and collectors showed the rich history of mechanical progress over the past century. The collection ranged from a 1918 McCormick-Deering 10-20 Mogul to a Case-IH Magnum half-track prototype scheduled for production this fall. In between, there were at least two wheel or track tractors from every decade of the past 100 years.

Purdue Associate Dean Marshall Martin served as emcee and introduced representatives from Purdue’s Ag Research Programs and Administration. Dr. Fred Whitford was the keynote, speaking on “Using Research to Change Farming Practices in the Early 1900s.” Dr. Karen Plaut, Glenn W. Sample of Dean of the College of Agriculture at Purdue University, praised current and former Pinney staff and said Whitford had helped “show how Pinney-Purdue has lived up to its reputation” of moving science forward.

A related story and pictures of the event by Purdue Agriculture can be viewed at <https://purdueag.exposure.co/happy-100th-birthday-pinney-purdue-agriculture-center>.