

# Over the Back Fence

## *Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Newsletter*

### “Embrace the Change”

As the fall leaves start to fade, and the crisp air has already made an appearance, we can tell that winter is right around the corner. Cold weather means for a busy wintertime within ANR Extension. We have a lot of exciting programs upcoming in the wintertime that offer a wide range of topics and interest for everyone to learn something new. I enjoy seeing new and familiar faces come in the office and to programs. I love sharing my passion for agriculture and natural resources within the county to help members grow and expand their knowledge. As always, please reach out to me with program ideas or for any questions. Everyone have a safe and cheerful Holiday Season!



Aniel Camm-Wilson

I am also thrilled to announce I am the new County Extension Director (CED) for Harrison County, in addition to my role as the ANR educator!



I am excited and looking forward to this role to help serve as the liaison between Purdue and the County in addition to supporting the office.

I have been the ANR Educator now for a year and a half, but I have been involved in Extension through being a 10 year 4-H member and 2 year intern. Being a lifelong Harrison County Resident, I am blessed to be able to work and better serve the community in any way I can to help further educate the public about the services we have and be an advocate for Purdue Extension. Extension means a lot to me, and I want to help others learn about the programs and services we offer in the county. I am looking forward to this additional role and helping make an impact on the community!



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## Ag Spotlight

This is a section which features an interview of community members involved in Agriculture or Natural Resources fields!

**Name:** Darcy Kamer

**Hometown:** Depauw, IN

**Education:** Bachelor's of Science in Agricultural Education from Purdue University and a Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Olivet Nazarene University

**Occupation:** Agricultural Science and Business Instructor and FFA Advisor for North Harrison Community Schools

#### **What interested you Agriculture?**

The love of the outdoors and the importance of our natural resources have been instilled in me through my life from grandparents and parents. All my relatives hunted and fished. Growing up I was around cattle, hay, watermelon, and tobacco production. When I was in 3rd grade, I joined the Blue River All Stars 4-H Club like everyone in our family did at that age. When I got into high school, I joined the FFA, which changed my life forever and fueled my passion for the agriculture industry. This organization introduced me to the world of agriculture and its vital importance in the life of everyone. All of these areas heavily influenced me into going to college to study and pursue a career in agriculture.

#### **What advice do you have for someone wanting a career in Agriculture?**

Agriculture is more than just farming. The agricultural industry is the largest employer in the U.S., but less than 2% of the U.S. population are actual farmers. There are plenty of career opportunities out there to be involved with agriculture besides producing crops or animals; from sales and insurance to education and everything in between, there is something for everyone. You can start an agriculture career before you graduate high school, but you can also take courses and earn degrees in fields of agriculture.

#### **Any additional information that you would like to be included?**

Agriculture is so important and most people take it for granted. Whether on the producer or consumer end, we are all connected to agriculture.





# FEATURED ANR RECAP

## 2024 Ag Days

On September 18th and 19th, at the Harrison County Fairgrounds, over 500 youth from Harrison County schools gathered for 2024 Ag Day. This was a great way for youth to be exposed to agricultural topics such as dairy, livestock, soil, grain bin safety, drones, pollinators, embryology, farm safety, horses, and parts of a plant.

The students moved around the fairgrounds from station to station throughout the day. Each student was provided lunch during the day and a goody bag to take home that was full of educational materials and fun Ag items. It is vital that youth understand the agriculture industry and this is a great way for them to gain exposure.

We would like to say “Thank You” to all of our sponsors, guest presenters, volunteers, and everyone who helped to make this event a huge success! Ag Day would not be possible without your contributions.

- American Dairy Alliance
- American Dairy Association: Indiana
- Corydon Central FFA
- Day Family Farms
- Harrison County Agricultural Society
- Harrison County Cattlemen’s Association
- Harrison County Farm Bureau
- Harrison County Master Gardeners
- Harrison County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Harrison County 4-H
- Heidi Potter, Clark County ANR Educator
- Hutch N Bunch Rabbits
- Indiana Beef Council
- Indiana Farm Bureau Incorporated
- Indiana Harness Youth Foundation
- Indiana Pork Producers
- Indiana Soybean Alliance
- Katy Casper
- Kristen Garwood-Breezy Valley Farms
- Lanesville FFA
- Marcia Gliottone
- New Middletown Fire Department
- North Harrison FFA
- Preferred Popcorn
- Purdue Extension Harrison County
- Ramsey Popcorn
- South Central FFA
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- Wright Implements



# HARRISON COUNTY EXTENSION ANR EVENTS/NEWS

## Area 2 Pesticide Applicator Program



**November 12, 2024**

Obtain Private (PARP) and Commercial Applicator Credits: CAT 1, 11, 14 & RT

- Cover Crops & Soil Nutrition in Corn & Soybeans with introduction to Transitioning to Organic - Ashley Adair, Purdue Organic Ag Specialist
- Update on Weed Control in Corn & Soybeans - Bill Johnson, Purdue Weed Science Specialist
- Worker Protection Standards - Local Extension Educator

PURDUE EXTENSION  
CLARK COUNTY

9:00 - 11:00 am  
Clark County Community Bldg.  
9608 Highway 62  
Charlestown, IN 47111  
Info or RSVP:  
Heidi Potter 812-256-4591 or  
hlpotter@purdue.edu

PURDUE EXTENSION  
WASHINGTON COUNTY

1:00 - 3:00 pm  
Washington County Fairgrounds  
4-H Building  
118 N Fair St  
Salem, IN 47167  
Info or RSVP:  
Danielle Walker 812-883-4601 or  
dhowellw@purdue.edu

PURDUE EXTENSION  
HARRISON COUNTY

6:00-8:00pm  
247 Atwood St.  
Corydon, IN 47112  
Info or RSVP:  
Ariel Camm-Wilson 812-738-4236  
or camm@purdue.edu



- Participants earn PARP & CCH credit by attending one program only.
- Program is free due to sponsorship by the IN Corn Marketing Council and IN Soybean Alliance
- RSVP's appreciated by Friday, November 8, 2024, but not required.

## Master Gardener Training Program

**Date:** Every Tuesday, from January 21st-April 29th

**Time:** 6:00pm-9:00pm

**Location:** Purdue Extension Harrison County 247 Atwood St.  
Corydon, Indiana 47112

**Cost:** \$200 per person

Event Sign-Ups will end December 9th! Applications can be found at the Extension Office.



## Cattle & Coffee

Join ANR Educator, Ariel Camm-Wilson, for an event that focuses on beef cattle in the winter. The focus of the discussion will be on winter feeding, cold stressors, handling cold weather, and other topics which may arise.

Where: Kent Java - 110 E Chestnut St Corydon, In 47112  
(Upstairs room)

When: Saturday November 16, 2024 @ 9AM

This event is for adults 18+, anyone under 18 Years old must be accompanied by an adult. RSVP is REQUIRED by November 14, 2024. There will be a maximum of 20 people. RSVP by calling the Extension Office or by email to camm@purdue.edu

If you need accommodations, please let us know by November 11th.





## Grain Bin Safety

Join ANR Educator, Ariel Camm-Wilson, and Extension Program Assistant, Randall Drury, for a grain bin safety seminar. There will be a grain safety tube discussion, as well as, a PowerPoint presentation on steps to take for safety.

Free Event! RSVP is required by December 12th. Please call the extension office at 812-738-4236.

There will be chili and hotdogs provided due to the time of the Event. Please contact The extension office by December 11th for any accommodations

Thursday, December 12, 2024

4:00 PM

Harrison County Extension Office 247  
Atwood St Corydon, In 47112



## Harrison County Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 18, 2025

Harrison County Fairgrounds

Registration starts at 5pm

Dinner at 6pm

Speaker at 7pm

RSVP is required to attend. Call the Harrison County Extension Office at 812-738-4236.

All 2024 dues must be paid by December 31st at the Extension Office.



## ANR Needs Assessment

Purdue Extension Harrison County Agriculture and Natural Resources wants to make sure we are meeting community needs to help educate farmers, producers, and community members. This survey will be used to determine what types of agricultural programs community members would benefit from and what they would most like to learn about.

If you have additional questions, please contact Ariel Camm-Wilson, Harrison County Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Educator at 812-738-4236 or [camm@purdue.edu](mailto:camm@purdue.edu).

Survey Link:

<https://bit.ly/anrsurvey>



# ANR RECAP

## Soil Health Presentation: North Harrison



ANR Educator, Ariel CammWilson went to North Harrison High School to give a presentation on Soil Health and the importance of soil. The presentation was an introduction to soil health, soil horizons, textures, drainage, erosion, and soil structure. Ariel also discussed how Purdue Extension Agriculture can assist with soil samples and gathering agricultural information. The students rounded out the class with soil layer pudding to help understand the different layers in soil and the vital roles they play.

## Land Buying Seminar

ANR Educator, Ariel Camm-Wilson participated in a Land Buying Seminar on September 24th in New Albany with over 30 participants. Ariel discussed services offered by Purdue Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources which are available to the public, Ag resource organizations within the county, and questions which Extension can help with regarding agriculture. She was also a part of a panel for a Q&A session which featured a loan officer, real estate agent, excavation company for septic systems, and a title company. This was a great way for the audience to engage and ask questions about buying land and services each organization can offer. The seminar was interactive, engaging, and very beneficial to participants.



## Discovering Solar Energy

Tuesday, October 15th, ANR Educator, Ariel Camm-Wilson put on a Solar Seminar for those in Harrison County. With over 20 individuals coming to the workshop, she invited guest speaker Nick Geswein to the stage to educate and inform the Community about Residential and Agricultural Solar options.

Topics explored included:

- Personal Goals
- Types of Solar Systems
- Cost associated with a solar system
- What to consider before installing solar
- Different types of panels
- The most important topic, How You Use Your Energy

This was a great way for our community members to learn about a topic that is fairly new to the area. Thank you REMC for a great partnership and assisting in educating our amazing community.





## Crawford County 4th Grade Dairy Station

ANR educator, Ariel Camm-Wilson spent the morning in Crawford County assisting in 4th Grade Ag Day discussing her passion, dairy cattle. They discussed the differences between Dairy and Beef animals and the different dairy breeds along with characteristics. They also got a chance to try 2 different types of cheeses and what causes them to be different. This was a very fun event to be apart of!



## Grow it, Cook it

On Thursday, October 17th, ANR Educator Ariel Camm-Wilson was joined by HHS/CD Educator Tara Beckman for a workshop centered on herbs. The herbs discussed included chives, parsley, thyme, and basil.

Ariel explained how to effectively grow and harvest these herbs, sharing fascinating facts during the "Grow It" segment of the presentation. She also handed out packets of herb seeds to inspire attendees to start their own herb gardens.

Tara delved into the flavor profiles, pairings, and common culinary uses of the herbs, while also highlighting their health benefits. She covered topics such as storage, preparation, and how to check for freshness, along with clarifying the difference between herbs and spices. Two recipes and a drink were also prepared for attendees to taste, featuring the herbs in action. The recipes included:  
Broccoli & Chive Stuffed Peppers  
Spinach & Basil Pesto  
Thyme-Infused Lemonade



## September Challenge Kit: Farm Safety

For the September Challenge Kit, ANR Educator Ariel Camm-Wilson created a Farm Safety Challenge Kit for members of the community. Each year since 1944, the third week of September has been recognized as National Farm Safety & Health Week. To celebrate and remind all tractor operators about safe tractor operation, September's Challenge Kit was a popsicle stick tractor craft! The kit included all supplies to make a popsicle tractor, and information such as safety around grain bins, livestock, and farm equipment. There were 40 farm safety kits given out.



# OTHER ANR EVENTS

## Area 2 Beef Outlook Meeting

Indiana Beef Cattle Association (IBCA) and Purdue Area 2 Beef Meeting

When: Saturday, December 14th at noon

Where: Spring Mill State Park Inn-Mitchell, IN

Why: The IBCA area meetings are open to all beef producers and feature great food, valuable information on beef issues, policies, programs, and fellowship. There will also be updates on current news and events from Indiana Beef Cattle Association and Indiana Beef Council, Indiana State Board of Animal Health, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and Purdue University Extension.

RSVP to the Crawford County Extension Office by December 10, 2024 at 812-338-5466 or email [scott422@purdue.edu](mailto:scott422@purdue.edu)

The counties in Area 2 are: Clark, Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, Lawrence, Orange, Scott, Jackson and Washington.

## Hey There, Hay Here

The Indiana Forage Council and Purdue University Extension will host a virtual seminar covering forage quality on November 12th, 2024. Join the event by visiting the website or in-person at one of great Indiana satellite locations. Slow Connection, Poor Connection or No Connection? No problem - take part in the free seminar by joining one of our virtual viewing locations across Indiana. To find a location near you, contact us: 765-494-4783 or use the web address below for more details.

[Purdue.ag/hayquality](https://Purdue.ag/hayquality)



## Harrison County Cattlemen's Association

We meet on the first Wednesday of every other month at 7:30pm at the Extension Office (even numbered months).

Visit the Purdue Extension Harrison County ANR page for more information about the Harrison County Cattlemen's Association.

<https://extension.purdue.edu/county/harrison/ANRHomePage.html>

- December 4th



## Bull Soundness Exams

The Harrison Co. Cattlemen's Association is offering to cover the cost of 1 bull soundness exam for the year 2024.

- CURRENT members ONLY (2024 dues are paid)
- \*\*1\*\*BSE per current member for the 2024 year
- Utilize ANY vet, anytime during 2024
- Vaccines, farm visit, any additional costs NOT included
- Call or text 502-554-5124 for information on reimbursement. Must provide proof of payment/services.



Save the date for Annie's Project For Cut Flower Growers.

Monday Evenings from 6-9PM

Jan 20-Jan 24

Locations are available throughout the state!

For more information go to:

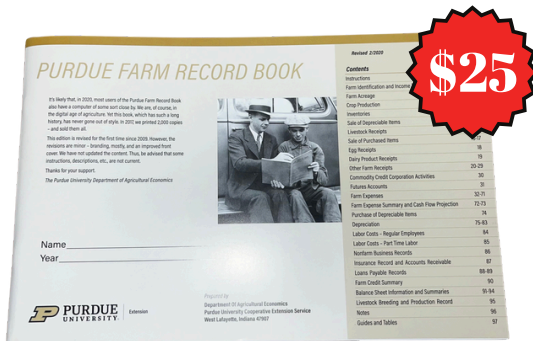
<https://extension.purdue.edu/news/county/miami/2021/12/annies-project.html>



# OTHER ANR INFORMATION

## Farm Record Book

The Farm Record Book is a 100-page book enabling farmers to keep accurate and effective farm records.



- Farm Identification and Income Tax Notes
- Farm Acreage
- Crop Production
- Inventories
- Sale of Depreciable Items
- Livestock Receipts
- Sale of Purchased Items
- Egg Receipts
- Dairy Product Receipts
- Other Farm Receipts
- Commodity Credit Corporation Activities
- Future Accounts
- Farm Expenses
- Farm Expense Summary and Cash Flow Projection
- Purchase of Depreciable Items
- Depreciation
- Labor Costs- Regular Employees
- Labor Costs- Part Time Labor
- Nonfarm Business Records
- Insurance Record and Accounts Receivable
- Loans Payable Records
- Farm Credit Summary
- Balance Sheet Information and Summaries
- Livestock Breeding and Production Record
- Notes
- Guides and Tables

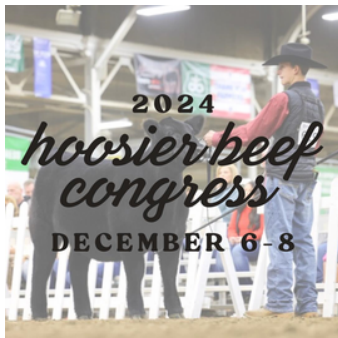
**Pick Up at the Extension Office:**

**247 Atwood St. Corydon, IN 47112**

**Call with any questions:**

**812-738-4236**

## 2024 Hoosier Beef Congress



Check out the Hoosier Beef Congress Facebook page or website for more information about Stalling Auction, Cattle Sale, Trade Show, registration, and more. Entries open and schedule available now.

<https://hoosierbeefcongress.com/>

## North American International Livestock Exposition



The North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY runs from November 7-21, 2024. Join the largest all-breed, purebred livestock show in the country. Every year, livestock exhibitors from around the globe come together in Louisville, Kentucky to compete on the green shavings for purple banners. Come be part of this incredible legacy in livestock. We'll see you in November!

# AG EDUCATION & INFORMATION

## *GROW A WINDOWSILL OF FLAVOR THIS WINTER*

PUBLISHED BY: ROSIE LERNER | INDIANA YARD AND GARDEN – PURDUE CONSUMER HORTICULTURE

Although the outdoor garden may be getting ready for its long winter nap, you can continue to harvest the fresh flavor of herbs by growing a windowsill garden.

Many herbs, including dill, parsley, thyme, chives, oregano, and mint, are adaptable to growing indoors in a sunny window. While some of these herbs may grow to be several feet tall in the garden, thankfully, they will be much smaller in the indoor garden where their root systems are restricted to small pots.

Your garden will get a head start if you take cuttings from your outdoor herbs, such as basil, mint, sage, and oregano, before they die back for winter. But if you didn't get that accomplished before frost hit, there are many herbs that can be easily grown from seed, including dill, parsley, thyme, anise, basil, and cilantro.

Use a good quality potting soil mix for your indoor garden to ensure good root development. Garden soil is generally too heavy for using in potted plants and may carry diseases and insects that will prove too challenging for young indoor seedlings.

A warm, bright location away from direct sunlight is best for getting seeds started. Once the seeds have germinated, you'll need to move the plants to brighter, more direct light. Herb plants produce oils that are responsible for the particular flavor of the herb. The greatest amount of oil is produced under sunny conditions, so try to provide your indoor garden with as much light as possible. If your home does not have a well-lit window, artificial lights work well as a supplement to natural light. Use a combination of both cool white and warm white fluorescent tubes for optimum plant growth. If you have trouble finding the warm white fluorescent, look for light bulbs and/or tubes that are labeled specifically for growing plants. They emit the best quality light needed for plant growth.

Once plants are up and growing, some light fertilizing will be helpful, but don't overdo it. Follow label directions on whatever houseplant fertilizer you have on hand. Similarly, you'll want to provide adequate water for your herb garden, but don't overdo. Make sure the plant containers have drainage holes at the bottom for excess water to escape. When you water, apply enough so that some water runs out of the bottom of the container. Then allow the pots to dry a little before watering the next time.

Most herbs grown for their foliage can be harvested a little at a time, making fresh herb flavor available all winter long.





# GRAIN ENTRAPMENT

PUBLISHED ON OCTOBER 7, 2024 | PURDUE UNIVERSITY

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Purdue University's Agricultural Safety and Health Program has released the 2023 Summary of U.S. Agricultural Confined Space-related Injuries and Fatalities ahead of National Farm Safety and Health Week.

The purpose of the annual report is to maintain public focus on the issue of agricultural confined space injuries and fatalities, aid in the development of evidence-based training, and offer resources and direction to policymakers and engineering organizations in developing improved workplace regulations and design standards.



New findings reported no fewer than 55 cases involving agricultural confined spaces, with 29 fatal and 26 nonfatal cases. This represents a 33.7% decrease over the 83 cases documented in 2022.

Data also revealed that at least 27 grain entrapments took place in 2023, showing a 35.7% decrease over 2022. Of the 55 total cases, 28 were tied to livestock waste-handling facilities, entanglements, and grain dust explosions or fires. Roughly half of the identified cases this year were caused by grain entrapments.

Illinois had the highest total of confined space-related cases, 12, while Iowa had the second-most cases with five; Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin had four cases each. Iowa had the most grain entrapment cases at five. Historically, Iowa, Indiana, Minnesota, Illinois and Nebraska have had the most grain entrapment cases take place, respectively.

Additional findings noted that three incidents involved more than one victim, two fatal cases dealt with livestock waste storage pits or lagoons, and nine grain dust explosions took place at commercial facilities resulting in 12 nonfatal injuries.

Program staff urge agricultural workers to remain diligent and follow safety protocols. Frequency and severity of the reported cases continues to be a major concern. However, the summary notes that there is better documentation of injuries and fatalities due to dedicated investment in surveillance and available data. The number of total cases this year is also less than the 5- and 10-year averages.

Ed Sheldon, report co-author and Purdue agricultural safety specialist, said, “As we move into the busy fall harvest season, farmers, farm workers and those involved in the grain industry should stay aware of the hazards of agricultural confined spaces. Even though we have documented fewer cases last year, the fact remains that confined space incidents are a significant cause of fatalities and injuries in the agricultural workplace.”

As Hoosier farmers begin to harvest, program staff remind farmers to keep safety a top priority. Agriculture safety guides and disaster preparedness resources can be accessed online as well.

# INDIANA NRCS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FARMERS HELPING HELLBENDERS RCPP PROJECT

PUBLISHED ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 | PENN STATE EXTENSION

INDIANAPOLIS — Funding is now available to producers in the Blue River-Sinking Watershed to implement conservation practices on their land to assist with the recovery of Eastern Hellbenders and improvement of aquatic resources. This funding is provided through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and will assist farmers in implementing practices designed to keep nutrients and soil resources on fields and improve their watershed. While NRCS accepts program applications year-round, Indiana producers and landowners should apply by Dec. 6, to be considered for the current RCPP-Hellbender funding cycle.

Hellbender salamanders are important to the ecosystem because they act as a key predator in freshwater environments, primarily controlling crayfish populations by feeding on them, which helps maintain the balance of aquatic species in a stream or river. Additionally, their presence is a strong indicator of good water quality as they are sensitive to pollution and require clean, well-oxygenated water to survive, making them a valuable monitoring species for ecosystem health.

Sedimentation within our freshwater ecosystems is a major cause of hellbender decline. With the assistance of 14 collaborating public and private organizations, Purdue University is charged with improving water quality in southern Indiana through the Farmers Helping Hellbenders RCPP project.

Eligible practices for farmers in the Blue River-Sinking Watershed for this funding period include conservation cover, grassed waterways, wildlife habitat planting, nutrient management, riparian buffers and many others. These conservation practices will reduce sedimentation while increasing available habitat for hellbenders, mussels, and aquatic macroinvertebrates. This project also will address nutrient loss, which is a concern for agricultural producers, and the targeted conservation practices and systems have been shown to have long-term benefits for agricultural systems and operations. Eligible producers and forestland owners who wish to implement conservation practices on their land should discuss their options with their local district conservationist.

“Our partners are experts in their fields and understand the challenges in their own backyards,” said Indiana NRCS State Conservationist Damarys Mortenson. “Through the Farmers Helping Hellbenders project, we can tap into that knowledge to come up with lasting solutions that enable Indiana farmers and forestland owners to conserve the vital natural resources on their land while also protecting the habitat for hellbenders and other aquatic animals.”

The total financial assistance to landowners over the three-year project is more than \$1.9 million and is available for agricultural lands in portions of Washington, Harrison, Crawford, and Floyd counties, the only remaining area in Indiana where the Eastern Hellbender can be found and is currently being actively managed.

Eligible farmers are encouraged to contact their local NRCS office before Dec. 6 to apply for the current funding cycle. This funding will enable producers to improve the health and productivity of their operations. Applications received after Dec. 6 will automatically be considered during the next funding cycle. For more information or to apply, contact your local district conservationist by visiting [www.farmers.gov/service-locator](http://www.farmers.gov/service-locator).

# WINTER PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

PUBLISHED ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 | PENN STATE EXTENSION

## Maintenance

Throughout the growing season machinery and cattle equipment break. Equipment hardly ever needs repaired when time is available for proper fixes, so temporary repair is done quickly to continue working in the fields. This time of the year is a good time to pull that piece of equipment out of storage to properly make the repairs needed. Be ready for the next busy season. If gates or fencing has been damaged, this off-season would be a good time to replace the damaged fence or gate. Springtime will consist of racing between storms to get feedstuffs sowed or harvested. Make sure your operation is ready for you to be in the field.

If equipment is taken to a dealer to get looked over before the season, now would be a good time to get scheduled in their calendar to ensure the equipment is back when it's needed. If maintenance is done in-house, look over equipment in case a bearing or other major part needs replaced before the next season. Preemptive repair allows for fixes to be completed when time allows and can increase the longevity of the machinery or equipment.

Tractors make planting, spreading, and harvest season possible. Some tractors are used less during the off-season, so take the time to look over the equipment or schedule a date at the dealer for regular maintenance. Complete maintenance while time permits, so regular fluid changing is not forgotten or procrastinated.

### **Make sure equipment is stored properly.**

If a pesticide sprayer or an inoculant applicator was used, make sure that equipment is properly winterized to prevent over-wintering damage due to freezing. Also, make sure equipment is stored under a roof to ensure its longevity. If a lack of building space is an issue, prioritize equipment that depreciates the most and is used the most to be stored inside of buildings.

Check barns, pens, gates, feed troughs, waterers for proper function.

Review livestock facilities for needed maintenance. Buildings can get expensive quickly, so do regular maintenance to make ensure building longevity. Make any necessary changes that will allow for easier feeding or moving of cattle. These changes could be as easy as adjusting/lubricating gates to move easier. Make sure waterers are not leaking. Leaky waterers waste money and energy and can produce a slick, dangerous environment for cattle. By putting time in now, you can save time in the future.

### **Make operational goals.**

Lastly, future planning is extremely important for sustainable operations. Take the winter off-season to put time into developing goals for your operations. Think of changes that would allow the business to grow and sustain. Use the five SMART criteria when developing goals. The acronym stands for specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and timely. An example goal would be to sell 100 head of fat cattle in the upcoming year. The goal is specific about selling fat cattle and measured by the number of head sold. Under the assumptions that the producer has the amount of space for 100 head of cattle in one rotation (or 50 head through two rotations) and the facilities are already set up for beef cattle, then the goal is attainable and relevant. Lastly, the goal timeline is throughout the upcoming year. Some goals can be more specific to time. For instance, a goal could be to catch up on all machinery repair by the end of February. To make this goal more specific, identify all outstanding repairs. Good long-term goals can contain multiple short-term goals that are needed to achieve the long-term goal.



# CDC Confirms 3rd Human Case of H5 Bird Flu in California

PUBLISHED ON OCTOBER 10, 2024 | CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

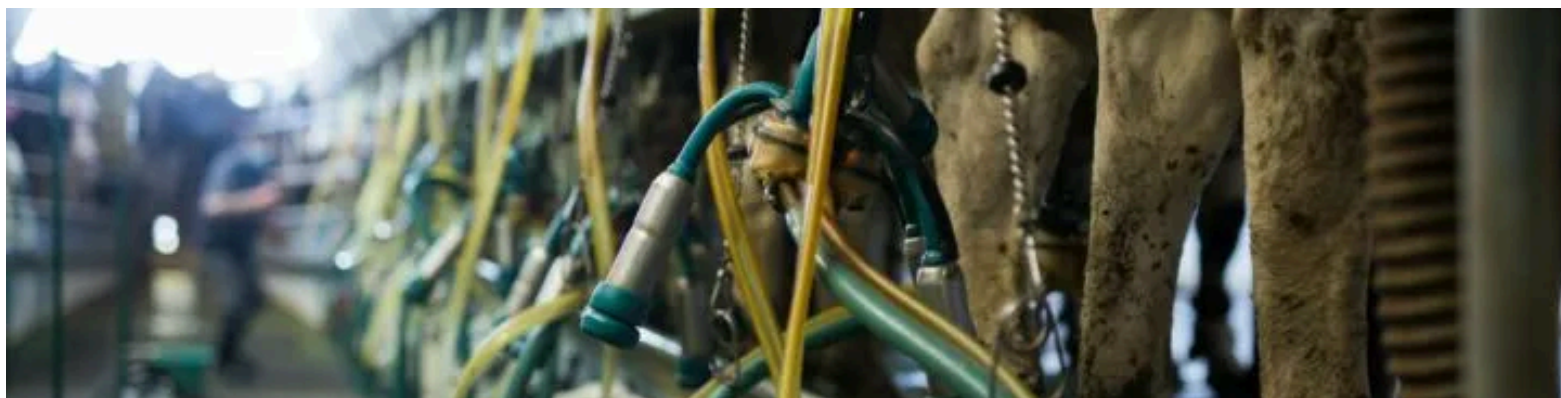
SACRAMENTO — The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has confirmed a third human case of H5 bird flu in California. Like the two cases in that state confirmed last week, the person reported occupational exposure to infected dairy cows. To date, all three California cases occurred in dairy workers from three different affected farms with no known contact with each other, suggesting animal-to-human spread. Also consistent with the two previous California cases, the person experienced mild symptoms, including eye redness or discharge (conjunctivitis). None of the three cases has been hospitalized. The identification of H5 in people with exposure to infected animals is not unexpected and does not change CDC's risk assessment for the general public, which continues to be low.

Including this most recent case, 18 human cases of H5 bird flu have now been reported in the United States since 2022; 17 cases during 2024. CDC is awaiting 2 additional presumptive positive specimens from California for confirmatory testing.

## CDC Lab Update on First Two California Cases

Sequences from the first two cases in California confirmed these are clade 2.3.4.4b A(H5N1) viruses closely related to viruses detected in dairy cattle. The whole genome was sequenced from one of the two cases (A/California/135/2024) and was confirmed to be a B3.13 genotype virus. There were no genetic changes observed that are known to be associated with an increased ability to infect or spread between people or known to reduce susceptibility to antiviral medications. These sequences have been publicly posted in GISAID and have been submitted to GenBank. Sequencing from the third confirmed case is underway.

CDC continues to underscore the importance of recommended precautions for people with exposure to infected or potentially infected animals. People with close or prolonged, unprotected exposures to infected birds or other animals (including livestock), or to environments contaminated by infected birds or other animals, are at greater risk of infection.



# IN THE CATTLE MARKETS: CATTLE PRICES CREEPING HIGHER

PUBLISHED BY DAVID ANDERSON, PH.D., PROFESSOR AND EXTENSION SPECIALIST | LIVESTOCK AND FOOD PRODUCT MARKETING DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

LAKEWOOD, Colo. — Fed cattle prices have been climbing, slowly, following the market correction that began in late July-early August. After falling from a high of \$197.09 to \$181.18 per cwt. the 5-market weekly average has climbed back to \$186.89 over the last 4 weeks. Prices were in the \$188 range later during the week ending October 4.

Normally, fed cattle prices increase, seasonally, in the Fall. A 10 year seasonal fed cattle price index would suggest that prices increase about 5 percentage points from September to November. Of course, last year was an exception to that when prices declined during the Fall. It's not unusual for fed cattle prices to hit their high for the year in the Fall but, that would require a faster pace of increase than seen, so far.

Prices continue to creep higher in the face of larger beef production and a cutout value that has been at or below last year's level. Fed steer and heifer slaughter is 1.2 percent higher than last year over the last 9 weeks. Fed steer weights continue to increase and are at record highs. Federally inspected dressed weights hit 948 pounds for the week ending October 4 and are not likely at their Fall peak yet. Heifer dressed weights are not quite at record highs, about 2 pounds away from a record. The

combination more fed cattle going to market and record high weights means that beef production has exceeded that of a year ago for the last 9 consecutive weeks. The increase in fed beef production continues to offset the decline in beef and dairy cow beef production.

Adding to the beef production equation is the percent of beef grading Choice. Almost 73 percent of beef graded during the first week of October graded Choice. That is a 2.5 percentage point increase over a year ago. For the last 9 weeks a larger percentage of beef graded was Choice compared to a year ago. Combine increased fed steer and heifer slaughter, larger dressed weights, and more grading Choice means that total supplies of Choice beef are greater than a year ago. More beef is grading Prime than last year also, contributing to greater supplies of Prime beef than last year. Supplies are likely keeping a lid on the cutout value making the slow increase in fed cattle prices a little more impressive.

## The Markets

It's dry in many parts of Texas with more areas showing up on the drought monitor. Dry conditions are likely impacting calf prices with many markets reporting little change to lower prices compared to the prior week. Drought conditions are also likely impacting wheat pasture development and winter grazing prospects.

	Week of 10/11/24 \$/cwt	Week of 10/4/24 \$/cwt	Week of 10/13/23 \$/cwt
<b>5-Area Fed Steer</b>			
All grades, live wt.	\$187.21	\$186.89	\$184.30
All grades, dr. wt.	\$295.92	\$296.00	\$291.83
<b>Boxed Beef</b>			
Choice, 600-900 lbs.	\$308.42	\$300.09	\$301.35
Choice-Sel. Spread	\$19.22	\$15.16	\$25.46
<b>700-800 lb. Fdr Str</b>			
Montana 3-market	\$269.18	\$246.00	\$265.83
Nebraska 7-market	\$271.15	\$270.44	\$265.93
Oklahoma 8-mkt.	\$255.88	\$253.31	\$251.93
<b>500-600 lb. Fdr Str</b>			
Montana 3-market	\$323.75	\$291.00	\$279.00
Nebraska 7-market	\$312.95	\$312.95	\$300.09
Oklahoma 8-mkt.	\$282.99	\$278.24	\$281.55
<b>Feed Grains</b>			
Corn, Omaha, \$/bu	\$3.95	\$4.06	\$4.88
DDGS, NE, \$/ton	\$162.83	\$161.67	\$202.86

Data Source: USDA-AMS Market News as compiled by LMIC

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