

Over the Back Fence

Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Newsletter

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Educator's Editorial

Shop Local!

Spring brings new opportunities to refresh and renew. Many of you are excitedly preparing vegetable gardens for summer harvest. I am excited to see what small businesses will have to offer at the Farmer's Market. Speaking of the Farmer's Market, both markets are set to open again this Spring. The Harrison County Farmers Market opened the last week of April and the Corydon Farmers Market will open Friday May 7th. Take time to check out both and support your local farmers and artisans. (Cont. page 2)



Purdue Extension Harrison County

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Extension - Harrison County

Educator's Editorial (Cont.)

Education Stations at the Fair

Extension is also getting excited for county fair activities. Not only will you find 4-H exhibits, but we are bringing back Educational Stations again this year. Look for us under the grandstands offering educational activities for the general public. Each day will be a different topic. We'll include some hands-on and engaging activities from 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM each night.



Rain Garden Program

Finally, I'm very excited to share that we have been awarded a Community Foundation Grant to build raingardens in our office parking lot. I'll give you a piece of information in this article... all plants will be native perennials. This project will allow for other educational opportunities for Master Gardeners and the Harrison County Native Habitat Alliance. Stay tuned for more information about this concept of gardening.



Our summer is shaping up to be a busy one. We hope to continue to offer more in person programs as the seasons progress. Keep watching our newsletter and Facebook page for updates to programs and events. Thank you to everyone for being flexible and part of Extension in this ever changing world.

Thank you for all you do,

Miranda C. Edge

EDUCATION STATIONS

At the Harrison County Fair!

June 8th through 12th

Harrison County
Fairgrounds in
Corydon

Harrison County Soil and Water

June 7 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Water is a powerful force and so important to our environment! Learn how erosion, run off, and waste affects our environment by seeing water tables in action! Visit the Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District at the Purdue Extension Education Stations under the grandstands at the Harrison County Agricultural Fair on June 7th from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM.



The Dairy Gang

June 8 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM



Dairy animals are amazing. They can turn grass and grain into milk! Each year, U.S dairy farmers provide milk to make more than one billion pounds of butter, seven billion pounds of cheese, and one billion gallons of ice cream! As you can tell, dairy farms are very important. Visit us under the grandstands at the Harrison County Agricultural Fair on June 8th to learn all about dairy at the Purdue Extension Education Stations!

Embryology with the 4-H Poultry Club

June 7 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Can eggs I purchase from the grocery store turn into baby chicks? Do hens need roosters to make eggs? And how does an egg become a cute, fluffy little chick? Get all those answers and more when you visit the Harrison County Fair and find the Fowl Play 4-H Poultry Club at the Purdue Extension Education Stations under the grandstands. Meet 4-H members, club leaders, and the live chickens!



Harness Horse Youth Foundation Workshop

June 10th 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM



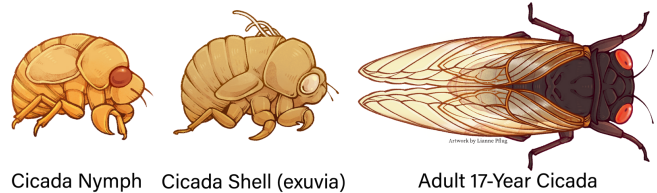
Have you ever wondered how a Standardbred is prepared for a race and what happens on the actual race day? Well, the Harness Horse Youth Foundation is providing a unique opportunity to see a glimpse of harness racing behind the scenes on June 10 from 8:30AM to 10:30AM. Meet the horses and horse people, learn about trotting, pacing, equipment and "Indiana pants" plus so much more! Look for this logo at the check in table near the racehorse barns that morning and be sure to RSVP to 812-738-4236. SWAG BAGS will be given out to participants, courtesy of the Harrison County Ag Society!



The Emergence of the 17-Year Cicada

Key Cicada Facts

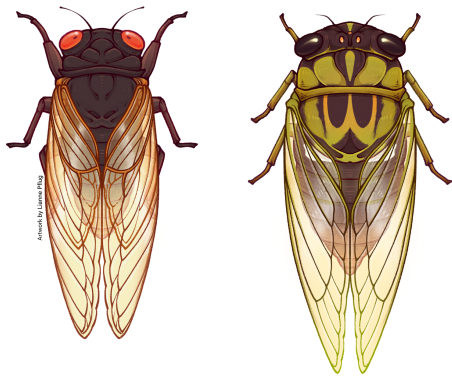
- Cicadas won't hurt you or your pets. But if you're concerned, consult a doctor or a vet.
- Cicadas aren't a "Plague of Locusts." In some areas people call cicadas locusts, but cicadas can't eat crops like locusts. They only drink trees.
- Most trees will be fine. Smaller trees are more vulnerable, but they can be easily protected with netting.
- If you don't like bugs, don't worry. It'll be over in a month and a half.
- If you do like bugs, get out there and enjoy it! They'll be gone in a month and a half!



Cicada Nymph Cicada Shell (exuvia) Adult 17-Year Cicada

How do I Identify a Cicada

The first signs of cicadas are often their shells (exuvia). When cicada nymphs come up out of the ground, they climb up the nearest tree or other tall surface, and shed their shells. These shells are perfect copies of the nymphal cicadas. You can even sometimes find little white strands coming out of the shells. These are their lungs (tracheal tubes)! Insect's respiratory system is made out of tubes and little holes (spiracles) in the outside of their body. When they shed their skin, they shed the whole thing, respiratory system and all!



17-Year Cicada Annual Cicada

What's Happening?

When the irises begin to bloom, expect up to 1.5 million cicadas per acre to begin boiling out of the ground. This spring Indiana will see the emergence of the 17-year cicadas (Brood X). Once every 17 years they emerge en masse, climb up trees, sing (though it sounds more like screaming), mate, and lay their eggs on the tips of tree branches.

Where is it Happening?

17-year cicadas can be found throughout Indiana but the biggest populations will be in southern Indiana. According to Cicada Mania, these cicadas were reported to be more abundant in the following areas during their last emergence in 2004: "Bloomington, Brookville, Clinton Falls, Dillsboro, Fishers, French Lick, Indianapolis, Lawrenceburg, Lexington, Martinsville, McCormick's Creek State Park, Nashville, North Vernon, Skiles Test Park, Spencer."

Cicadas need to feed on trees nearly constantly for most of their lives. They are therefore typically only found in areas that had trees 17 years ago and have continued to have trees since then. For example, an area that was forest 17 years ago but was cleared for farmland 10 years ago will not have a cicada emergence because the cicadas had no tree roots to feed on for the past 7 years. An area that was farmland 17 years ago and was recently planted with trees will also not have a cicada emergence because there were no trees available 17 years ago for cicadas to lay their eggs. However, a forested area or a city park that has had trees constantly for the last 17 years has a high chance of having a cicada emergence this spring.

The Emergence of the 17-Year Cicada

Why do Cicadas Spend 17 Years Underground?

The short answer? So that less of them get eaten! Most scientists agree that the most likely reason why 17-year cicadas spend so long underground is to avoid predators. By coming to the surface in such a large group, some cicadas get eaten but many cicadas will survive. Predators just don't have enough room in their stomachs for all of the cicadas that pop up! Birds, bears, fish, raccoons, and every other animal that can eat insects will stuff themselves on this cicada feast. The second reason why cicadas spend so long underground is that many insect populations are largely regulated by highly specialized predators (for example, parasitic wasps). These predators are closely adapted to the insects they attack. By only emerging every 17 years, it is much harder for predators to specialize on 17-year cicadas because they are such an infrequent and unpredictable resource (at least to a predator!).

Tree Health

Homeowners only need to worry if they have newly planted trees (3-4 years old). The best way to protect these young trees is to cover them in a mesh fabric for the ~1 month period when the cicadas are active in the area. The mesh bags can be made from a variety of materials as long as the holes are smaller than 1 cm (~3/8 inch). Drape the fabric over all the twigs and branches that are smaller than 3/8 inches and secure it at the bottom so that cicadas cannot climb up from underneath. The goal is to prevent the cicadas from having access to the branches so that they will lay their eggs elsewhere.

Larger trees do not need to be protected from cicadas. They may experience minor dieback at the tips of branches, but this will not harm the overall health of the tree. If you find these dead twigs unsightly, you can either trim them off or hire an arborist to remove them. You can learn more [here](#).

Although the bagging method works best in most situations, fruit growers and nurseries may need to take additional precautions. You can find more details [here](#).

Netting can be purchased online or local hardware stores, garden centers, or big box stores (Walmart, Home Depot, Lowes, etc.). Look for products with the words "Insect Netting". These tend to have a mesh size much smaller than the 1/2 inch minimum requirements. Products marketed as bird netting tend to have mesh sizes of 5/8 inch or greater and are too coarse to keep female cicadas from reaching twigs, laying their eggs, and injuring your trees.

Human and Animal Health

Cicadas are largely harmless to humans and animals. They don't bite and they don't sting. They lack the physical structures to hurt people that other insects have: they don't have stingers so they can't sting and their mouth parts are a more like a straw than teeth so they can't bite. The worst that most cicadas will do to a person is startle them. It's also very unlikely that cicadas will harm your pets. Cicadas themselves aren't poisonous and can't sting or bite. However, the material their exoskeleton is made of is difficult for some animals to digest and may upset their stomach. If you are concerned about your pet, we strongly recommend consulting with your veterinarian.



Indiana Cicada Emergence Trackers

Help us track the cicadas in Indiana!

When the irises begin to bloom, expect up to 1.5 million cicadas per acre to begin boiling out of the ground. This spring Indiana will see the emergence of the 17-year cicadas (Brood X). Once every 17 years they emerge en masse, climb up trees, sing (though it sounds more like screaming), mate, and lay their eggs on the tips of tree branches. Help us learn:

Where are they?

The distribution of 17-year cicadas has changed a lot in the last 200 years! We aim to learn where these insects can still be found in Indiana.

When do they emerge?

Cicadas will emerge at different times throughout the state. We'd like to learn how the timing of 17-year cicada emergence is impacted by surrounding land use.

If you stumbled across this project and would like to take part, email Elizabeth Barnes at barnel75@purdue.edu.

Indiana Cicada Fest!

May 1st - 9th, 2021



Looking for more reasons to get outside and enjoy the cicada emergence? Join us for Indiana Cicada Fest, May 1st-9th! On these days, pick a spot with cicadas, photograph as many plants or animals as you can find, and add them to our Cicada Fest Project! All you need to do is:

1. Join our iNaturalist project.
2. Pick your favorite spot to go outdoors (e.g. parks, forests, your backyard, anywhere you enjoy being outdoors!)
3. Head outside during the week of May 1st-9th and look for any interesting plants, animals, fungi, and hopefully some cicadas!
4. Snap a picture and upload your observation to iNaturalist.

We'll be sharing some of our favorite observations on the Purdue Entomology social media accounts!

Cicada Killers

Cicada killers are a native species that serve an important function in Indiana's ecosystem. Cicada killers are large hornets. They're about 2 inches long and have black and yellow striped bodies with transparent yellow wings. Cicada killers are not aggressive but they can sting. Generally, if you leave them and their nests be, they won't attack.



Cicada Killer



Asian Giant Hornet aka Mudier Hornet

If you are stung by a cicada killer, follow standard first aid practices for dealing with hornet stings. Unfortunately, cicada killers are sometimes confused with murder hornets (Asian giant hornets). Murder hornets are an invasive species that was recently accidentally introduced into the North West and is not currently found in Indiana. If you think you've found a murder hornet or any other invasive species, please report it.

Lunch & Learn Webinars

Soil Health Webinars

Mondays, 11:30 PM - 1:00 PM

May 3 OR June 14- Beneficial Insects
May 10 OR June 7- Soil Health & Cover Crops
May 17- Soil Health Basics
May 24- Soil Health Practices

Women small farm owners and gardeners, join our online discussion on practices that will improve your soil health and productivity. Register for a single discussion or join us for all four

women4theland.org/upcoming-events

Area 6 ANR Lunch & Learn Series

Wednesdays, 12:00 PM EST

May 12- Cicadas, Ants, & Termites
May 26- Small Spaces & Backyard Gardening

View each program live or pre-recorded.

bit.ly/2M7pttB

Third Thursdays Lunch & Learn Series

Thursdays, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM EST

May 20- Ponds 101
June 17- Composting
July 15- Cut Flowers & Flower Arranging
August 19- Davis Purdue Field Day Pesticide Damage & Drift

View each program live or pre-recorded.

extension.purdue.edu/Harrison/article/39953

Kosciusko County Master Gardeners Lunch & Learn Series

Mondays, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

May 3- Annuals
May 17- Tomatoes
June 21- Garden Pests

bit.ly/3gm5r9b



Podcast Post

Purdue Sheep and Goat Topics

The Purdue Sheep and Goat Topics Podcast deals with management information for all progressive Sheep and Goat producers

lnns.co/320jo_1bDZG

Habitat University

Habitat University is a science-based podcast delivering the latest information on habitat management. This podcast is part of the larger podcast network Natural Resources University, funded by the Renewable Resources Extension Act.

habitatuniversity.libsyn.com

The Meat Minute

Dr. Stacy Zuelly, Purdue Extension Meat Scientist, provides videos on meat quality, food safety, and techniques.

bit.ly/37ToXrt

Beef Monthly

Purdue University's Animal Science Department's Beef Monthly channel provides updates and headlines in the beef industry.

bit.ly/beefmonthly

Pond University

Pond University is a podcast that brings together aquatic scientists, landowners and pond professionals to discuss topics such as pond habitat, fish stocking, vegetation control and pond construction. It is part of the larger podcast network Natural Resources University and is funded by the Renewable Resources Extension Act.

ponduniversity.libsyn.com/

Natural Resources University Network

Natural Resources University is a podcast network focused on delivering science-based natural resource management. Funding for this project comes from the Renewable Resources Extension Act.

naturalresourcesuniversity.libsyn.com/

Webinars

Gardening Practices to Improve Soil Health

Monday, May 3rd, 1:00 PM EST

All ways of growing food can be done via practices that help improve soil health. Come learn and talk about some of these methods you can use in your farm and garden. These are often called "Conservation Cropping Practices" that help create a soil health based system within our farms and gardens. Join Eliana Blaine, Urban Soil Health Program Director, as she discusses no/low-till and cover cropping, crop rotation, mulching, nutrient management, and pest management.

ag.purdue.edu/extension/WIA

Beware! Toxic Plants are Out!

Monday, May 17th, NOON EST

While all plants may appear to be able to be eaten by our livestock, some plants contain dangers to our animal's health. Join Elysia Rodgers and Brooke Stefancik, Purdue Ag and Natural Resource Educators, as they share about some of the toxic plants and their dangers found commonly across Indiana

ag.purdue.edu/extension/WIA

Dairy: Good for the Gut! Remember Food Safety!

Monday, June 7th, NOON EST

June is National Dairy Month! Join us for a free webinar and learn about dairy food products and their safety implications. Registered Dietitian and Extension Educator, Abbi Sampsons will discuss ways to incorporate dairy in your diet!

ag.purdue.edu/extension/WIA

Livestock Producers Wanted for Black Vulture Survey!

tinyurl.com/livestockvulturesurvey

Researchers at Purdue are collaborating with the USDA Wildlife Services program to better understand livestock producer's broader concerns, experiences with black vultures, and current mitigation practices. Surveys are anonymous, voluntary, and are estimated to take 15-25 minutes. Take the survey at tinyurl.com/blackvulturesurvey.



Indiana Native Plant Society Auction

Our biggest fundraiser of the year is going virtual AND statewide! This new auction format, taking the place of our usual plant sale in Indianapolis, will have the advantage of reaching members and non-members throughout Indiana. The weeklong event will be held Saturday, May 15, through Saturday, May 22.

Event Recap

Saturday, May 15

- 10:00 AM Silent Auction Opens

Saturday, May 22

- 11:00 AM Emily Wood speaks on "Top 5 Reasons to Grow Native"
- 11:30 a.m. Sue Nord Peiffer offers tips and a live auction preview
- 12:00 p.m. Live auction begins
- 2:00 p.m. Silent auction bidding closes

Registration

To participate in all that's planned, you will need to **register on two sites:**

Givergy at <https://givergy.us/indiananativeplants/> Register here to view and bid on auction items. New items are being added weekly! When you place your first bid, you will be asked to enter credit card information.

Zoom at us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZMtfuCprzotGtU9iwbTlS-CcNBxEeIZRvH2

This will get you a link to the live event on Saturday, May 22, that includes speakers and the live auction.

If you have questions about the auction, address them to plantsale@indiananativeplants.org.

Auction Bidding

Bidding competition begins with an online silent auction opening at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 15, and continues through the week. The bidding fun will be capped by a virtual live auction at noon the following Saturday, May 22, followed by the close of silent auction bidding at 2:00 p.m. Up for bid will be premium native plant specimens from nurseries and garden centers in the Grow Indiana Natives program, along with select curated items and services specially chosen to entice bidders. A professional auctioneer will encourage bidding on six to ten choice or rare items that will be available only during the live auction. All auction bidding will be conducted by means of your smartphone or laptop. We are using Givergy as our app to display auction items and track bids. The pick-up location of each plant or plant package will be clearly designated in item descriptions, and bidders will retrieve their winnings at the donor nurseries.

Donate to the Auction

Individuals with items to donate, please contact plantsale@indiananativeplants.org or fill out the "donate item" on the Givergy platform. All donated items, including plants, must be accompanied by a photo. Donated plants must be robust and should be potted up several weeks before the auction date.



Indiana Native
Plant Society

Equine Management Signature Program

This Summer 2021 Horse Program is open to ALL Horse Owners!
Four In Person & Online Lessons April - August about basic management skills to enhance the well-being and performance of horses.

May 22- Trailering June 5 and 12- Facilities
August 14- Parasites September 11- Nutrition



Four Online Lessons Only: \$15
Four In-Person and Online Lessons: \$100 (Lunch Included!)
In Person Locations: Howard County, Harrison and Perry Counties.
In Person Session Sign Up: www.cvent.com/d/5jgcfl
Online Session Sign Up: bit.ly/3tYFC51

Timber Management Workshop for Land Owners

**Friday, June 4, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM
at Patoka Lake Nature Center**

Topics designed for landowners of all kinds wanting to learn more about their current timber stands and how to make improvements.

- Tree identification
- Physiology of woods
- Basic Timber Management
- Timber Harvest
- Timber Stand Improvement
- Invasive Species

8:30 AM to NOON: Presentations

NOON to 1:00 PM: Lunch

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Outside Applications

**\$25 Per Person
Includes Box
Lunch and Gate Fee**

**Patoka Lake Nature Center
Co Rd. 975 S.
Eckerty, IN 47116**

Please dress according to the weather. We will be outside for the afternoon portion of this program.

Register at bit.ly/timber2021 or call 812-723-7107



Boiler Butcher Basics

Purdue Department of Animal Sciences

The Boiler Butcher Basics course is designed to give hands-on training in harvest, fabrication, and processing of pork, poultry, lamb/goat, and beef to anyone interested in learning these critical skills. This course is designed for those needing job training, or those that want to understand more about raising and harvesting their own meat.

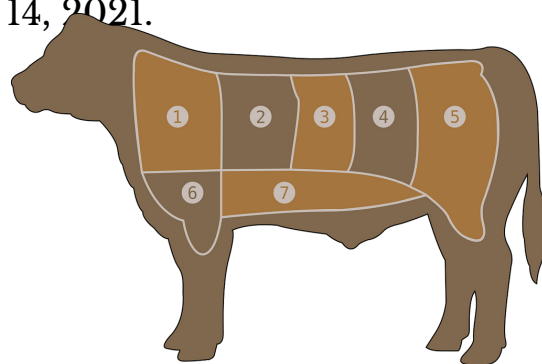
This program will be offered four times in the spring/summer with each session focusing on 1 specie. The sessions for pork, lamb/goat, and beef will be 2-day sessions, and poultry will be a 1-day session. Each session will have separate registration fees and participants can register for more than one session if desired. Each session will take place 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM on the following dates:

May 13-14: Pork May 20: Poultry June 3-4: Lamb/Goat June 17-18: Beef

All sessions will take place in the Land O' Lakes Inc. Center for Experiential Learning, Purdue University (address: 720 Clinic Drive, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2041). Parking will be in the Harrison Street Parking Garage across the street.

Fees: All 2-day sessions are \$300 each, and the 1-day session is \$150. Fees cover program costs, reference materials, food, beverages, and parking in the Harrison Street Parking Garage. Participants will be provided all meat cutting and personal safety equipment, except footwear. **Refund and Cancellation Policy:** All cancellations are subject to a 12% registration fee + \$5 processing fee. **NO REFUNDS** will be processed after June 14, 2021.

Registration: www.cvent.com/d/ljgryf



Additional information: All registered participants will be sent a pre-workshop training module at least one week prior to their session to review protocols and safety procedures. Participants are required to view this module before attending the in-person session.

MUD MANAGEMENT FIELD DAY

For ALL Livestock Owners
Those who own cattle, horses,
or ANY livestock are invited.

Saturday
May 22, 10:00 AM

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- All weather surfaces
- Winter feeding methods to reduce mud
- Watering Areas
- Repair Methods

Location

Eschbacher Farm
10740 Otterbein Road
Laconia, IN

Look for the Signs!



Please RSVP

Call 812-738-4236
Email medge@purdue.edu



Extension

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ANR Newsletter



Extension - Harrison County

Over the Back Fence

Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Newsletter

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Health and Human Resources
Community Development

Katie Davidson
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