

ORGANIC VISION

Indiana Organic Network
December 2025

As the holiday season continues, ION team members are sending you the warmest holiday wishes. Looking into the New Year, our team is excited for what is to come and the connections, research, and education that will take place in the future!

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ION has two big events on the horizon – the Indiana Organic Grain Farmer Meeting on February 18th, 2026 and the newly combined, Indiana Small Conference/Horticulture Conference. That will take place on March 3-5, 2026. ION will be supporting both of these events through content (inviting farmers to speak, presenting research from the Soil Health Census) and through tabling.



Purdue Ag Features

Purdue Agriculture kindly reached out to some members of our team to feature the work being done with ION on our social channels. In addition, a secondary article was written as a feature on one of our team members, who is a current College of Ag Purdue student. You can view the articles below!



Pictured above top right: Meghan Haws working on ION communication efforts
Pictures above bottom left: Organic farm field





Organic Holiday **GUIDE**

1.

Remember to shop local, seasonal vegetables

- Root vegetables: carrots, beets, potatoes, turnips
- Winter squash: butternut, acorn, spaghetti
- Cold-hardy greens: kale, collard greens, spinach

TIP: Check your local area for winter farmers markets

2.

Make a centerpiece with Indiana evergreens

- Start with pine, cedar, spruce, or fir branches
- Spice it up with pinecones, dried corn husks, or dried flowers

TIP: Avoid glitter or other artificial material to keep your centerpiece compostable

3.

Organic holiday activities

- Visit a local Christmas tree farm
- Take a winter farm tour
- Make homemade birdseed ornaments
- Food preservation

TIP: For food preservation you could make jams, cooking oils, or canned apple butter

4.

Bake with Indiana-grown organics

- Cornmeal for cornbread or cookies
- Wheat
- Apples for pies and baked goods
- Pumpkins for pies and breads


TIP: If you bake with organic cinnamon, you're most likely getting higher levels of antioxidants

5.

Give organic gifts

- Organic honey
- Organic popcorn
- Organic maple syrup
- Handmade soaps

TIP: Many organic farms sell gift baskets for the holidays



STAFF FEATURE

From field days to workshops and every event in between, ION relies on the help of extension organic agriculture specialist, Ashley Adair. Alongside extension specialist Bryan Overstreet, Ashley is a vital part of Indiana's organic network. She takes the lead on planning ION events for the year, agenda building, recording and editing events, and updating the ION website. Much of her event planning consists of arranging logistics for the events and coordinating with event speakers. Ashley believes peer-to-peer learning is one of the most valuable ways for farmers to learn. "Organic farmers learn more from each other than I could ever hope to show them through field days and other events." A lot of what Ashley succeeds at in her role is assisting organic farmers with the relationship building she believes is so impactful.



Ashley Adair driving a tractor

Via ION, Ashley is continually passionate about helping organic farmers share ideas, network, and help one another in the organic farming space. This summer, Ashley coordinated the Indiana Diverse Farm Tours. She described these tours as one of her favorite ION events she has worked on. ION and Purdue's Diverse Corn Belt team worked together to plan farm tours at diversified operations in west-central Indiana. Most of the farms that were toured are certified organic in whole or in part. She said, "It just goes to show that organic farmers tend to incorporate a lot of diverse crops and practices into their operations!" Indiana has awesome organic farms and farmers and showing them off is something she enjoyed. When planning Indiana Diverse Farm Tours, she also worked alongside extension educators and specialists to make the tours possible.

The successful events were not only personally rewarding for Ashley but exciting and innovative events for ION. Upcoming ION events Ashley is set to work on are the Indiana Organic Grain Farmer Conference and the Indiana Horticulture/Small Farm Conference. Ashley is looking forward to seeing familiar faces and networking with new connections at both conferences. With the holidays upon us, Ashley shared that her favorite holiday tradition is watching the Muppet Christmas Carol on Thanksgiving night as a way to kick off the winter holidays.



SEASONS Greetings



Happy Holidays from the Indiana Organic Network!

As we wrap up another productive year, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the farmers, researchers, educators, and partners who continue to advance organic agriculture across Indiana. Your dedication to healthier soils, resilient farming systems, and strong community connections strengthens our shared mission.

Wishing you a peaceful holiday season and a restorative winter. We look forward to growing together in the new year!

Dr. Yichao Rui



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