

DAVENPORT DIGEST

SPRING EDITION

Happy Spring of 2025! As this beautiful season unfolds, I find myself embracing the mix of emotions it brings. The feeling of renewal and the vibrant resurgence of life inspire hope and possibility. While the hectic days ahead on the farm may remind me of the calmness of winter, I choose to appreciate the journey and embrace the crazy.

Wishing everyone a safe and successful planting season ahead! I'm excited to witness all the growth, and of course, I'll have my rain dance ready, just in case!

Please follow our Facebook page for the latest updates on registration requirements and deadlines, as it is regularly refreshed with new information. Thank you to everyone who has already completed the Needs Assessment survey; your feedback is invaluable. If you haven't had the opportunity yet, please use the link below to participate.

FACEBOOK



NEW EDUCATOR SURVEY



JESI DAVENPORT
ANR Educator
Purdue Extension



EVENTS

Spring Time Traffic

As planting season kicks into full gear, farmers across the country are busy in the fields, preparing for a new crop. This means that large farm equipment, such as tractors, planters, and harvesters, are frequently on the road, traveling between fields and agricultural sites. For many drivers, encountering these vehicles can be an inconvenience, but it's important to remember that they play a vital role in our food production and economy.

Here are a few reasons why respecting farm equipment on the road is essential during planting season:

- Farm equipment is often wide, slow-moving, and can take longer to accelerate or stop. Overtaking farm machinery can be dangerous, especially on narrow roads or during limited visibility. Always wait for a safe passing opportunity.
- Farmers work long hours during planting season, with many tasks to complete before the window for planting closes. Their movements on the road are typically focused on getting from one field to another as efficiently as possible. Being considerate and not making hasty maneuvers helps ensure that everyone stays safe.
- Farm vehicles often travel at speeds as low as 15-25 miles per hour, which can feel frustrating for drivers in a hurry. However, taking the time to slow down and share the road is a small but meaningful act of respect for the farming community.
- Share the Road and Be Courteous. Farmers, like all road users, have the right to be on the road. Be patient, respectful and avoid honking or showing signs of frustration.

While farm equipment on the road may slow us down during planting season, it's a necessary part of ensuring a successful harvest. By respecting these vehicles and the hardworking farmers behind them, we contribute to a safer and more cooperative road environment. Let's all work together to make the roads safer during time of year and remember that the person driving is somebody's everything.

Purdue on the Farm

This year, LaPorte County has plans to participate in Purdue on the Farm (POTF). Purdue on the Farm is a way to connect local farmers with researchers on Purdue's campus. This program was created to gain in-depth insight into local farmer's perspectives, challenges, and practices to provide more specialized support and solutions. This is accomplished by generating data via field scouting to provide evidence-based support. This year we are starting out small but if the interest is there, we are willing to expand it in future years. If you are interested in participating in this project in the future, please reach out to the Extension Office to show your interest.

EVENTS UPDATE

Annie's Project for High School

We are thrilled to be part of the team tasked with modifying Annie's Project curriculum for high school students. Annie's Project is dedicated to strengthening the roles of women in modern agricultural enterprises through educational programs. Its primary objective is to provide resources that empower women to manage their businesses successfully. We are collaborating with South Central High School to develop a similar curriculum tailored for all high school students in agriculture classes. These students will acquire essential skills such as retirement planning, understanding supply and demand, the fundamentals of securing a loan, and risk management. Regardless of whether they choose to start their own business, these skills will equip them for life beyond graduation. We extend our gratitude to Mr. Kyle McCallum at South Central High School for partnering with us to pilot this 7-week program in his class, as well as to all the guest speakers who have generously donated their time to share their insights.



Annual Meeting

On March 18, LaPorte County Purdue Extension hosted our Annual Meeting with guest speaker, Fred Whitford, explaining "Why we do what we do in Extension." It was a great time connecting with many people in the community and coming together to celebrate and show gratitude for the continued support of all the work we do. Thank you to everyone that helped me source items for our 'Made in LaPorte County' gift basket. Your generosity made it a huge success, and I truly enjoyed working with so many of you that truly make LaPorte County unique. Among the items was popcorn grown by Tuholski Farms, Red Vines produced by American Licorice, Sims' meat seasoning, maple syrup and honey harvested and produced by Mike Ault, Red Gold ketchup grown by many farms in the county, and a Purdue P logo made with beach glass found on our lakeshore.

