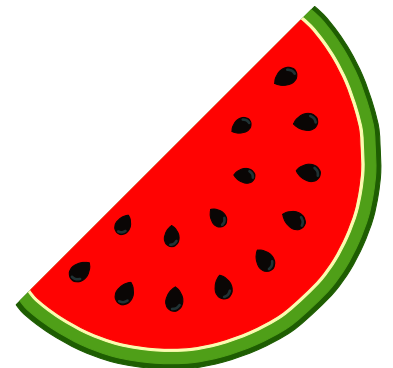
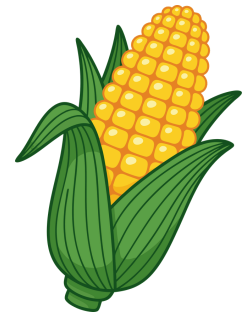


Over the Back Fence

Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Newsletter

Summer Vibes and Sunshine

As summer time continues on, we've had an unusual summer in terms of weather. From the flooding, massive rain showers, cooler weather and hotter weather all at once, we have seen interesting patterns. We have some exciting programs coming up this summer from the Statewide Purdue Extension Farm tour which will be held in Harrison County to the Annual Cattlemen's Field Day that will be held in August. Please see more details inside regarding both of these exciting and educational events over the summer. The Harrison County Fair has come to a close. It was a great opportunity for youth and adults to showcase their livestock, garden harvest, and other exhibits. Please be sure to check out other county fairs as well as the State Fair coming up in August. As always, if anyone has any questions, please feel free to let me know! I hope everyone has a great rest of the summer!



Aniel Camm-Wilson



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Ag Spotlight: 4-H Members

We would to say a special thank you to each of our 4-H youth that participated in a livestock project! You are the future of the agriculture industry!

The Harrison County 4-H and Agriculture Fairs are now complete!

Thank you to everyone who came to enjoy the variety of fair fun.

Whether it was watching 4-H livestock shows, viewing the 4-H Exhibit Hall and Homecomers Hall projects, watching a tractor pull, grabbing a steak from the Cattlemen’s booth, or simply enjoying some delicious fair food, we appreciate that you came to have a good time and view all of the agricultural aspects the Fair has to offer each year.

We hope to see everyone next year for even more fun at the Harrison County 4-H and Agriculture Fair.



FEATURED ANR EVENTS

PURDUE FARM MANAGEMENT TOUR

JULY 10, 2026

SCAN IT

REGISTER

VISIT SOUTH-CENTRAL INDIANA FARMS



WWW.PURDUE.AG/FARMTOUR

SEE BACK
FOR DETAILS



Center for Commercial Agriculture | Extension



Jmax Cattle

11755 N Tobacco Landing Rd SE, Laconia



Jones Farm

12210 N Bradford Rd NE, Palmyra



FEATURED ANR EVENTS

TOUR INNOVATIVE FARMS THIS SUMMER

Join us for the annual Purdue University Farm Management Tour as we tour two top notch Indiana farms in Harrison County. All are welcome & the Tour is **FREE**. *Note all times listed are eastern daylight.*



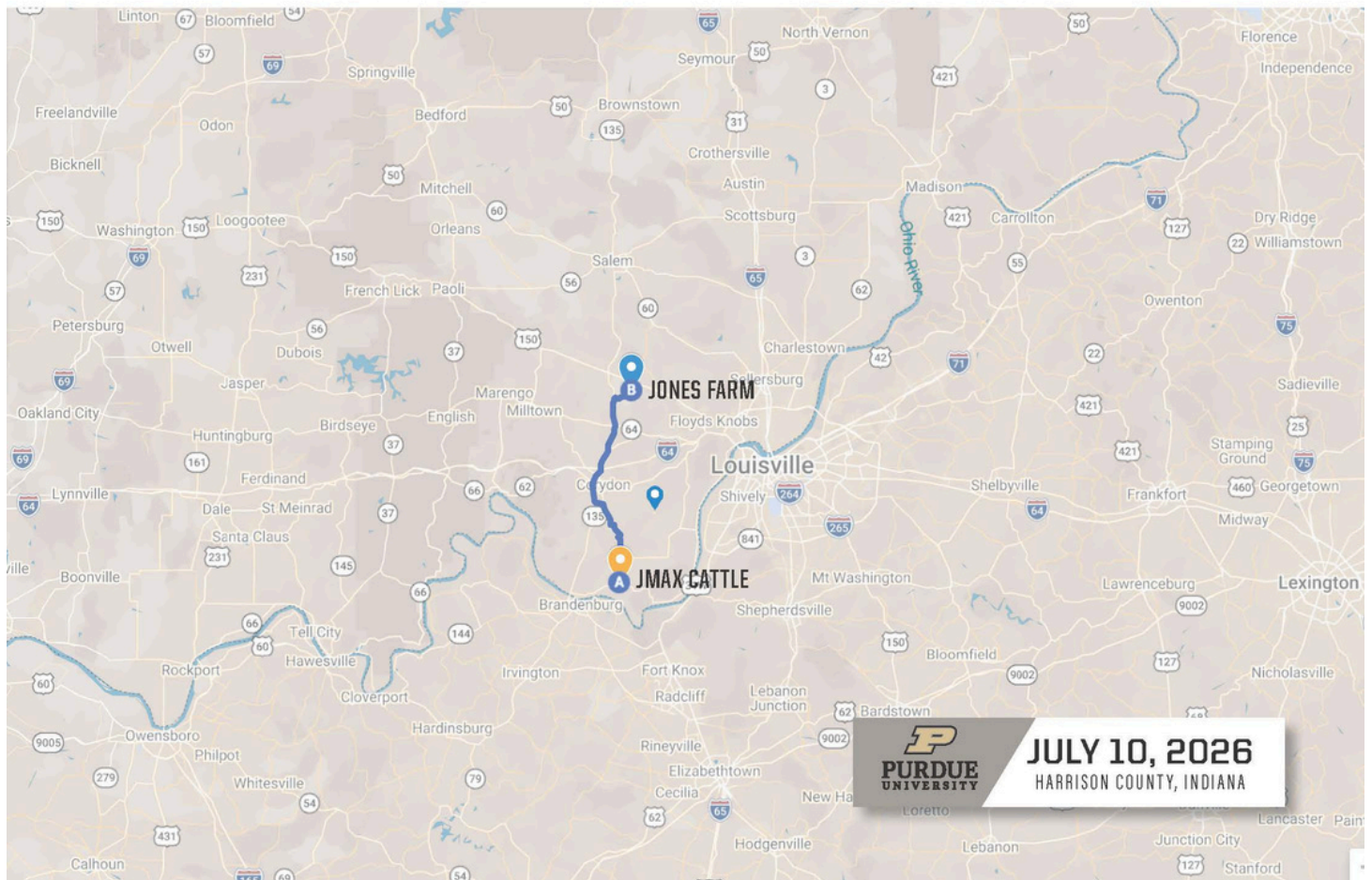
JMAX CATTLE | 9:00 A.M.

Start the day by visiting Jmax Cattle and learn how Chad and Paige Baker have added value to their stocker/feeder operation through freezer beef sales as well as through a butcher shop and restaurant. At this tour stop you will hear Chad and Paige discuss their drylot feeding program and grazing systems, and the importance of retail sales to their operation. We will also discuss the importance of keeping good records and on-farm research.



JONES FARM | 1:00 P.M.

Next join the Jones Farm and learn the benefits of having a diverse operation which includes corn, popcorn, soybeans, grass hay, and related off-farm businesses. Diversification serves to add value to crop enterprises and to build resilience. On this tour visit, we will discuss differences in production practices and marketing of corn and popcorn. We will also discuss how the family's various off-farm businesses align with the farm business.



FEATURED ANR EVENTS

Harrison County Cattlemen's Association FIELD DAY



Join the Harrison County Cattlemen's Association and Harrison County Purdue Extension for a Field Day at Simpson Farms on Saturday, August 22, 2026 from 10:00am-2:00pm. Lunch will be provided.

WHAT WILL BE DISCUSSED:

- Parasites
- Herd Health
- Technology behind vaccinations

Field Day Location:



7107 HWY 111 SE
Elizabeth, IN 47117

NO FEE!
RSVP GREATLY
APPRECIATED!

RSVP to the Extension Office:

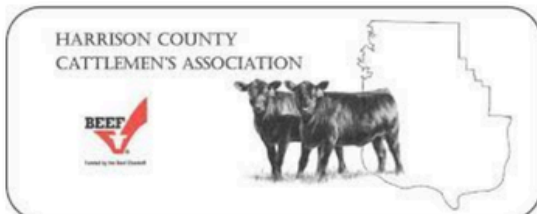
☎ 812-738-4236

✉ camm@purdue.edu



Extension - Agriculture
and Natural Resources

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UPCOMING ANR EVENTS

A CLEAN SWEEP: BROOMCORN FOR ORGANIC TRANSITION



**HOSTED BY BUNDLE STICKS
FARM IN LANESVILLE, IN**

Join the Indiana Organic Network for a field day that will explore a novel crop for organic transition - broom corn. Hosted by the farmers and crafters at Bundle Sticks Farm, you will get to know this unique, high-value variety of *Sorghum bicolor* and learn how it is suited to preparing the land for organic production while increasing the domestic supply of broom-making materials. Rain date 8/17.

THIS EVENT IS SUPPORTED BY **INDIANA ORGANIC NETWORK** **NORTH CENTRAL SARE**



Extension - Diversified
Farming and Food Systems



**8/10/2026
9:00AM-1:30PM**

**7601 HESS
JAWTAK RD NE
LANESVILLE, IN
47136**

Register by visiting
tinyurl.com/3ebn8u68

or calling
765-496-6362



If you are in need of reasonable accommodations to attend this program or have special dietary needs, contact Ashley Adair at 765-496-6362 or holmes9@purdue.edu by 7/27.

Purdue University is an affirmative action, equal access/equal opportunity institution.



Any youth attending this program must be accompanied by a legal guardian.

If you need an interpreter or translator, please contact Ashley Adair at 765-496-6362 or holmes9@purdue.edu by 7/27.

ENR00

**Register
Now!**

[https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_OHYiUdjRigkMw5M?
_ga=2.216009950.978453506.1781525855-1087532088.1773688632](https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_OHYiUdjRigkMw5M?_ga=2.216009950.978453506.1781525855-1087532088.1773688632)

OTHER INFORMATION



A GARDEN-TO-GLASS ADVENTURE WITH THE MASTER GARDENERS



JULY
13TH
2026

1pm to 2pm

📍 **Extension Office**
247 Atwood St.

**RSVP BY
JULY 8TH**
CALL
812-738-4236

FREE

**FOR YOUTH WHO COMPLETED GRADES 3 - 6
DURING THE 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR
YOUTH MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT**

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 Ariel Camm Wilson prior to the meeting at 812-738-4236 or camm@purdue.edu by July 8, 2026.

For special dietary needs contact Ariel Camm Wilson please contact prior to the meeting at 812-738-4236 or camm@purdue.edu by July 8, 2026.

If you need an interpreter or translator, please contact prior to the meeting at 812-738-4236 or camm@purdue.edu by July 8, 2026.

ANR RECAP

Grow It, Cook it Tomatoes

A total of 10 participants attended the workshop focused on growing and using tomatoes. Participants learned about different varieties of tomatoes, as well as common pests and diseases that can affect tomato plants. Proper care techniques throughout the growing season were also discussed. As a hands-on activity, participants planted tomato seeds in egg cartons to take home and grow during the season.

The session also highlighted the nutritional benefits of tomatoes, along with practical tips for selecting and storing them to maintain freshness. A bruschetta salad and tomato-mango relish demonstration connected gardening to everyday cooking, showcasing simple and healthy ways to use fresh tomatoes.

This session provided a great opportunity to connect gardening with cooking, emphasizing tomatoes as a versatile and popular summer ingredient with a wide range of creative and flavorful uses!



Mini 4-H Gardening Class



Ariel Camm-Wilson assisted with the 4-H Mini Gardening Class with over 20 youth participants. Ariel taught about soil horizons by doing a soil horizons pudding activity as well as having members plant seeds to be able to raise throughout the year. Youth were also able to learn about pollinators and the life cycle of a butterfly.



ANR RECAPS

Beef Farm to Table

The Farm-to-Table Beef program reached students at both Corydon Central and North Harrison High Schools this spring, providing a hands-on look at the journey from farm to plate. A combined total of 69 students participated in the program, which connected agriculture, nutrition, and food preparation. Purdue Extension Educators Ariel Camm-Wilson and Tara Beckman partnered to bring this experience into the classroom, combining their expertise to deliver engaging, real-world learning opportunities.

Across both classrooms, students explored Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) and genetic traits in beef cattle, along with USDA grades, serving sizes, and the role of beef in a balanced diet. Food safety and proper cooking temperatures were emphasized to build confidence in safe meal preparation.

Students also observed a cooking demonstration featuring cuts such as ribeye and sirloin steak, generously provided by each classroom teacher. The program included practical cooking techniques to improve results with any cut of beef, regardless of budget or availability.

By combining classroom learning with real-world application, the program helped students better understand where their food comes from while building practical skills they can use beyond the classroom.



Second Annual Family Ag Day

The second annual Family Ag Day was held on Saturday April 11, 2026, with over a 100 people in attendance. The event was a great success, bringing together families and the community to learn about agriculture and natural resources. The educational booths included information about: beef cattle, drones, farm finances, small animals, Purdue Extension, and the hellbender salamander. A heartfelt thank you to our sponsors: Harrison County Soil and Water District for donating the trees and the bottled water, Harrison County Farm Bureau Insurance for donating the bags, and Preferred Popcorn for donating the popcorn. The vendor booths were: Harrison County Purdue Extension, Harrison County SWCD, Farmers Helping Hellbenders, Farm Credit, Hoosier Wildflowers and Highlands, Harrison County Cattlemen's and Tractor Supply. We look forward to this being an annual family event! Again, a special thank you to the sponsors and vendors who contributed to making the day possible.



AG EDUCATION & INFORMATION

New World Screw Worm

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has confirmed its first case of New World screwworm in decades, a development livestock officials have feared for months as the destructive flesh-eating parasite advanced steadily north through Mexico toward the U.S. border.

USDA announced late Wednesday that laboratory testing confirmed the presence of New World screwworm in a 3-week-old calf in Zavala County, Texas, prompting an immediate federal and state response aimed at containing and eradicating the pest before it can establish itself in the country.

The larvae were discovered in the calf's umbilical area, according to USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Officials said no additional cases have been detected.

The confirmation came just hours after USDA disclosed that a sample from a suspected infestation in South Texas had been sent to the agency's National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa, for testing. Earlier Wednesday, the department said it had already activated personnel on the ground and begun coordinating with local partners as a precaution. The finding represents a significant challenge for U.S. animal health officials and the livestock industry. New World screwworm, a parasitic fly whose larvae feed on the living tissue of warm-blooded animals, was eradicated from the United States in the 1960s through an intensive sterile insect program that remains one of the most celebrated pest-control campaigns in agricultural history.

Since then, the pest has been largely confined to Central America. But over the past several years, outbreaks have spread northward through the region and into Mexico, raising alarm among cattle producers, veterinarians and federal regulators.

The confirmed Texas case comes just one day after Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins announced that Mexican authorities had detected New World screwworm in a goat in the state of Coahuila, roughly 25 miles south of the Texas border — the closest confirmed case to the United States before Wednesday's announcement.

Federal officials have spent more than a year preparing for the possibility that the parasite would eventually cross the border.

"All models showed New World Screwworm entering the country in 2025; however, thanks to the hard work across the entire Trump administration and our industry, state, and local partners, we were able to buy time for this moment," Dudley Hoskins, USDA's under secretary for marketing and regulatory programs, said in a statement. "Protecting our livestock industry is a national security issue of the utmost importance, and USDA is wasting no time in taking action."

USDA and the Texas Animal Health Commission have established a unified incident command structure and imposed a 20-kilometer quarantine zone surrounding the detection site.

Officials said they are implementing movement controls, enhanced surveillance and increased trapping efforts in the region.

The agency is also accelerating the release of sterile male screwworm flies, a strategy that proved successful during the original eradication campaign. USDA said it will immediately deploy ground-release chambers in the area in addition to the 4 million sterile flies already being dispersed weekly by air.

Continue reading: https://www.hoosieragtoday.com/2026/06/03/usda-confirms-new-world-screwworm-texas/?utm_source=hat+e-news&utm_campaign=a0d8235d25-

[HAT_E_newletter_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e04b171fca-a0d8235d25-63600540](https://www.hoosieragtoday.com/2026/06/03/usda-confirms-new-world-screwworm-texas/?utm_source=hat+e-news&utm_campaign=a0d8235d25-HAT_E_newletter_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e04b171fca-a0d8235d25-63600540)

AG EDUCATION & INFORMATION

Worker Bumble Bees Help Determine Which Baby Bee Will Become Queen

Every bumble bee colony has a queen, but a new study led by researchers at Penn State suggests the process of determining which baby bee reigns supreme may be less monarchical than the royal title suggests.

The study, published in the journal *Insect Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*, explored why some bumble bee larvae become workers and others become queens, despite coming from the same eggs.

The team found that juvenile hormone — a hormone in insects responsible for insect development, molting and reproduction — was key to this process. When researchers administered the hormone to worker bees, they passed it to all the larvae through feeding. The more hormone the larvae received, the more likely they were to become queens.

It's the first study to show that bumble bee caste is determined by the workers, shifting the understanding of the colony from a top-down hierarchy to a decentralized system where the caregivers can alter the future of baby bees, the researchers said.

Etya Amsalem, associate professor of entomology in the College of Agricultural Sciences and corresponding author on the study, said that understanding larval fate is key to understanding social behavior in the insects, which rely on reproductive division of labor: some females reproduce while others help.

“Since all these females share the same DNA, it's a striking example of how the same genotype can produce very different forms,” she said. “It's also a practical question since bumble bees are important for pollination, so knowing how to produce queens could improve commercial breeding and management.”

Queen bees and worker bees don't just have different social roles, they are also physically very different, the researchers said. Bumblebee queens are large, long-lived and reproductive, while workers are smaller and do not reproduce.

Seyed Ali Modarres Hasani, a postdoctoral researcher at Penn State and lead author on the paper, said that previously, scientists knew hormones were involved in the process that determined whether larvae become workers or queens, but the exact mechanisms were unknown.

“A single female egg in bumblebees holds the blueprint for two completely different life paths: the giant, reproductive queen or the small, sterile worker,” he said. “We wanted to understand what triggers the change in the female life trajectory, when does it happen and who controls the process.”

For the study, the researchers combined hormonal manipulation with chemical tracing in a tightly controlled setup: three worker bees and a cluster of larvae. They applied juvenile hormone at different doses and times, either to workers or directly to larvae, and traced the hormone's movement using chemical labels and advanced chromatography techniques at the Huck Institutes for the Life Sciences' Metabolomics Core Facility. They then measured larval mass and recorded which individuals became queens or workers.

“Every colony will produce many new queens at the end of the season,” Amsalem said. “These queens will leave the colony, mate and go into winter diapause, and then each queen will start a new colony in the next spring. In that sense, producing as many queens — and males — at the end of the season is the ultimate purpose of the colony.”

The researchers found that when juvenile hormone was applied directly to the larvae, not only did they not turn into queens, but the worker bees actually eliminated most of these larvae. However, when workers were treated with the hormone, they incorporated it into the food they make for the larvae. These larvae ingested the hormone, ending up heavier and much more likely to become queens as a result.

Continue Reading: <https://www.morningagclips.com>

/worker-bumble-bees-help-determine-which-baby-bee-will-become-queen/

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ANR Newsletter



Extension - Harrison County

Over the Back Fence

Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Newsletter

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- Extension Educator
- Agriculture and Natural Resources

Tara Beckman

- Extension Educator
- Health and Human Sciences & Community Development

Open Position

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- 4-H & Youth Development

Cindy Finerfrock

- Nutrition Education Program Advisor (NEPA)
- Floyd, Clark, and Harrison Counties

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Sallie Carter

- Extension Program Assistant

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