

A DAILY JOURNAL PUBLICATION

# 2022 Johnson County Agriculture



## The Riedels

Johnson County Farm Family of the Year

INSIDE

Messages from  
Purdue Extension

Local agriculture  
organizations

Ag news, events,  
programs and people



**AGPACK**<sup>®</sup>

How to get your **FREE AgPack<sup>®</sup>** on qualifying truck and SUV purchases:

1. Tell your salesperson you are a farmer/rancher and want AgPack<sup>®</sup>.
2. Verify your ownership of or in an agricultural enterprise.
3. Receive AgPack<sup>®</sup> free with each qualifying new or used vehicle purchase or lease.

**Exclusive rebates on Michelin & BFGoodrich Tires** - from tractors to trucks to toys, **over \$4,500 rebate value available.\***

**Exclusive 5-10% below MAP pricing (lowest price a dealer can advertise),** direct from **Dixie Chopper** on their entire line of commercial mowers.\*

**1-year free subscription to AgriEdge, valued at \$5,000.\***

**\$1,000** toward a new **Reinke** irrigation system and **\$500** toward parts on an existing Reinke system.\*

**\$2,000 toward the purchase of crop nutrition\* from AgroLiquid,** PLUS an annual soil test and crop nutrient management consultation with an AgroLiquid agronomist and/or Sales Account Manager.\*

**25% off MSRP** or **Rhino Ag** products PLUS a gift card valued between \$100-\$200.\*

**25% off MSRP** on all **Gallagher** fencing, weighing, and EID products purchased through Gallagherusa.com (excludes water automation systems).\*

**\$150 prepaid gift card** from **Viasat** with a 2-year satellite internet subscription (Available on truck purchases after 10/1/2020).\*

**15% off purchases of Tarter Farm & Ranch Equipment** totaling over \$3,500 MSRP before discount, valid only by contacting a Certified Ag Pack Tarter Representative by agpack.team@tarterusa.com (excludes 3 Point Equipment)(Available on truck purchases after 01/01/2021).\*

**Exclusive after purchase rebates up to \$350** on **Eby Truck Bodies & Upfits.\***

**Exclusive after purchase rebates up to \$1,000** on **Eby Stock, Equipment, & Grain trailers.\***

**\$500 product credit for future purchases of Mystik Lubricants** after an initial \$2,000 purchase milestone is met; complimentary, lifetime oil condition monitoring on the purchased vehicle, and mystik-branded gifts upon acceptance of offer (Available on truck purchases after 01/01/2021).\*



**BFGoodrich**



**Mystik**  
LUBRICANTS



**AgriEdge**

**TARTER**  
FARM AND RANCH EQUIPMENT

**Viasat**



**Certified<sup>SM</sup>  
Agriculture  
Dealership**

Exclusively at *Fletcher*



**Buy a new Ram product at Fletcher  
and get the AgPack at no additional charge.**

Contact AG specialist **Andrew Thompson**

**317-738-4170 | 317-691-9209**

**a.thompson@fletcherchrysler.com**

*Fletcher*



"Where Everybody Gets A Great Deal"



**Jeep**

**DODGE**



**RAM**



**3099 NORTH MORTON STREET  
FRANKLIN, IN 46131**

**317.738.4170**

**WWW.FLETCHERCHRYSLER.COM**



## INSIDE

- 4 Farm Family of the Year**  
Hard work, unity and togetherness the linchpins for the Riedels, the 2022 Farm Family of the year.
- 8 Thinking about the future**  
National Ag encourages education about the importance of farming and careers in ag industry.
- 9 Farmers Breakfast**  
The community is invited to the Johnson County Fairgrounds to meet the local farmers, hear speakers.
- 10 Farming and climate**  
People in the ag industry will have to make adjustments as the climate changes
- 11 Block party**  
Blocks are a stimulating and enriching toy for kids. Learn how to make them out of household items.
- 12 Chef University**  
4-H program teaches and encourages lifelong healthy eating habits among middle-schoolers.
- 13 The local fare**  
Program encourages buying and eating food from local producers and farmers.
- 16 Groundbreakers**  
Early slaves and black farmers fostered an era of innovation and creativity in ag practices.



### ON THE COVER

The Riedel family, back row from left: Braxton, Andy and Emily Riedel, Dave and Debbie Riedel, Zach, holding Elijah, and Keri Vaught. In front, Haven and Maeleigh Riedel and Kason and Wade Vaught.

PHOTO BY MARK FREELAND

Johnson County Agriculture is published by the  
**DAILY JOURNAL**

30 S. Water St.  
Second Floor, Suite A  
Franklin, IN 46131

For editorial content, contact Amy May in the Daily Journal special publications department at 317-736-2726 or by email at [amay@dailyjournal.net](mailto:amay@dailyjournal.net).

For advertising content, contact the Daily Journal advertising department at 317-736-2730.

# A-1 GARAGE DOORS

*Sales • Service • Residential • Commercial*



**Lift-Master**  
The Professional Line  
Garage Door Openers



*Serving Indianapolis, Greenwood, Franklin, Columbus,  
Nashville, North Vernon, Seymour & Greensburg*

## FREE ESTIMATES!

[www.a1garagedoors.com](http://www.a1garagedoors.com) • [DoorA1@aol.com](mailto:DoorA1@aol.com)

515 W. OLD SOUTH ST. • BARGERSVILLE, IN

317-422-5225 • 1.800.755.6351

*Call the experts at A-1 Garage  
Doors for commercial, farm  
and industrial doors!*



*"The company with  
the boss on the job."*



PULLING

# Double Duty





# Riedels farmed, ran HVAC business for years

STORY BY CHERYL FISCUS JENKINS ● PHOTOS BY MARK FREELAND

With family seated at the kitchen table and windows overlooking the farm, David Riedel nests precisely where he has always dreamed.

As a child, his goal was to be in the fields working extended days in the open air alongside the people he loves most. So in 2019, the Franklin resident retired and sold his business, Excel Heating and Air, and ventured full-time into Riedel Farms. David and his wife, Debbie, began farming in Martinsville in 1986, raising pigs and cattle on a modest 20 acres. They moved to the Franklin location in 1996, manning 200 acres of land passed down for decades through generations of family members.

Debbie, a city girl turned jack of all farming trades, loves the agricultural ventures, especially with her family helping with the business. She knows David's life would be incomplete had it turned out any other way.

"Farming was David's stress relief from the phone and business," she said. "He totally enjoys his farming."

For years, the Riedels worked double duty in the heating and air conditioning business and maintaining long hours on the farm. Son Andy Riedel worked in the HVAC field, and daughter Keri Vaught managed the office. Their spouses, Emily Riedel and Zach Vaught, lend a hand as needed when farming duty calls, along with

David's brothers, Tom and Rick Riedel, Andy's father-in-law Joe Fox and some of Riedels' six grandchildren.

Emily is accustomed to country living, but she's learned much from being a Riedel, especially in regards to the cattle birthing process, which happens January through March. In any given year, husband Andy will help deliver 100 calves — sometimes five a day — during a successful winter season. She remembers well her first cattle C-section and the agonizing job of helping put a uterus back into a cow.

"I grew up in the country, but I had no idea," she said. "I'm glad the kids get to grow up this way because they love it."

David adds: "You never know about the birthing process. It's a challenge." Andy calls it a "knack" to deliver so many livestock offspring. His three children, Braxton, Maeleigh and Haven, sometimes want to name and keep the calves, but he teaches that part of the process and business is to let them go. Occasionally, one will become part of the family, though.

The Riedels farm roughly 1,500 acres of owned and rented land in southern Johnson County's Franklin, Trafalgar and Nineveh. Each year is a new lesson in agriculture protocol in terms of chemical restrictions and advanced technology. They continually learn new ways of doing business and have embraced modern concepts of auto steer combines and tractors and enhanced guidance systems for added efficiency.

Their plate is full, Keri said, raising cattle, corn, soybeans, wheat

**SEE RIEDELS PAGE 6 ►**



**Farm Family of the Year**

The Riedel family back from left: Keri and Zach Vaught holding Elijah, Debbie and David Riedel, and Andy, Emily and Braxton Riedel. In front, Kason, Wade, Maeleigh and Haven.



**SOME SAY WE'RE FULL OF IT. THEY'D BE RIGHT.**

Full power. Full comfort. Full features. Case IH Farmall® Utility C series tractors are hard-working, heavy-duty workhorses with flexible options to handle any application. Designed with their weight distributed in six different locations, these versatile tractors push, pull and lift more without the addition of inefficient wheel weights. The powerful 4-cylinder, 3.4-liter engine is electronically controlled, turbocharged and after-cooled for quick throttle response. Plus, the emissions system does not require a diesel particulate filter – reducing time loss and fuel waste on regeneration. And with improved cab comfort, these deluxe tractors are more than ready to do their part to make long days a lot more productive. To learn more about Case IH Farmall utility C series tractors, visit us today!



**JACOBI**  
SALES, INC.

**JACOBI SALES, INC.**

**550 EARLYWOOD DR., FRANKLIN, IN 46131**

**317-738-4440 | WWW.JACOBISALES.COM**



All rights reserved. Case IH is a trademark registered in the United States and many other countries, owned by or licensed to CNH Industrial N.V., its subsidiaries or affiliates. [www.caseih.com](http://www.caseih.com)





The Riedel grandchildren look at the cows, which are an Angus cross. From front, Haven and Maeleigh Riedel, Wade and Kason Vaught and Braxton Riedel.

## ► RIEDELS

and hay and supplying goods to companies throughout Indiana.

The mom of Kason, Wade and Elijah, with another baby due in June, Keri has computerized the company's accounting ledger for ease of managing the books. She admires how hard the whole family, especially her dad, works for the business and for anyone in need.

"He can fix anything," she said. "He was working on my bathroom yesterday."

Andy agrees and said they enjoy tackling projects themselves and helping others.

"We don't hire anything out," he said. "We're the first to help someone, too."

David said hard work is what attracts him to long days of farming. If the fields don't keep him busy enough, he leans on his hobby of tractor restoration.

"We're known for working all of the time," he said. "Our neighbors say, 'Don't you ever rest?'"

The family, however, has learned to work smarter

instead of harder.

The Riedels graduated from Perry Meridian High School and have been married 40 years. As somewhat empty nesters, they enjoy their Labrador fur babies, Rocky and Matilda, and spending time together.

Debbie's volunteer passion is cleaning up an old cemetery on U.S. 31 simply because it needed attention.

"I do a lot," she said.

Daughter-in-law Emily agrees.

"Debbie has a servant's heart," she said. "She is a testament of what a wife should be like."

Though the lady of the house spends many days driving a grain truck and working on the farm, she has learned to take a break with her proclaimed "Debbie Day," reserved for grandkids, quilting and weekend road trips with her farming girlfriends.

"Sometimes you just have to get away," she said.

Last summer, the Riedels vacationed together in the same house on the beaches of Lake Michigan, where

they relaxed and had fun for several days. The line is sometimes blurred between work and fun at Riedel Farms because they make a habit of enjoying all aspects of what they do as a group.

For more than a decade, the Riedels have held a pitch in, bonfire and hayride for nearly 70 family members, always preparing for the unpredictability of fall weather. An avid gardener, Keri also started a pumpkin patch some time ago, which has blossomed into a friendly family competition of growing the most, biggest and best pumpkins among households.

An antique cabinet at the Riedel's front door holds Debbie's colorful handmade quilts, and a John Deere book rests on the shelf. Debbie takes out a picture frame showing the house of their dreams come true with a phrase on the bottom that reads, "All things are possible."

Construction of their current home became a long-running family joke because the Riedels spent 10 unplanned years living and raising their children in a





Top: All six grandchildren sit on a hay bale. From left: Haven, Kason, Elijah, Braxton, Wade and Maeleigh. Above: The men of the family assemble for a photo with a tractor. From left: Kason, Braxton, Dave, Andy, Elijah, Zach and Wade. Dave and Debbie Riedel with their dog, Rocky.

four room farmhouse on the property. The house budget was spent on the farm irrigation system, so they learned to enjoy each other's company in tight quarters and shared space.

"It was great, though," David said. "It's all about family."

"I wouldn't have done it any other way," Debbie said.

What started as grandfather Frank Riedel's farm in 1956 has shifted through many working hands as years have passed, including David's dad, Dick Riedel, and uncle, Bob Rolley. David's new dream and vision is that the

business will continue in the family for many years to come.

The grandchildren are learning to help in many farm-related chores, and they change their focus from school to planting in the summer with vegetable gardens filled with green beans, tomatoes and peppers.

David smiles as he thinks about the farm's rich history and its future in the hands of his extended young family.

"It needs to go to the next generation for sure," he said. "One of the grandkids will take over."

**Cub Cadet**

## ALL-AROUND STRENGTH



### CC30H RIDING MOWER

- 10.5 HP\*\* Briggs & Stratton engine
- 30" mowing deck
- Hydrostatic transmission

STARTING AT:  
**\$2,099\***



### XT2™ LX42 LAWN TRACTOR WITH FABRICATED DECK

- 20 HP\*\* Kohler® 7000 HD V-twin engine
- 42" AeroForce™ fabricated twin-blade deck
- Tuff Torq® foot-controlled hydrostatic transmission (K46)

STARTING AT:  
**\$2,999\***



### Ultima™ ZT2 50 ZERO-TURN MOWER WITH FABRICATED DECK

- 23 HP\*\* Kawasaki® FR691V V-twin OHV engine
- 50" reinforced AeroForce™ fabricated triple-blade deck
- Dual Tuff Torq® TZ 350 transmission
- 2" x 2" tubular steel frame for enhanced durability

STARTING AT:  
**\$4,499\***

FOR FULL PRODUCT SPECS **Cub Cadet** VISIT [CUBCADET.COM](http://CUBCADET.COM)

**JACOBI**  
SALES, INC.

550 EARLYWOOD DR.  
FRANKLIN, IN 46131  
317-738-4440  
[WWW.JACOBISALES.COM](http://WWW.JACOBISALES.COM)  
Hours: M-F 8am-5pm; Sat 8am-Noon

IN-35100920

\*Product Price — Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes, freight, setup and handling charges may be additional and may vary. Models subject to limited availability. Specifications and programs are subject to change without notice. Images may not reflect dealer inventory and/or unit specifications. †† As rated by Kohler, all power levels are stated in gross horsepower at 3600 RPM per SAE J1940 as rated by engine manufacturer. †† As required by Kawasaki, horsepower tested in accordance with SAE J1995 and rated in accordance with SAE J2723 and certified by SAE International. \*\*See your local Cub Cadet Independent Dealer for warranty details. © 2022 Cub Cadet3PV\_Q\_ECOMMERCE



## NATIONAL AG DAY

# Agriculture a strong sector for future STEM jobs

**M**arch 22 marks National Agriculture Day, a time when producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America gather to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture.

Why would individuals involved in agriculture volunteer time and energy to celebrate National Ag Day? If you're reading this, that question is probably moot! Like you, the

Agriculture Council of America and its supporters are committed to increasing public awareness about American agriculture. As the world population soars, there is even greater demand for the food and fiber produced in the United States.

The National Ag day Program believes that every American should:

- Understand how food, fiber and renewable resource products are produced.

- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.

- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.

- Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food, fiber and renewable resource industries.

### The importance of ag literacy

Why Celebrate Ag Day? Americans need to understand the value of agriculture in their daily lives.

Here are just some of the key reasons why it's important to recognize — and celebrate — Ag Day each year:

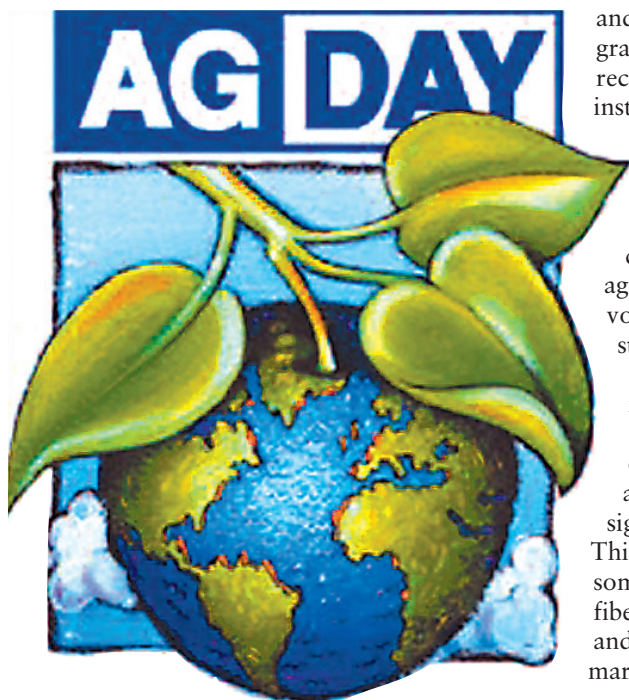
- Increased knowledge of agriculture and nutrition allows individuals to make informed personal choices about diet and health.

- Informed citizens will be able to participate in establishing the policies that will support a competitive agricultural industry in this country and abroad.

- Employment opportunities exist across the board in agriculture.

Career choices include:

Farm Production  
Agribusiness Management And Marketing  
Agricultural Research And Engineering  
Food Science  
Processing And Retailing  
Banking  
Education  
Urban Planning  
Energy  
... and other fields.



Beginning in kindergarten and continuing through 12th grade, all students should receive some systematic instruction about agriculture.

Agriculture is too important a topic to be taught only to the small percentage of students considering careers in agriculture and pursuing vocational agricultural studies.

Agricultural literacy includes an understanding of agriculture's history and current economic, social and environmental significance to all Americans. This understanding includes some knowledge of food and fiber production, processing, and domestic and international marketing.

### Careers in agriculture

The most obvious careers are directly related to the farm or ranch.

But did you know that only 10 percent of Americans are involved in traditional farming? If that is the case, then what other careers comprise the agricultural field?

There are approximately 22 million people who work in agriculture related fields. Unlike agriculture of our grandparents' day, today's agriculture offers over 200 rewarding and challenging careers.

### Career categories

Agricultural careers may be divided into various categories, which include agribusiness management, agricultural and natural resources communications, building construction management, agriscience, resource development and management, parks, recreations, and tourism resources, packaging,

horticulture, forestry, food science and fisheries/wildlife.

### Growth job market

Today, there are 3.75 million Americans employed full- and part-time in agriculture, including forestry, fishing and other activities. In comparison, the tech sector supports 4.3 million jobs. If one were to look at food-related industries, the numbers jump way up. In fact, one in 12 American jobs is dependent on agriculture.

Looking ahead, the Bureau of Labor Statistics is predicting a 19 percent decline by the year 2022 in the number of farmers, ranchers and other agricultural managers. This compares with an 11 percent increase in jobs for all occupations. But the outlook for jobs in agriculture is more promising than it first appears. The projected decline in farmers points to the continuing ability of the agriculture sector to produce more with fewer workers. By using drones, driverless tractors and other advanced technology, the farmer of the future will increasingly rely more on brains than brawn.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics notes an increasing number of small-scale farmers who have developed successful market niches that involve personalized, direct contact with consumers. The BLS also finds that completing a degree at a college of agriculture is becoming important for men and women who want to farm or work in a supporting role.

### Opportunities for college grads

What's most encouraging are prospects for good jobs in all of agriculture, from large, highly-capitalized operations to small farms that supply farmer's markets and local restaurants.

This is confirmed in an Agriculture Department report that says college graduates will find good employment opportunities over the next five years in food, agriculture, renewable natural resources or the environment.

In the coming years, USDA expects to see almost 58,000 average job openings per year for graduates with a bachelor's degree or higher in those areas.

The strongest job market is expected for plant scientists, food scientists, sustainable biomaterials specialists, water resources scientists and engineers, precision agriculture specialists, and farm-animal veterinarians. A strong market is expected for e-commerce managers and marketing agents, ecosystem managers, ag-science educators, crop advisors and pest control specialists.

To learn more about National Ag Day and careers in agriculture, visit <https://www.agday.org/education>



## FARMERS BREAKFAST

# Annual Ag Breakfast set for March 16 at fairgrounds



The Johnson County Ag Breakfast is March 16 from 7:30-9 a.m. in Scott Hall on the Johnson County fairgrounds.

Cost is \$1 per person.

RSVP by March 11 to [johnsonces@purdue.edu](mailto:johnsonces@purdue.edu).

Two guest speakers will be at the breakfast.

### Andrea Huntington

Andrea serves as the executive director for Indiana Land Protection Alliance, a statewide alliance that unites and empowers Indiana's land trusts and land conservation organizations. Collectively, ILPA's members have protected over 140,000 acres throughout the state.

Andrea has a law degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law and bachelor's degree in Political Science and English from Temple University. She has been active with the land trust community since 2017, following a rewarding career in the public sector.

Andrea grew up in rural Pennsylvania, but considers the midwest "home." She and her husband, Mickey, have two rescue dogs, Reggie and Noodles, and a clumsy cat, Neville.



### Jon Zirkle

Jon Zirkle is the director of Wood-Land-Lakes RC & D, a nonprofit land trust organization which works with farmers and landowners in northern Indiana to protect farmland. Jon also directs a small educational farm in Elkhart, called Bushelcraft Farm, which teaches classes and workshops, offers CSA shares, donates produce and runs a high school youth internship program. Previously Jon worked for Goshen College's field station ("Merry Lea") in Noble County from 2013-2019 as farm manager and teaching college agriculture classes. From 2012-2013, Jon worked with field crop farmers on soil health and cover cropping while working for Michigan State University Extension. Jon was born and raised in central and southern Indiana and has family ties to Johnson County. He and his wife live in Goshen, where they enjoy growing vegetables, persimmons and pawpaws in their backyard.



## NEWS

### Suggest a farm family

If you would like to suggest a local farm family to be honored as the Johnson County Farm Family of the Year, contact county Extension Director Sarah Hanson, [sspeedy@purdue.edu](mailto:sspeedy@purdue.edu) or 317-736-3724.

### Fair time

The 2022 Johnson County 4-H and Agricultural Fair is set for July 17-23.

### New online floodplain tool will save time

A new Indiana Floodplain Information Portal (INFIP) is available that will save users valuable time.

INFIP is designed to show flood risk associated with Indiana bodies of water and provide information specifically for local and state floodplain permitting. The information is based on the regulatory floodplain limits, because floods exceeding the regulatory floodplain can and do occur.

With this new tool, the user can download a Floodplain Analysis and Regulatory Assessment (FARA) directly from the app. The tool reduces FARA wait times from 30 to 60 days to a matter of minutes. The user also has an option to file for staff review of their site.

The new site is at [infip.dnr.IN.gov](http://infip.dnr.IN.gov).

### USDA to gather new data on certified organic production

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service is conducting the 2021 Organic Survey to gather data on certified organic crops and livestock commodities. This effort will help determine the economic impact of certified organic agriculture production on the nation.

NASS is mailing the survey to all known certified organic farms and ranches within the 50 states. The questionnaire asks producers to provide information on acreage, production and sales as well as production and marketing practices. Participants should

respond by April 4. Producers can return their questionnaires by mail or complete them at [www.agcounts.usda.gov](http://www.agcounts.usda.gov) using the new Respondent Portal.

"We continue to receive requests for updated data on organic farms, especially to measure growth in the production sector of the organic industry," said Donald Buysse, chief of the Census Planning Branch at NASS. "According to the 2019 survey, U.S. certified organic producers sold a total of \$9.93 billion in products, up 31% over 2016. That is a significant increase, and this upcoming survey will help determine if that type of growth has been sustained."



# Climate change will influence ag livelihoods

The theme of Ag Day for 2022 nationally is “Growing a Climate for Tomorrow.” Since I work for Johnson County Purdue Extension (just celebrated nine years), I would be remiss if I didn’t tell you about the Purdue Climate Change Research Center. And as it states on their website, climate change affects each of us in unique ways.

For many people, including those in the agriculture industry, climate change influences their livelihoods. If you are trying to grow any kind of plant outside (corn, soybeans, vegetables, hay, etc) then the weather extremes of drought, flooding and temperatures swings are possibly a sore subject. To all the folks doing what they can to prevent erosion, I say “thank you.” Soil is a very valuable resource we need.

Hopefully there are some people reading this who are not in the agriculture industry. They might be wondering about climate change, too. Does it affect



everyone? Should I do anything? Most likely the answers here are “yes.” Simple things help our planet, such as riding your bike or walking instead of driving. We can also switch to LED lights and have more energy efficient appliances. Maybe growing some of your own food in a garden is worth a try this year. If you are not sure how to get that started, please feel free to contact me. A large part of my job involves yard/garden education.

You can learn more about Purdue’s Climate Change Research Center at <https://ag.purdue.edu/climate/> On the site, there are resources for teachers about climate change. This was a team effort between Purdue and the Indiana Department of Education. To bring it even closer to home, the educators at the Johnson County Purdue Extension office can visit local schools to deliver the “Nature of Teaching” program. The lessons range from learning about woodland habitat to food waste and the environment.

Learning about climate change is enlightening but also a little scary. No one wants increased stress to crops and livestock due to warmer temperatures. No one wants lower air quality or increased ticks (Lyme disease). The part that is a relief to know is that our communities can prepare for the future. The speakers at the Ag Day breakfast will talk about protecting land, another thing that can be done to help. Local governments can also use incentives and regulations to minimize impacts created by climate change (emissions from vehicles and buildings).

If you want to learn more about what Johnson County Purdue Extension can offer you, please reach out to us 317-736-3724 or [johnsonces@purdue.edu](mailto:johnsonces@purdue.edu). Our office is on the north end of the fairgrounds.



Sarah Hanson is the ag & natural resources educator and county extension director/Purdue Extension Johnson County. She can be reached at [sspeedy@purdue.edu](mailto:sspeedy@purdue.edu) or 317-736-3724.

## We have Parts & Service after the sell!

6 YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY ON ALL BRANSON TRACTORS



- 22 HP - 58 HP
- Large Operator's Station with Deluxe Seat
- Heavy Duty 3pt Hitch with Pin Style Stabilizers and Adjustable Lower Links
- Yoke type Rock Shaft Arms
- Fully synchronized transmission and shuttle
- 2 Backhoe Options: 7 1/2 & 8 1/2 Foot Digging Depth-Frame Mounted Units
- High Capacity Loader with Skid Steer Bucket (standard) 2700 lb Lift Capacity at Full Height of 104 inches



GET 0% Financing W.A.C. OR a Free Loader on certain models. Call for details!

# DAVE'S FARM SERVICE LLC

50 N. Eisenhower Dr., Edinburg, IN  
812-526-5504  
[www.davesfarmservice.com](http://www.davesfarmservice.com)

## CUSTOM PROCESSING

We custom process beef, pork, lambs & goats.

Catering for all budgets!

- |            |                   |
|------------|-------------------|
| Weddings   | Lunches           |
| Receptions | Company Picnics   |
| Banquets   | Open Houses       |
| Parties    | Business Meetings |



Meats & Catering  
[www.cateringbyarchers.com](http://www.cateringbyarchers.com)

259 S. Meridian St., Greenwood, IN

317-881-9300

Hours: T-F 9-6; Sat 9-4; Closed Sun & Mon

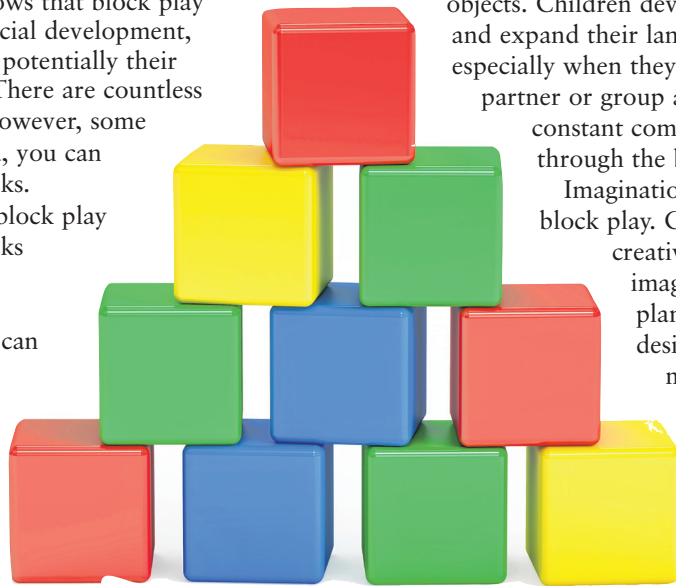
“Where excellence & quality count.”



# Use homemade items for imaginative block play

**D**o you know the importance of block play? Research shows that block play helps children's social development, physical skills and potentially their school readiness. There are countless options available for purchase however, some can be somewhat pricey; instead, you can make your own homemade blocks.

You may be asking how does block play help children? Playing with blocks helps children learn, helps them prepare for school and helps promote healthy bodies. Youths can develop math, geometry and spatial skills by learning all about shapes, sizes, parts and wholes and quantities. It gives them the opportunity to begin to understand how to think about and see objects from different viewpoints. They also gain physical skills as they move their fine motor muscles to use their hands to move the objects as they build. They use gross motor muscles when they use their arms and



leg to bend over, reach and balance objects. Children develop social skills and expand their language skills, especially when they work with a partner or group as they are in constant communication through the building process.

Imaginations flourish with block play. Children can use creative thinking and imagination when planning and designing their masterpieces. This is also a great time for children to learn about concepts of gravity as block pieces may tumble

down when unbalanced. They then learn how to create supports so structures can stand. It is a wonderful opportunity for encouraging early interest

in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Several household items that you already have are wonderful for homemade blocks. Example items include gift boxes, shoeboxes, empty food boxes, paper towel tubes, plastic top snack containers, yogurt containers, cardboard shipping materials, books, plastic bottles, tissue boxes, etc. An idea to improve long-term use and improve sturdiness is to wrap items in duct tape or a strong tape, especially thin boxes.

Encouraging block play is very beneficial for young children. We all have countless items around our homes that can easily be used to make your own homemade blocks. Let's encourage creativity and imaginative play today.



*Amanda Veenhuizen is the health and human sciences educator at Purdue Extension. She can be reached at [aveenhuizen@purdue.edu](mailto:aveenhuizen@purdue.edu) or 317-736-3724.*

**QUALITY LANDSCAPE**  
EST 1994  
**MCCARTY**  
MULCH & STONE  
SUPPLIES

Quality landscape products you expect, and the service you deserve!

**Buy Direct & Save!**

See McCarty Mulch & Stone for all your landscape mulch, landscape rock, and bulk material needs. From the highest quality mulches, to decorative rock, topsoil and everything else in between.

**(317) 885-1985**

1/10 of a mile north of Smith Valley Rd. on St. Rd. 37

ORDER ONLINE TODAY: [landscapemulch.com](http://landscapemulch.com)

**Relax ...**

**Let Us Do The Work!**

Services include:

- Lawn Fertilization
- Weed Control
- Aeration • Grub Control
- Perimeter Insect Control

**FREE ESTIMATE!**

**ROBARDS & SONS**  
LAWN CARE, INC.  
"Let's Start A Growing Friendship"

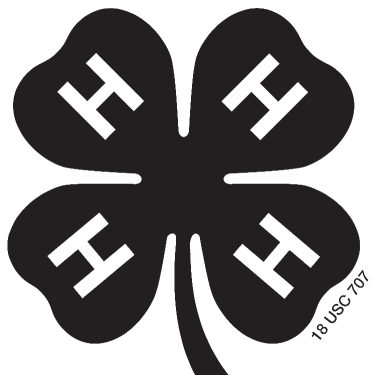
Give us a call today for a  
**317-422-8411**



# Chef University encourages healthy eating habits

**C**DC data on the health status of children and adolescents show 20.6% of adolescents and 18.4% of children are obese. Almost two-thirds of boys and girls consume at least one sugar-sweetened beverage on a given day. Sugar-sweetened beverages contribute calories and added sugars to the diets of U.S. children. There is a lack of high-quality intervention studies on childhood cooking programs which could positively impact youth willingness to try new foods, likelihood they would try foods if they cooked or grew it, and confidence in preparing food and following recipes.

Johnson County 4-H implemented Chef University for middle school youths, including six hours of instruction about eating healthy and safely preparing food. Of the 11 youth participants, nine completed the post-survey for a response rate of 81.8%. Two-thirds (66.7%) of the youth were in the fourth grade, and over half (55.6%) reported they were female and reported not knowing their race/ethnicity.



The Johnson County Chef University program was held across multiple sessions from June 3 to June 28. For healthy eating, most youths (88.9%) reported that they pay attention (“Yes” or “Usually”) to how much water they drink each day; 77.8% reported they pay attention to how much fruit they eat each day; and 66.7% reported they pay attention to how many sugary drinks they drink each day. All youths reported they eat a meal with their families most days or every day, and they reported eating breakfast most days or every day. All youths reported eating fast food “some days.” All youths (100%) reported they learned about healthy food choices at 4-H, and most (77.7%) have given their families ideas for healthy meals or snacks.

After attending Johnson County Chef University, all youths reported they know how to handle hot pots and pans safely, 88.9% reported they know how to use knives safely and 66.7% reported they know how to follow a recipe to make something to eat. For past 4-H participation, half of the youths (50%) indicated they are in, or have been in, a 4-H club. There were 37.5%

of youths who reported that this was their first 4-H event. Youths indicated for future 4-H participation, they would like to meet in person about the same topic a few times or to share 4-H projects with others.

This Chef University program helps youths learn about healthy eating habits, food preparation skills, and contributing to their peers, families and communities for positive behaviors involving food.

It is also not too late to enroll in Johnson County 4-H for the 2022 year. Regular 4-H is for youths in Grades 3-12 and the program fee is \$25. We also offer Mini 4-H for Grades K-2 and there is no program fee. If you are interested in enrolling in 4-H, please visit <https://v2.4honline.com> or [www.extension.purdue.edu/johnson](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/johnson) for more information.



*Heather Dougherty is the extension educator-4-H youth development/ Purdue Extension Johnson County. She can be reached at [hdougher@purdue.edu](mailto:hdougher@purdue.edu) or 317-736-3724.*

**Finding a great deal on farm insurance starts with finding a great agent.**



**C. Billingsley    D. Smith    C. Morris    K. Carson    N. McCollum**

Not Pictured - Christa Carson - Weaver & Jennifer Kean

**J & S Farmers Insurance Agency, LLC**

1924 Longest Drive,  
Franklin, IN 46131  
(317) 736-6744



IN-35099999

**PROTECT YOUR FARM WITH THE #1 FARM INSURER IN INDIANA**



**Franklin Office**  
(317) 736-6128

**Whiteland Office**  
(317) 751-3002

**Greenwood Office**  
(317) 882-9700

IN-35100520

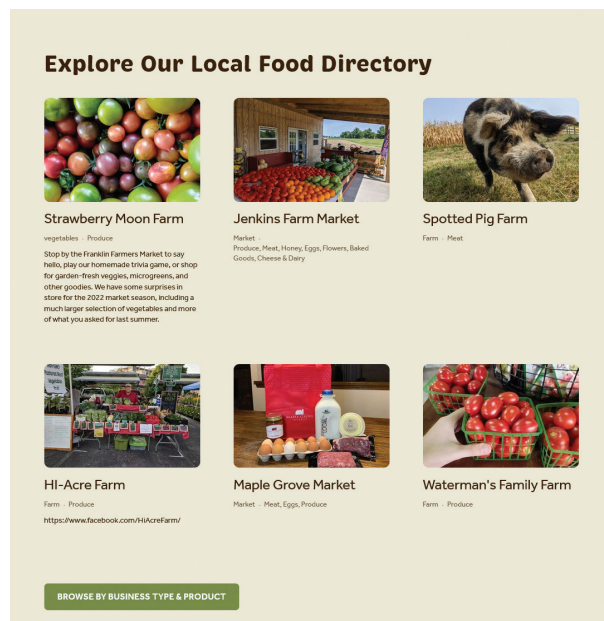


# Food Council site seeks feedback from residents

One of the many things that the COVID-19 pandemic brought to light is the importance of being able to access fresh, healthy food. More and more people sought out information on food preservation, sourcing local food, gardening and how to access nearby food pantries. Purdue Extension plays an active role in providing education and resources on these topics.

In order to disseminate education and resources in the community, we rely on partnerships. Last year, over 235 pounds of produce were donated to local food pantries from the garden at Needham Elementary thanks to a partnership with our local Extension office, Purdue Extension Master Gardeners, the Purdue Extension Nutrition Education Program and the school.

Another important partnership is one with the Johnson County Local Food Council. Purdue Extension staff actively serve on the council. The mission of the council is to implement a thriving local food system that ensures access to healthy, affordable food through education, outreach and strategic relationships. To help further the mission, the council applied for, and received, a food council development



grant from Indiana Grown in 2021, which supported the creation of a new website.

The council invites you to explore the new site (<https://www.jocolocalfood.org/>) and welcomes

feedback you might have. Please note that the local food directory is not an exhaustive list of all local food sources connected to Johnson County. A form is located on the site to add or update a listing.

Additionally, monthly meetings are open to anyone and have featured guest speakers from the Society of St. Andrew, Spotted Pig Farm, the Well-Watered Garden Initiative, Michelle's Little Free Pantry, Farm to School and more. The meetings are held via zoom and in person at Grace United Methodist Church.

Erin Slevin is the Community Wellness Coordinator, serving Johnson and Morgan counties, Purdue Extension Nutrition Education Program. She can be reached at [eslevin@purdue.edu](mailto:eslevin@purdue.edu) or 317-736-3724.



Erin Slevin is the community wellness coordinator/Purdue Extension Nutrition Education Program. She can be reached at [eslevin@purdue.edu](mailto:eslevin@purdue.edu) or 317-736-3724.



**HALDERMAN**  
REAL ESTATE & FARM MANAGEMENT

We combine dedication and area expertise to provide you the service you deserve. This is a **relationship business** and we are here to help people with their farm needs - *whether that's management, a sale or appraisal.*

Contact us today, to see how we can help with your farm needs. Browse our upcoming listings at **halderman.com**.



**Dave Bonnell**  
Columbus, IN  
812.343.4313  
[daveb@halderman.com](mailto:daveb@halderman.com)



**Michael Bonnell**  
Hope, IN  
812.343.6036  
[michaelb@halderman.com](mailto:michaelb@halderman.com)

Farm Management | Real Estate | Appraisals | Farm Investment | Auctions

800.424.2324 | [halderman.com](http://halderman.com)



## You know farming. We know farm financing.

Farm Credit offers loans, leases and crop insurance.



**FRANKLIN OFFICE**  
100 International Drive • Franklin, IN 46131  
Call 317-736-6664  
[www.e-farmcredit.com](http://www.e-farmcredit.com)



# FARM SERVICES DIRECTORY

## Agriculture and Natural Resources — Extension Educator

Provides the latest scientific information in horticulture and agriculture production, management, and marketing to urban, suburban, and rural people. Conducts continuing education programs with consumers, home gardeners, agricultural producers and distributors. Oversees community development programs that study problems, needs and goals of the community. Sarah Hanson, County Extension Director, Extension Educator, Agriculture/Natural Resources, Johnson County Extension Office, 484 N. Morton St., Franklin, IN 46131, 317-736-3724. Info: [sspeedy@purdue.edu](mailto:sspeedy@purdue.edu)

## Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Responsible for preventing the entry and spread of exotic pests in the United States and eradicating those that enter. If you are planning a trip overseas and want to know what agricultural items you can bring back, call your local APHIS representative Nick Johnson, 701 W. Madison St., Ste. E, Franklin, IN 46131, 317-736-6822.

## Community Wellness Coordinator

Community Wellness Coordinators collaborate with organizations and individuals to make the healthy choice the easy choice where we live, learn, work and play. Examples include working with local coalitions on community gardens, school and workplace wellness, trails, farm to school initiatives, increasing healthy food access and more. The Purdue Extension Nutrition Education Program works to improve the nutrition and health of audiences with limited resources within five focus areas: nutrition, food safety, food security (hunger), physical activity and food resource management (stretching food dollars). Erin Slevin, Community Wellness Coordinator, Johnson & Morgan Counties, Nutrition Education Program, Purdue Extension, 484 N. Morton St., Franklin, IN 46131, 317-736-3724. Info: [eslevin@purdue.edu](mailto:eslevin@purdue.edu)

## Division of Forestry, IDNR

Provides free forest management assistance to any private landowner in Johnson County, including management planning, timber sale advice, tree planting plans, insect and disease control, maple

symp production. Responsible for administering the Indiana Classified Forest Program, which provides a property tax reduction as an incentive to manage timber and wildlife habitat on parcels greater than 10 acres. Info: <http://findindianforester.org> District Forester, Zachary Smith at 317-232-4117 [zsmith@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:zsmith@dnr.IN.gov)

## Division of Fish and Wildlife, IDNR

Assists landowners in developing wildlife habitat through technical advice and management plans. Offers financial assistance through Game Bird Habitat Development Program and Wildlife Habitat Cost-Share Program. Also provides technical advice for dealing with nuisance wildlife. Info: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/2352.htm> or Erin Basiger, South Region Landscape Biologist, 765-276-3047 or [ebasiger@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:ebasiger@dnr.IN.gov)

## Farm Service Agency

Responsible for administering federal farm subsidy programs. Other programs include price support loans, dairy program, facility loans and the Conservation Reserve Program, where cost-sharing on conservation practices is done with landowners. The FSA also assists the Natural Resources and Conservation Service in its programs. Info: Brian Catt, County Executive Director, 317-736-6822, ext. 2. [Brian.Catt@in.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Catt@in.usda.gov) The office is at 701 W. Madison St., Ste. E, Franklin, IN 46131

## Farmers Clubs

Assist young farmers and agribusinesses with educational programs and practical experiences. Johnson County clubs are: Trafalgar Young Farmers and Johnson County Farm Bureau Young Farmers.

## 4-H

An informal, practical, learn-by-doing educational program that helps youths establish real-life goals and become competent, productive citizens. The 4-H program is for rural and urban youths in Grades K-12. The 4-H program in Johnson County involves 1,057 4-H'ers, 193 mini 4-H'ers and 134 4-H leaders in 32 4-H clubs. For more information contact the Johnson County Extension Office at 317-736-3724.

## 4-H and Youth Development — Extension Educator

Leads programs that provide learning experiences

for youths to develop individual talents, skills and leadership abilities. Youth educators work cooperatively with local leadership and groups concerned with youths to develop programs. Heather Dougherty, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development, Johnson County Extension Office, 484 N. Morton St., Franklin, IN 46131, 317-736-3724. Info: [hdougher@purdue.edu](mailto:hdougher@purdue.edu)

## Health and Human Sciences — Extension Educator

The Health and Human Sciences educator provides research-based information and informal educational programs related to overall health, nutrition, food safety, mental/emotional health and physical activity. Information is also available in the areas of money management and human development. The Health and Human Sciences educator works with local leadership and agencies involved with improving the quality of individual, family and community life.

Amanda Veenhuizen, Extension Educator, Health and Human, Johnson County Extension Office, 484 N. Morton St., Franklin, IN 46131, 317-736-3724. Info: [aveenhuizen@purdue.edu](mailto:aveenhuizen@purdue.edu)

## Johnson County Beef Cattle Association

An affiliate of the Indiana Beef Cattle Association, it improves the beef cattle industry through education for producers and consumers. Officers for 2021: Mike Hardamon, president; Brian Young, vice president; Keegan Poe, secretary; and Tim Gaughan, treasurer. Information: Facebook: Johnson County Beef Cattle Association (Indiana)

## Purdue University Extension — Johnson County

Provides informal educational opportunities for all county residents. Financial support is provided by the county, state and federal governments. Extension educators serve as the link between research and practical application of ideas. Educational opportunities are available in each county in agriculture, horticulture, community development, foods and nutrition, health and human science, 4-H and youth development. Johnson County Extension Office, 484 N. Morton St., Franklin, IN 46131 317-736-3724

## Johnson County Extension Board

Purdue Extension Johnson County consists of the

Johnson County Extension Board representing the citizens of Johnson County, Indiana. The County Extension Board is the advisory and advocacy body of the overall Purdue University Cooperative Extension in Johnson County.

The Board provides an organized way for the county to be represented by local people in its relationship with Extension. They are not legal governmental entities, but rather unincorporated associations serving in advisory capacities to the Johnson County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service. The Board's four functions are:

1. Program Planning, Implementation and Evaluation
  2. Financial Support and Resource Identification
  3. Advocacy for Extension; and
  4. Personnel Recommendation and Assistance
- The board is composed of adults and youths representing various interests throughout the county. If you would be interested in serving on the Johnson County Extension Board, please contact Sarah Hanson at 317-736-3724 or [sspeedy@purdue.edu](mailto:sspeedy@purdue.edu)

## Johnson County Extension Homemakers

Their mission is to strengthen families through continuing education, leadership, development and volunteer community support.

The first two clubs were formed in Johnson County in 1914. There are 223 members in the county's 9 clubs.

An executive board governs the organization and includes Cathy Cook, president; Barb Blake and Bev Waltz, co-vice presidents; Jane Miller, secretary; Kathy Vest, treasurer; and Deb Baker, past county president.

Information: Cathy Cook, 317-736-3724 or [www.extension.purdue.edu/johnson](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/johnson)

## Johnson County Garden Clubs

We have at least three active garden clubs in Johnson County. They offer opportunities with speakers, volunteering at various community garden sites and social experiences with others interested in vegetable or flower gardening.

Johnson County Garden Club meets monthly with a speaker or does a site visit to various garden locations. Gary Kiesel is the president. They can be reached at [jcgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:jcgardenclub@gmail.com).

Trafalgar Country Gardeners meet monthly in the Trafalgar area. They work in several community garden areas and make a tree for the annual holiday decorating contest at the museum. They sponsor the Youth Gardening Camp provided by Extension.



**Proud supporters of our Agriculture Community**

**HONEY CREEK AUTO PARTS**

2370 N. SR. 135 / P.O. Box 37  
Bargersville, IN. 46106  
**317.422.1092**



300 E. SR. 135  
Morgantown, IN. 46160  
**812.597.4412**



**kw** INDY METRO SOUTH  
KELLER WILLIAMS. REALTY

**THE ABELS**

Dan and Debbie (Pruitt) Abel  
[TheAbels@kw.com](mailto:TheAbels@kw.com)  
317-412-0959  
317-412-0960

**Your HOME GROWN Realtors!**



Karen & Rich Gotshall are the contacts and can be reached at gotshalls@gmail.com. Cultivating Garden Club of Greenwood is another of our county garden clubs. Julie Wells serves as their president. They can be reached at cultivatinggardenclub@comcast.net.

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

Provides technical assistance in developing plans and carries out programs for protecting and developing the nation's soil, water and related natural resources. Tony Branam, District Conservationist, 701 W. Madison St., Ste. E, Franklin, IN 46131; 317-736-6822, ext. 3 or 317-373-2062 Tony.Branam@in.usda.gov

### Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District

Mission: To conserve and enhance our soil, water, and other natural resources by coordinating with local partners to provide technical, financial and educational opportunities in Johnson County.

Staff: Kathy Haste, director; Blair Beavers, assistant director and education coordinator; Melissa South, agricultural conservation programs.

Board of supervisors 2021: Kevin Thompson, Joe Bill Misiniec, Chris Campbell, Jim Risch and David Harrell. They are located at 550 E. Jefferson St. Ste. 202, Franklin, IN 46131; 317-736-9540.

The SWCD offers free education programs to Johnson County classrooms, organizations, groups and others interested in conservation education. These programs cover a wide variety of content, including the water cycle, water quality and conservation, rocks and minerals, worms, soil conservation and composition, the Enviroscape and trees. The programs are designed for Grades K-12, and volunteers will work to align the programs with the appropriate Indiana Academic Standards for the given age group. If they do not have a program that fits your needs, call and they will help plan one just for your group. All programs must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance. In-school, afternoon and evening programs are available. Contact Blair Beavers at the SWCD office at 317-736-9540 or blair-beavers@iaswcd.org to schedule a program or for more information.

### Youth Conservation Board

Organized in 1985 to develop and encourage the conservation of natural resources, the Youth Conservation Board is composed of students in Grades 9-12 from various Johnson County high schools and meets monthly. The youth board works with the approval of the Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District. Currently the youth board is taking a break but hopes to regroup in the fall.

## FFA

# Indiana celebrates National FFA week

### INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National FFA Week was in late February and FFA Chapters across the state and nation marked the event by educating, advocating and celebrating the agriculture industry and the FFA Organization.

In honor of National FFA Week, 115 Indiana FFA members met in the Statehouse to speak with legislators and promote the student-led organization. The members were able to meet and hear from their elected leaders and statewide officials, including Gov. Eric Holcomb and Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch.

"It is always a pleasure to meet FFA members from across the state and hear about the passion they have for the FFA Organization and skills and knowledge they gain from being a part of it," Crouch said. "Filling the Statehouse with blue and gold is such an incredible way to celebrate this exciting week."

Holcomb signed a proclamation to recognize FFA Week and honor all the work the Indiana FFA Organization, agriculture educators and FFA advisors do to cultivate the next generation of agriculturists for our state.

"Each year during National FFA Week I am reminded how powerful this organization is in securing our agricultural workforce by equipping students with the knowledge as well as the personal and professional skills



Indiana FFA State Officers, Abby Stuckwisch (right), Southern Region Vice President, and Nicholas Newman, (left), Secretary, met with Sen. Jean Leising who authored the FFA Week Resolution

they need for success," said Bruce Kettler, director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture.

"Throughout this week I encourage everyone to find a way to support a chapter in their area who is laying the foundation for our future leaders."

This year, the Indiana FFA Association received a house concurrent resolution highlighting the impact of the FFA Organization, which is preparing more than 11,500 members in 91 of Indiana's 92 counties for the over 250 unique careers in the food, fiber and natural resource sectors.

Abby Stuckwisch, 2021-22 Indiana FFA Southern Region Vice President shared what this resolution means to her and the FFA Organization.

"Indiana FFA is honored to have a legislature that supports and promotes

agriculture education and the experiential learning provided by Indiana FFA," Stuckwisch said. "I feel truly blessed to be able to witness this proclamation of support."

FFA Advocacy Day was one of many events that took place to raise awareness about the importance of the organization, the agriculture industry and agricultural education. Local chapters will be hosting community service projects and workshops, and will be joined by the Indiana FFA state officers, who will be traveling around the state to promote the organization.

"Advocacy Day provides a unique opportunity to talk to legislators about agricultural issues that I am passionate about. I greatly appreciate this opportunity and am thankful for their support of FFA," Jenna Kelsey, Whiteland FFA member said.

*Grace United Methodist Church*

*Serving and Loving Our Community*

Saturday Worship - 5:30 p.m. • Sunday Worship - 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
Live Stream at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. via [www.franklingrace.org](http://www.franklingrace.org)  
Call 317-736-7962 for more information.

IN-35099820

**FARM BUREAU NEEDS YOU**

Join the family farmers of Johnson County and make a difference in our community, state and nation.

Contact us to learn more.

**Johnson County Farm Bureau**

99 N. Morton Street, Franklin, IN • (317)736-6128

IN-35100041



## HISTORY

# Black innovators reshaped gardening and farming

BY JESSICA DAMIANO  
ASSOCIATED PRESS



This 1902 portrait provided by The Library of Congress shows George Washington Carver, front row, center, seated with other staff members on the steps of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama. (Frances Benjamin Johnston/Library of Congress via AP)

The achievements of George Washington Carver, the 19th century scientist credited with hundreds of inventions, including 300 uses for peanuts, have landed him in American history textbooks.

But many other agricultural practices, innovations and foods that traveled with enslaved people from West Africa — or were developed by their descendants — remain unsung, despite having revolutionized the way we eat, farm and garden.

Among the medicinal and food staples introduced by the African diaspora were sorghum, millet, African rice, yams, black-eyed peas, watermelon, eggplant, okra, sesame and kola nut, whose extract was a main ingredient in the original Coca-Cola recipe.

Whether captives smuggled seeds and plants from aboard slave ships or captains purchased them in Africa for planting in America, key components of the West African diet also journeyed along the Middle Passage across the Atlantic.

After long days spent working on the plantation's fields, many enslaved people grew their own gardens to supplement their meager rations.

“The plantation owners could then force them to show them how to grow those foods,” said Judith Carney, a professor of geography at UCLA and co-author of “In the Shadow of Slavery: Africa’s Botanical Legacy in the Atlantic World” (University of California Press, 2011).

**LANDPROZ**

**ERIC RICHARDS**

LANDPROZ OF INDIANA  
BROKER / FARM MANAGER  
Indiana  
317-557-1376  
ericrichards@landproz.com

PROFESSIONAL LAND BROKERS AND AUCTIONEERS

IN 3509981 5

**PREMIER**  
**Companies**

Fertilizer | Chemicals | Seed | LP Gas | Home Heat | Gas & Diesel

**800-742-9385**

IN 35100007



“Those crops would then become commodities,” said Carney, who spent a decade tracing such food origins by reconciling oral history with written documents.

It’s no coincidence, then, that “many of the agricultural practices seen in Africa were also happening in the South,” said Michael W. Twitty, culinary historian and James Beard-winning author of “The Cooking Gene” (Amistad, 2017).

Multicropping (growing different types of plants in one plot), permaculture (emulating natural ecosystems) and planting on mounds (arguably the precursor of berms) can be traced to African agricultural practices, said Twitty, who partnered with Colonial Williamsburg last year to establish the Sankofa Heritage Garden, a living replica of the type of garden grown by enslaved people during that era.

History did not record many inventions of enslaved Africans, in no small part because slaveowners often claimed credit. Some, however, were recognized, as were the accomplishments of many who came after them.

Here are five early Black innovators whose contributions reshaped the agricultural landscape:

### **Henry Blair (1807-1860)**

Only the second Black man to be awarded a U.S. patent (Thomas L. Jennings, who invented an early method of dry-cleaning clothes in 1821, is believed to be the first), Blair designed a wheelbarrow-type corn planter to help farmers sow seeds more effectively. Two years later, he received a second patent for a mechanical horse-drawn cotton planter, which increased yield and productivity.

Details about the Maryland farmer and inventor’s personal life, including whether he was born into slavery, are scarce.

### **George Washington Carver (circa 1864-1943)**

Peanuts, believed to have originated in South America, were brought to Spain by European explorers before making their way to Africa. They then traveled back to the Western Hemisphere aboard slave ships in the 1700s. By the late 1800s, the legume had grown from a Southern regional crop to one with national appeal across the United States.

It was around that time that Carver, who was born into slavery in Missouri and freed as a child after the Civil War, earned a master’s degree from Iowa State Agricultural College.

As head of the agriculture program at Alabama’s Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute (today’s Tuskegee University), Carver gained fame for his peanut research and invented hundreds of peanut-based versions of products, including flour, coffee, Worcestershire sauce, beverages, hen food, soap, laxatives, shampoo, leather dye, paper, insecticide, linoleum and insulation.

He also devised alternative uses for other crops, and is credited with discovering the soil-rejuvenating benefits of compost and promoting crop rotation as a means of preventing the depletion of soil nutrients.

### **Frederick McKinley Jones (1893-1961)**

With a background in electrical engineering, Jones is credited with many inventions — from a portable X-ray machine to a broadcast radio transmitter — but one in particular made a drastic

impact on the modern American diet: mobile refrigeration technology.

Jones, who was born in Cincinnati and settled in Minnesota, developed a refrigeration system that was installed in trucks, train cars, airplanes and ships, enabling the safe transport of perishable foods around the world.

### **Booker T. Whatley (1915-2005)**

An Alabama horticulturist and agriculture professor at Tuskegee University, Whatley introduced the concept of “clientele membership clubs” in the 1960s to help struggling Black farmers, who often were denied the loans and grants afforded to their white counterparts.

The farmers would sell pre-paid boxes of their crops at the beginning of the season to ensure a guaranteed income. In many instances, customers would harvest their shares themselves, which saved on labor costs.

Today’s Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs) and U-Pick farming enterprises grew directly from Whatley’s ideas, as, it can be argued, did the farm-to-table and eat-local movements.

Whatley also pioneered sustainable agriculture and regenerative farming practices to maximize biodiversity and keep soil healthy and productive. His handbook “How to Make \$100,000 Farming 25 Acres” (Regenerative Agricultural Assn. of Rodale Institute, 1987) is still regarded as an important resource for small farmers.

### **Edmond Albius (1829-1880)**

Although not American, Albius, who was enslaved as a youth and living on the French colony island of Réunion in

the Indian Ocean, is responsible for the worldwide distribution of vanilla.

The plant had been brought from Mexico to Europe by the explorer Hernán Cortés but did not produce beans there due to the absence of a specific pollinator bee indigenous to Mexico.

A man named Ferréol Bellier-Beaumont, who lived on Réunion, had come to own Edmond and taught him from a young age how to care for his many plants. One of those lessons included instruction for hand pollination, manually transferring pollen from male flowers to female flowers to produce fruit.

In the 1840s, 12-year-old Edmond examined Bellier-Beaumont’s vanilla vine flowers, which had been growing without yield for two decades, and observed that their male and female reproductive organs were not on separate flowers but contained within a single flower, separated by a flap-like membrane. He moved the flap and, beneath it, spread the pollen from the stamen to the pistil. Before long, the plants were producing beans.

Word spread, and Réunion began cultivating vanilla and exporting it overseas. Within 50 years, the island had surpassed Mexico in vanilla production. Albius’ pollination technique reshaped the vanilla industry and remains in use worldwide.

---

*Jessica Damiano is an award-winning gardening writer, master gardener and educator. She writes The Weekly Dirt newsletter and creates an annual wall calendar of daily gardening tips. Send her a note at [jessica@jessicadamiano.com](mailto:jessica@jessicadamiano.com) and find her at [jessicadamiano.com](http://jessicadamiano.com) and on Instagram @JesDamiano.*



**Johnson County Soil and Water  
Conservation District**  
550 E. Jefferson St. Franklin, IN 46131  
317-736-9540 [www.jocoswcd.org](http://www.jocoswcd.org)

Water is Life - Soil Makes Life Possible

The district is a unit of Indiana’s state government responsible for soil and water conservation programs within Johnson County. The mission of the district is to conserve and enhance our soil, water, and other natural resources by coordinating with local partners to provide technical, financial, and educational opportunities in Johnson County.

IN-35100933



**JCREMC**  
Your Electric Cooperative

[jcremc.com](http://jcremc.com)

**JCFiber**

[jcfiber.com](http://jcfiber.com)



## HEALTH

# Rural Health workshops aim to alleviate stress, pressure

### INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Untreated or ignored stress and mental health issues in rural areas impact quality of life, economic development and lives of farmers, the agriculture workforce and rural families. To raise awareness and help reduce the stigma surrounding mental health in the agriculture industry, the Healthy Minds, Healthy Lives program was created by the Indiana Rural Health Association. Twenty-three free, one-day insightful workshops with subject matter experts will be conducted in 2022 at different Indiana sites.

“Our rural communities are the backbone of our Indiana economy, and we can make them even stronger by supporting mental health and reducing stressors at home and in our communities,” said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Secretary of Agriculture. “These workshops will give our farmers the resources to help their neighbors and their family members who may be struggling.”

The workshops aim to discuss the mental landscape in Indiana, highlight local resources, discuss telehealth options and contain information about the Purdue Farm Stress Program. The Indiana Rural Health Association will also present a training for the Question, Persuade and Refer (QPR) program.

“We all know that farming is one of the most dangerous professions, and it is sadly also one of the most mentally taxing ones as well,” said Bruce Kettler, director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture. “Our department was honored to be awarded this grant from USDA and we believe using these funds in partnership with the Indiana Rural Health Association and Purdue Extension will greatly impact thousands of Hoosiers, and work to decrease the stigmas around mental health in agriculture.”

The free workshops through the Healthy Minds, Healthy Lives program are open to the farming community, including agribusinesses and related



service industries, the faith community, local leaders and families.

“The suicide rates among farmers are six times higher than the national average,” said Kathy Walker, Indiana Rural Health Association (IRHA) program director for Healthy Minds, Healthy Lives. “Financial stress is always present, pressure to never lose the family farm is great, the work is physically and mentally stressful with long hours, social isolation and lack of confiding relationships.”

Each one-day workshop is limited to 35 people, so individuals interested in participating are encouraged to register early.

Stigma and other issues that discourage people from seeking help can result in higher suicide attempts and other mental health issues. These issues often are higher — even double — than

in urban areas. Depression, suicide and other mental health struggles often rise during the seasonal times of planting and harvesting when stress levels are also higher.

These workshops are part of a partnership with the Indiana Rural Health Association, Purdue Extension and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA). ISDA received a \$500,000 grant from the National Institute for Food and Agriculture’s Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network in October of 2021.

The Johnson County workshop is set for May 5 in Whiteland. Registration opens 30 days prior to each event and is limited to the first 35 people. Visit <https://www.indianaruralhealth.org/services/healthy-minds-healthy-lives-workshops/> to register.



**Mensendiek's Auction Service**  
**Annual Farm Machinery Consignment Auction**  
**SATURDAY APRIL 9TH AT 9:00 A.M.**  
**Columbus, IN**

**Our Annual Farm Machinery and Equipment Auction is quickly approaching!**  
**Contact us today if you have items that you would like to consign!**  
**Tractors, Farm Equipment, Boats, Vehicles, Lawn Mowers, Tools, and much more!**

**Phone: 812-523-6664**

**Email: mmensendiek@gmail.com**

IN-35099977

Mike Mensendiek Auctioneer AU08900147

S & E

Featuring  
Spring &  
Summer Annuals



FLOWERS • VEGETABLE PLANTS •  
FRESH PRODUCE



Visit us at the Greenwood  
Farmers Market Opening Soon!

**PRODUCE IN SEASON  
FALL MUMS**

**Owners: Steve and Elaine Dougherty**  
[sandeproduceandflowers.weebly.com](http://sandeproduceandflowers.weebly.com)  
 Proud to partner with the City of Greenwood for their outdoor floral needs.

320 Griffith Rd.  
**GREENWOOD**  
**317-881-2634**  
 HOURS: M-F 9:00-6:00  
 Saturday 8:00-6:00  
 Sunday 1:00-4:00

## “Your Sale Our Specialty”

  
**KEVIN**  
 (317) 919-2033  
 AU01035783

  
**WADE**  
 (317) 691-2234  
 AU01047495

  
**BRUCE**  
 (317) 509-7382  
 AU01046570

IN-35099869



# SPEED

# POWER

# PERFORMANCE



**317-738-0618**

**675 N US 31 Whiteland, IN 46184**

**PremierOPE.com**







**Jonathan Green**  
QUALITY LAWNS SINCE 1881

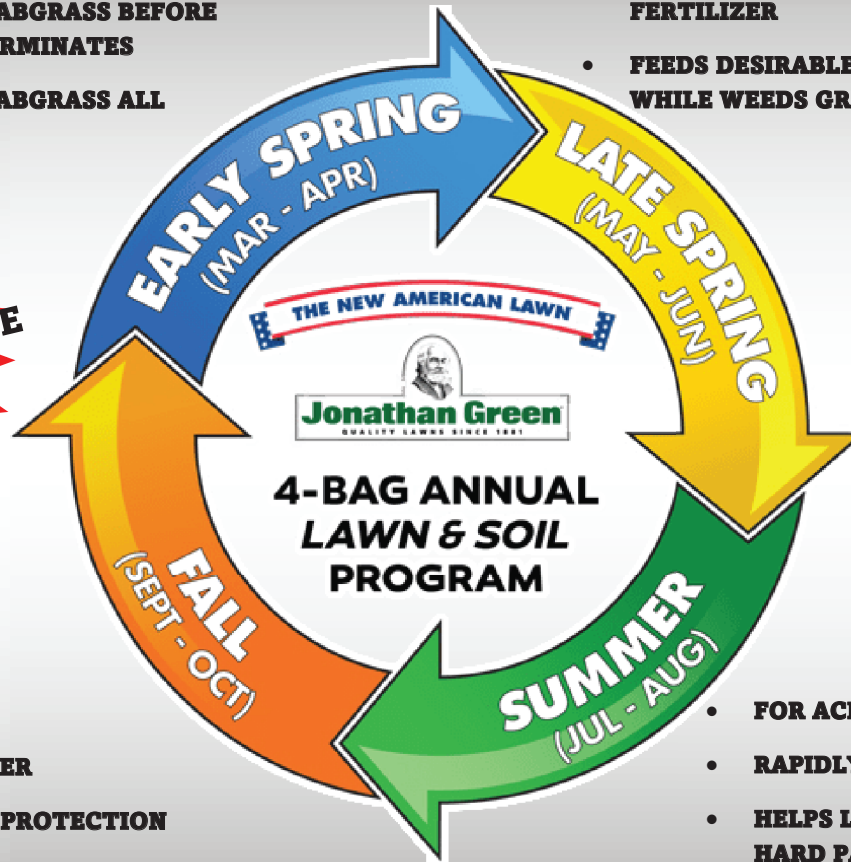


- **CRABGRASS PREVENTOR PLUS FERTILIZER**
- **CAN BE APPLIED UP TO 4 WEEKS LATER THAN OTHER BRANDS**
- **CONTROLS CRABGRASS BEFORE & AFTER IT GERMINATES**
- **CONTROLS CRABGRASS ALL SEASON**

- **WEED & FEED FERTILIZER PLUS WEED CONTROL**
- **CONTROLS OVER 250 DIFFERENT BROADLEAF WEEDS**
- **CONTROLLED RELEASE NITROGEN FERTILIZER**
- **FEEDS DESIRABLE GRASS LONGER WHILE WEEDS GRADUALLY DISAPPEAR**



**ACHIEVE THE BEST  
LOOKING YARD IN THE  
NEIGHBORHOOD**



- **FALL FERTILIZER**
- **WINTER TURF PROTECTION**
- **IRON & SULFUR HELPS KEEP LAWN DEEP GREEN COLOR**
- **IDEAL TO USE WITH A FALL SEEDING**

- **FOR ACIDIC SOILS**
- **RAPIDLY ADJUST SOIL PH**
- **HELPS LOOSEN HEAVY & HARD PACKED SOILS**
- **CORRECTS ACIDIC SOIL**
- **FEEDS & ACTIVATES SOIL MICROBES TO MAXIMIZE PLANT ABSORPTION FOR FOOD NUTRIENTS**



**DANNEMILLER TRUE VALUE HARDWARE & SERVICE CENTER**

**2991 SOUTH GROVE BLVD. BARGERSVILLE, IN 46106**

**317-888-4109**