

# Greene County Agri-News

March 2025

**Sean Huss - Ag & Natural Resources Educator**

huss94@purdue.edu  
812-659-2122

ANR E-Newsletter

*Purdue Extension - Empowering communities and enriching lives through research-based education*

## JOIN US FOR THE UPCOMING GREENE COUNTY PROGRAMS!

### **Beekeeping 101: A Sweet Start to Raising Bees!** - In Person

Are you interested in beekeeping but don't know where to start? Join us for Beekeeping 101, a beginner-friendly workshop where you'll learn the essentials of starting and maintaining a beehive!

### **Grow It, Cook It! Exploring Elderberries** - In Person

Discover the world of elderberries! Whether you're interested in growing, harvesting, or using them in the kitchen, this workshop is for you. Join us for a hands-on evening exploring the benefits and uses of this nutritious, immune-boosting fruit.

### **Home Vegetable Gardening Series – Register Now!** - In Person/Virtual

Want to learn to grow fresh, delicious vegetables at home? Join Purdue Extension for a three-part Home Vegetable Gardening series at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Register by March 28.

Follow the link or QR code to sign up: <https://cvent.me/Mmy7XQ>



### **The Purdue On The Farm Crop Scouting Program - In Person**

Providing valuable insights into crop health, pest pressures, and nutrient management through field scouting and data collection. This initiative strengthens collaboration between Purdue Extension and Indiana's agricultural community to support research-driven decision-making. It is available at no cost, thanks to funding from the Indiana Corn & Soybean Association.

### **Navigating Farmland Inheritance Program - Virtual**

Are you dealing with recently inherited farmland, or maybe you want to be prepared in advance?

Follow the link to find out more details and get signed up: [cvent.me/xABXmR](https://cvent.me/xABXmR)

# Beekeeping 101:

*A Sweet Start to Raising Bees*

**March 13, 2025, 6 - 9pm**

**At the Greene Co. Extension Office**



## Class Topics:

- ✓ Benefits of Beekeeping
- ✓ Basic Beekeeping Equipment
- ✓ Seasonal Hive Management
- ✓ Understanding Bee Biology & Behavior
- ✓ Setting Up Your First Hive
- ✓ Pollination & Honey Production



**Sean Huss**  
ANR Educator  
huss94@purdue.edu  
**812-659-2122**

**Contact Us**





# GROW IT, COOK IT! EXPLORING ELDERBERRIES

**March 20, 2025**  
**6 - 9pm**  
**Greene Co. Extension Office**

## Topics

- ✓ Identification
- ✓ Harvesting
- ✓ Processing Elderberries
- ✓ Popular Products
- ✓ Health Benefits

## What you get

- + Recipes
- + Taste Testing Demos



**More Info**

**Sean Huss - ANR Educator**

**812-659-2122**

**[huss94@purdue.edu](mailto:huss94@purdue.edu)**

# HOME VEGETABLE GARDENING

**This series offers current and aspiring vegetable growers the opportunity to learn from experts about ways to increase the success and satisfaction of quality vegetable production in their gardens.**

## **Session 1 - April 8**

### **Getting Started in Vegetable Gardening**

- Selecting site and plants
- Sizing up your garden and tools
- Soil preparation techniques
- Plant spacing and layout

### **Vegetable varieties**

- Types/seasons of plants
- Crop rotation

## **Session 2 - April 15 (Dr. Laura Ingwell)**

- Pest Management
- Insect Management
  - Integrated pest management
  - Organic pest management
  - Pest identification & pesticide use

## **Session 3 - April 22 (Dr. Cesar Escalante)**

### **Disease Management**

- Diagnosing plant problems
- Disease management (identify, manage, and prevent)

Participants of this three-week series will learn about modern vegetable production practices appropriate to home growing. They will also learn about how to manage diseases and pests in a sustainable manner.



**April 8, 15, and 22, 2025**

**6:30-8:30 pm Eastern**

**5:30-7:30 pm Central**

Program will be held at the Greene County Fairgrounds, 4503 W. SR. 54, Bloomfield, IN 47424

Registration fee: \$30/person for all sessions.

Register here: <https://cvent.me/Mmy7XQ>

Register by March 28, 2025



Extension - Agriculture  
and Natural Resources

Purdue University is an equal access/equal opportunity university.



# PURDUE ON THE FARM

The **Purdue On The Farm Crop Scouting Program** is now available to Greene County farmers, providing valuable insights into crop health, pest pressures, and nutrient management through field scouting and data collection. This initiative strengthens collaboration between Purdue Extension and Indiana's agricultural community to support research-driven decision-making. It is available at no cost, thanks to funding from the Indiana Corn & Soybean Association.

## Program Overview

Farmers can participate in crop scouting on 30-50 acres of corn and soybean fields. Each field will be scouted three times during the season to assess:

- ✓ Soil health – Nutrient levels, including phosphorus, potassium, and sulfur.
- ✓ Plant health – Tissue sampling for nutrient uptake analysis.
- ✓ Pest & disease monitoring – Identifying and managing potential threats.

## Scouting Schedule

- ◆ Early Season: Evaluate plant development, soil conditions, and initial pest pressures.
- ◆ Mid-Season: Monitor plant health, nutrient deficiencies, and emerging pest/disease issues.
- ◆ Late Season: Assess pre-harvest conditions and finalize management recommendations.

## What Farmers Receive

- ✓ Scouting reports (early, mid, and late-season) with field assessments.
- ✓ Soil & tissue test results for nutrient management.
- ✓ Pest & disease assessments with expert recommendations.
- ✓ Harvest evaluations and yield discussions.
- ✓ A winter wrap-up report summarizing key findings and best practices.
- ✓ Access to statewide data & expert support from Purdue Extension.

## 2024 Crop Scouting Highlights

- 85-90% of fields were rated Good to Excellent throughout the season.
- Aphids impacted 26% of corn fields and 21% of soybean fields.
- Low potassium and phosphorus levels were observed in some fields.
- 85% of corn and 70% of soybean fields experienced late-season dry stress.
- Tar spot was confirmed in every Indiana county.

**Program Impact** 📈 80% of participating farmers adopted new management practices. 💰 38% reduced costs per acre, while 25% increased financial returns. 🔍 86% of farmers plan to continue crop scouting and expand research efforts. How to Enroll Farmers can select 1-2 fields per crop and provide basic production notes (e.g., planting dates, variety, fertility). Participants will engage in scouting discussions, sample reviews, and post-harvest evaluations. By enrolling in Purdue On The Farm, you'll enhance your crop management while contributing to statewide agricultural research and innovation. Sign up today!



# NAGIVATING FARMLAND INHERITANCE PROGRAM

Are you dealing with recently inherited farmland, or maybe you want to be prepared in advance?  
This program is for you.

"Navigating Farmland Inheritance" is a two-session virtual workshop set for Tuesday evenings,  
March 18 and 25.

The registration site is now set up. Follow the link to find out more details and get signed up:  
[cvent.me/xABXmR](https://cvent.me/xABXmR)



## NAVIGATING FARMLAND INHERITANCE

*Join Us Virtually!*

**March 18 & March 25, 2025**

**7:00pm to 9:00pm EST**

**Register by March 14, 2025**

Registration Link: [cvent.me/xABXmR](https://cvent.me/xABXmR) Or use QR code >

*\$25.00 per Household/Farm*



***This 2-session workshop will explore the following topics:***

- Determining land values and rental rates
- Family and landowner/tenant communications
- Farm leases - what types to consider
- What to include in lease agreement
- Resources for new landowners

***Program presented by the Purdue Extension Land Lease Team***

Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran.

If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program, please contact Bill Horan (Phone: 260-824-6412 or email: [horan@purdue.edu](mailto:horan@purdue.edu)) by March 14.

If you need an interpreter or translator, please contact Bill Horan (Phone: 260-824-6412 or email: [horan@purdue.edu](mailto:horan@purdue.edu)) by March 14.

*- Program adapted from Nebraska Extension -*



# SOUTHERN INDIANA GRAZING CONFERENCE – MARCH 26, 2025

Join us for a top-tier grazing education event on March 26, 2025, at the Shiloh Community Building, just south of Odon, Indiana. Featuring renowned speakers Ray Archuleta, Russ Wilson, and Jeff McGuire, this conference covers regenerative agriculture, soil health, and sustainable grazing techniques.

Topics include building soil health with reduced inputs, regenerative farming enterprises, and improving reclaimed land for grazing.

Early registration ends **March 7**

**Register now: [Event Registration](#)**

For questions, contact 812-254-4780 Ext 3. Don't miss this valuable opportunity!

## **Cost:**

**\$35 Per Person** (postmarked by 3/7/25)

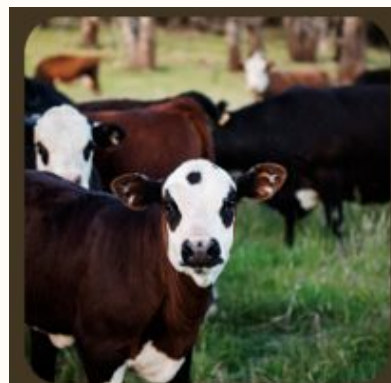
*\$70 Meet and Greet*

**\$45 Per Person** (postmarked by 3/20/25)

*\$90 Meet and Greet*

**\$50 Per Person** (postmarked on or after 3/20/25)

*Includes refreshments & Lunch*



More information found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthernIndianaGrazingConference/>

# ROOTS OF THE FUTURE: A SUCCESSION PLANNING PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE LAND STEWARDSHIP



**MARCH 24**

**WHY PLAN &  
GOALS OF  
PLANNING**

**MARCH 31**

**MANAGING  
FAMILY  
DYNAMICS**

**APRIL 7**

**FAMILY  
MEETINGS  
AND  
COMMUNICATION**

**APRIL 14**

**LEGAL AND  
ESTATE  
ISSUES**

Have you thought about passing on your land to the next generation?

This 4-session webinar series will discuss the steps to get you started with your family in the succession planning process.

---

## PRESENTED BY PURDUE EXTENSION EDUCATORS

Renee Wiatt, Maria Marshall, Phil Woolery, Kyle Weaver, Veronica Bullock, Jenna Nees, Liz Jackson

---

## ALL SESSIONS 7:00-8:30 PM EDT

**VIA ZOOM**

---

## REGISTER BY MARCH 21

<https://Purduesuccession2025.eventbrite.com>

Fee \$25 per family

Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access University. If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program, please contact Liz Jackson at 765-496-5013 or [jackson@purdue.edu](mailto:jackson@purdue.edu) by March 19. If you need an interpreter or translator, please contact Liz Jackson at 765-496-5013 or [jackson@purdue.edu](mailto:jackson@purdue.edu) by March 19.



The Succession Planning Team



# UPCOMING!

## INDIANA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM – LATE APRIL 2025

The Indiana Master Naturalist Program is an 8-week course designed to connect individuals with the natural world and enhance their knowledge of local ecosystems.

Starting in late April, this program offers hands-on learning, field experiences, and expert-led sessions on topics like wildlife, plants, water, and land management.

Upon completion, participants will become certified Indiana Master Naturalists, equipped to contribute to environmental stewardship efforts.

Stay tuned for more details, and register early as spots are limited!



For more information, visit [Indiana Master Naturalist Program](#).

📌 Register Now! 📌

For more information, contact the Greene County Extension Office.



## Purdue Master Gardener Program – Fall 2025 Class Enrollment

Are you passionate about gardening and want to make a meaningful impact in your community? Join the Purdue Extension Master Gardener program starting this September 2025! This comprehensive training will equip you with in-depth knowledge on topics like soil health, pest management, plant identification, and sustainable practices. Upon completion, you'll be ready to assist local gardening projects and share your expertise through volunteer service.

### Program Details:

- **Age Requirement:** Participants must be at least 18 years old.
- **Training:** The program covers 12 modules, combining hands-on learning with educational sessions.
- **Extension Master Gardener Exam:** After finishing the course, you will take a final exam to demonstrate your understanding of the material.
- **Certification Requirements:** To become a certified Purdue Master Gardener, you must complete 40 hours of volunteer service. You are given 2 years to complete these hours once you pass the exam.

### Volunteer Service:

The heart of the Master Gardener program lies in giving back to the community. Following the training, Master Gardener interns are expected to contribute at least 40 hours of volunteer work. This can include assisting with local gardening projects, answering questions at community events, or providing support at educational workshops. Volunteering allows you to continue your learning while making a positive impact in your area.

### Program Fees and Policies:

Fees for the program and materials are required and vary by location. As part of the Purdue Extension Master Gardener program, participants must adhere to all policies, including completing a background check. Volunteers must also commit to using the "Purdue Master Gardener" title in alignment with the program's guidelines.

### Why Become a Master Gardener?

Becoming a Purdue Master Gardener provides you with advanced horticultural knowledge, access to Purdue Extension resources, and the opportunity to connect with a network of experts and fellow garden enthusiasts. Whether you are new to gardening or an experienced horticulturist, this program will deepen your understanding of the environment and sustainable practices, enhancing your ability to educate others and improve your community.

### How to Register:

Enrollment for the Fall 2025 class is now open. For more information on the program and to register, please visit the Purdue Extension Master Gardener website at [Purdue Master Gardener Program](#) or call the Greene County Extension Office.

This is a wonderful opportunity to expand your gardening knowledge and make a positive impact. Don't miss out—sign up today and start your journey as a Purdue Master Gardener!





## AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS REPORT

*your source for in-depth agricultural news straight from the experts*

# 2024 Purdue Agricultural Economics Farmland Values Survey: Key Insights for Indiana Farmers

The 2024 Purdue Farmland Value and Cash Rent Survey provides critical insights into the state of Indiana's farmland market, offering a closer look at farmland prices and trends that are shaping agricultural decisions for the upcoming year. Here are the key highlights:

- **Farmland Prices on the Rise:** In 2024, Indiana saw notable increases in farmland prices across all quality categories. The average price for top-quality farmland rose by 4.8%, reaching a new high of \$14,392 per acre. Prices for average-quality land increased by 3.7%, bringing the average price to \$11,630 per acre, while poor-quality land saw a rise of 4.4%, reaching \$9,071 per acre.
- **Regional Variations:** The survey revealed that different regions of Indiana experienced varying price shifts. The Southwest region experienced the most significant increases in land prices, particularly for top and average-quality farmland. This area now leads the state in average per-acre land values, surpassing even the Central region in price. On the other hand, the Southeast region saw declines across all land quality categories.
- **Market Outlook for 2025:** Looking ahead, farmland prices are expected to remain slightly higher than in 2024, although a modest decline is anticipated through the rest of 2024. This anticipated drop is largely due to high interest rates and lower farm incomes, which are creating downward pressure on prices. However, the limited supply of available farmland is helping to keep the market relatively stable.
- **Land Transition and Development:** Farmland transitioning out of agricultural production saw the most significant increase, with prices for development land soaring by 21.6%, reaching an average of \$30,666 per acre. This surge is attributed to large-scale development projects. Meanwhile, recreational land prices experienced a slight decline of 1%, bringing the average price to \$8,089 per acre.

These trends highlight the importance of understanding regional differences and broader economic factors influencing the farmland market in 2024. Whether you are buying, selling, or leasing farmland, staying informed about these shifts can help guide your decisions in the year ahead.

For more in-depth information, the full report is available on Purdue Agricultural Economics' website. Stay tuned for additional updates in upcoming newsletters as we continue to monitor market trends!

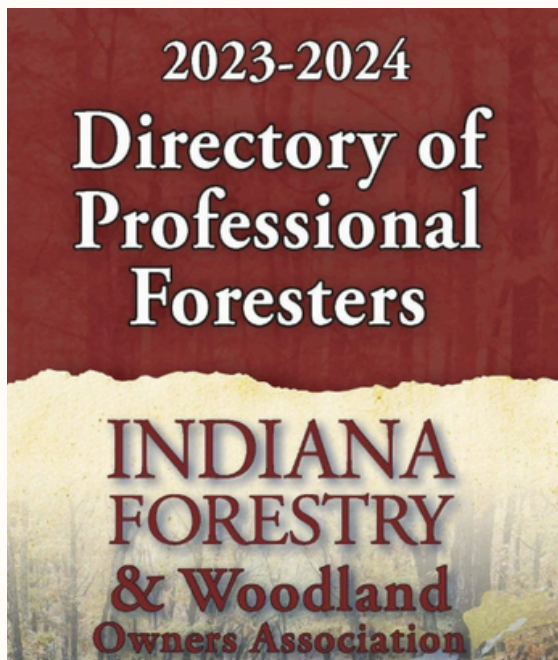
## 2025 Agricultural Outlook: Key Takeaways for Indiana Farmers

The 2025 Purdue Agricultural Economics Outlook highlights a moderately growing economy, with agriculture facing challenges like rising input costs and tight margins for crops. Farm incomes may stay under pressure, though interest rate cuts could offer some relief. Productivity gains are expected, but slower population growth and immigration policy changes may limit labor supply. The report suggests farmers will need to navigate these economic shifts while adapting to new farm policies.

For more details, check out the full report [here](#).

---

## Directory Helps Woodland Owners Find Professional Foresters



A new Directory of Professional Foresters is now available, listing Indiana foresters who provide private woodland services and advice. Foresters are located throughout the state and provide assistance such as management plans, timber sales, invasive species control, and many other services.

“Finding the resources to help you meet your woodland management objectives is important and key to successful stewardship of private woodlands,” says Lenny Farlee, Purdue Extension Forester. “Professional foresters can provide expert advice and assistance to meet your property management goals”

The Directory is available online via interactive map at [findindianaforester.org](http://findindianaforester.org) to find forester by county or address, or as a downloadable document. Printed copies of the booklet are available at Purdue Extension and Soil & Water Conservation District offices, through a state Division of Forestry district forester, or by request to [ifwoa1@gmail.com](mailto:ifwoa1@gmail.com)





# GREENE COUNTY EXTENSION: YOUR LOCAL RESOURCE FOR SOIL TESTING & PEST IDENTIFICATION

The Purdue Extension – Greene County Office is a valuable resource for farmers and landowners seeking expert guidance on soil health, pest identification, and crop management.

## Soil Testing Services

Greene County Extension partners with A&L Great Lakes Laboratories to provide comprehensive soil testing. Farmers and landowners can submit soil samples for analysis to assess nutrient levels, pH balance, and overall soil fertility. These insights support data-driven decisions for fertilizer application and crop management.

## Insect & Disease Identification

Concerned about pests or crop diseases? The Greene County Extension Office offers insect and disease identification services to help diagnose issues affecting your crops. With support from Purdue specialists, we provide recommendations for effective management strategies to protect yields and maintain plant health.

More information about our soil testing services can be found: [Here](#)

Whether you need soil testing, pest identification, or agronomic advice, the Greene County Extension Office is here to support your success!

---

## Explore Purdue Extension's Education Store for Valuable Resources



The Purdue Extension Education Store is a great resource for farmers, educators, and community members. It offers a wide range of practical publications, guides, and tools on topics such as agriculture, natural resources, horticulture, and more. Whether you're looking for information on soil health, pest management, or financial planning, the Education Store has something for everyone.

Many materials are available for free, and others can be purchased for a low cost. Explore their full range of resources at the [Purdue Education Store](#).

# Thank You

Thank you for reading the March edition of the Purdue Extension Greene County Agriculture and Natural Resources newsletter! We hope the information was helpful and insightful. Be sure to stay tuned for the upcoming April edition, where we will continue to share valuable resources, tips, and news to help you stay informed and prepared for the season ahead.

Your engagement is appreciated, and we look forward to bringing you more exciting updates next month!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Huss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Purdue Extension - Greene County  
Ag & Natural Resources Educator

***Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access University. If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program, have special dietary needs or you need an interpreter or translator, please contact Sean Huss prior to the meeting at 812-659-2122 or email at [huss94@purdue.edu](mailto:huss94@purdue.edu)***