

JOHNSON COUNTY AGRICULTURE

A PUBLICATION OF THE DAILY JOURNAL | 2023



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A FAMILY OPERATION

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FAMILY FARMING

FATHER AND SON TEAM





Duckworths mesh well in farm operation

STORY BY CHERYL FISCUS JENKINS | PHOTOS BY MARK FREELAND

A spiral bound notebook provides a handwritten ledger of financials and other business information easily accessible with the flip of a page.

Price per bushel, field yield and the amount of gas used in vehicles are a few categories summarizing a year's work in Duckworth Farms agricultural business.

Ralph and Andy Duckworth of Franklin like the simplicity. In a world where field equipment has become computerized to the max, the father and son farming team get along just fine with pencil and paper company reports.

They can quickly calculate 2022's harvest of 84,509 bushels of corn and 21,563 bushels of soybeans, along with many other fun facts relating to their life on the farm.

"This is the computer," Ralph said flipping through one of his many notepads. "I'm too old for that."

At age 89, he is not too old to remember his grandfather, George Duckworth, using three horses to pull a plow and planter. The father and son duo are multi-generational Johnson County farmers, dating back to the 1860s, with each group of family members finding improved and more efficient ways of operating.

Bigger and better tractors and combines help the Duckworths farm roughly 820 acres of owned and rented land throughout the county. They are a no-till operation, planting soybeans on top of the previous year's corn, allowing nitrogen to help next year's corn crop prosper.

They are serious about farming and about acquiring land to expand their territory, owning 700 acres in various areas of the county and renting another 100-plus. Two years ago, they purchased 60 acres near Union Christian Church, where the Duckworths are long-time members.

As a subdivision inches closer to their property lines, they like investing in land to have some control over what moves into the area. They put the acreage to good use by planting almost every square foot on all of their plots.

"We farm everything we own," Andy said.

Ralph added: "On television, they talk about gold and silver. We invest in dirt."

Andy grew up in the house his father lives in now and started driving tractors 50 years ago at age 8. He and his father have witnessed many changes and advancements in their farming careers from fluctuating equipment



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Above: Andy and Ralph Duckworth sit in the wheel of their Massey Ferguson tractor at their Franklin-area farm. Right: The Duckworths walk on their farm.



horsepower to work arounds with weather obstacles. They constantly strive to improve efficiency and increase the bottom line.

“Technology is the biggest change,” Andy said. “We try to stay ahead of the curve on improvements.”

The Duckworths plant in late April or May and harvest from late October to December — weather dependent. In their off season, they repair machines, and in the past have completed home renovations. With no storage for crops, their harvest goes directly from the field to the local Kokomo Grain Co.

The Duckworths get along well as business partners and in their father-son relationship, mostly leading separate lives but uniting together on many fronts.

Ralph grew up in Johnson County and was married to Shirley for 53 years. She passed away 14 years ago, but a picture of his beloved wife rests on a desk in the living room.

Andy was the couple’s only child and has never married.

“I haven’t found anyone who would put up with me,” he jokes.

They live next door to each other with acres of land in between and keep watch often. Both men graduated from Franklin Community High School - 31 years apart - and relish serving in the community and church.

Ralph studied agriculture at Purdue University for one year but spent much of his career as a bus driver for Franklin Community Schools. According to Andy, his father often runs into former students who remember him fondly. Ralph spent two years in the U.S. Army and was involved with Order of Eastern Star with his wife. He has served as trustee, deacon and elder for Union Christian Church, where he has been a member for 70 years.

Andy graduated from Ivy Tech Community College with an associate’s degree in tool and die making. He worked mostly for the City of Franklin as a street department mechanic and in other leadership roles before retiring. He has served as a deacon at the church and was a past president of the Johnson County Farm Bureau board. He still serves on the Farm Bureau board and recently joined the Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District board.

Father and son are both Indiana Freemasons, belonging to different lodges, and they have a shared love of camping and collecting interesting pieces.

Above: Andy with the old milk barn on Duckworth property. The hay loft and roof vents are still going strong, he said. Right: Andy stands with a Diamond T Reo, his antique truck.



From left, Ralph and Andy Duckworth with their Freightliner truck used to haul crops.

Ralph holds an array of vintage school buses, and Andy collects toy tractors.

Andy is also a member of the South Central Indiana Antique Truck Club, White River Valley Antique Association and Johnson County Antique Machinery Association.

The Duckworths have spent decades working together professionally and personally as they have learned to be flexible and open to each other's ideas and to make changes when needed. Andy respects his dad's experience which comes with age, and Ralph honors his son's will to move forward with the times.

"He and I have worked well all of our lives together," Andy said.

Ralph added: "We have had people say, 'Don't you two ever fuss at each other?' And I said, 'No, we listen to each other.'"

In recent months, Ralph has even followed his son's lead about the changing dress code at church, trading the suit he has always worn for more casual attire.

These days, Andy does a majority of the farming with help from two close friends who step in when needed. His father occasionally drives equipment and often helps his son move from farm to farm.

"He's slowed way down," Andy said. "But he still gets out and helps me."

The Duckworths have worked together so long, they see no need for two-way radios, opting for hand signals and facial expressions instead. The most important communication, Ralph demonstrated, is when he tells Andy to stop working by slicing his hand across his throat, which means the all-important time for lunch.

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FUTURE LEADERS

Two local teens delay college to serve in state FFA

STORY BY AIDAN ROGERS | SUBMITTED PHOTOS

When most students think about a gap year, they often daydream about backpacking across Europe or driving Route 66, but two local recent graduates set their gap year sights on something closer to home. “It’s not even a gap year,” said Tobias Sturgell, a 2022 graduate of Indian Creek High School. “I’d call it a year of experience.”

Sturgell is one of seven young people taking a gap year to help lead Indiana’s statewide Future Farmers of America program. He is serving as Indiana FFA State Secretary. 2022 Whiteland Community High School graduate Jenna Kelsay is spending her year as State Southern Region vice president.

Each year, Indiana FFA selects seven graduating seniors to serve as state officers for the following year. State officers are responsible for planning conventions and events, speaking at chapter meetings, and building relationships with agricultural businesses and industries. Students interested in serving as state officers go through a three-day interview process before the slates are proposed. On the final night of the state convention each June, applicants receive a letter revealing whether they were selected as a state officer or not.

“I distinctly remember opening it up, seeing my name on there, and I collapsed on the ground,” Kelsay recalled.

“It was a really, really good moment.”

“I was so excited I was jumping up and down,” Sturgell said. “I told everyone I made it, basically yelling that out. I think everyone at the fairgrounds could have heard me say that.”

Kelsay’s experience as a student in FFA helped to prepare her for her current role. She competed in dairy judging and also in a competition called “Milk Products and Quality.” She says these experiences helped build her public speaking and decision-making skills and taught her how to build a sound argument and back it up with facts, “which has definitely been helpful this past year.”

In her officer role, she has spent three months giving keynote addresses, drawing heavily on presentation skills from her competitions. And her time as an officer has also revealed another passion – event planning. In fact, she is reconsidering what track she wants to pursue when she attends Purdue University next fall.

“I know I want to work in the agriculture industry. That’s what I was raised in and I’ve grown to love. That’s my passion. But I’m not sure exactly where yet. I would love to take over my family’s farm tour business one day,” she said.

Sturgell confesses that the secretary role was not one that he initially thought would be a good fit for him, but then adds that that is exactly why he chose it. “I wasn’t quite the most secretary person, but I wanted to challenge myself by taking up those roles.”

He is responsible for keeping the minutes of executive committee meetings and weekly team meetings, as well as writing agendas for these meetings and curriculum for conferences. He has also had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. for a state officer summit and learn how to talk with legislators and share messages that are important to the future of Indiana FFA.

As a student, Sturgell was not sure if FFA was really for him. “Not growing up on a farm, I had not really any confidence in myself to be in something

like FFA,” he said. But through the encouragement of those around him, he decided to try it and found that he really enjoyed the opportunities FFA afforded him.

Sturgell’s plans for Purdue have also changed as a result of the state officer program. “They always say state officers change their mind at least once or twice throughout the year,” he said. And for him, that looks more like leaning toward agricultural education than agricultural engineering. “The program saved me at least a year, I think.”

FFA is a comprehensive program rooted in agriculture, but designed to build well-rounded individuals, no matter what direction the participants move after high school. “FFA really focuses on career-readiness and personal growth,” Kelsay said, citing the diversity of skill development opportunities available to students.

Sturgell agrees. “When you compete, competition breeds excellence. Competing against others pushes you to be the best. When you go into the workplace, you’re in the mindset of trying to be the best. We’re future leaders. We’re the future of the world.”

Kelsay and Sturgell will continue serving as state officers until June, when the state FFA convention will install a new group of officers for next year. Both have already been accepted into Purdue University and will begin classes in the fall.



Opposite page: Jenna Kelsay and Tobias Sturgell, both of Johnson County, are serving with the state FFA this year. Above: Kelsay and Sturgell talk to a classroom about FFA.



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Governor proclaims FFA Week in February

SUBMITTED ARTICLE AND PHOTO

In honor of National FFA Week, seven Indiana State FFA Officers and National Officer, MacKenna Clifton of North Carolina, met in the Statehouse to receive a proclamation and resolution declaring Feb. 18-25 Indiana FFA Week.

“It was a pleasure to have these outstanding young professionals representing the State of Indiana and agriculture so well in the Statehouse today,” said Lt. Gov. Crouch, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. “FFA is a dynamic youth led organization and I am excited to celebrate National FFA Week this week and agriculture year-round.”

Gov. Eric Holcomb signed the proclamation in recognition of all the work the Indiana FFA Organization, agriculture educators and FFA advisors do to cultivate the next generation of agriculturists for the state.

During the week, chapters across the state and nation hosted a variety of events to educate, advocate and celebrate the agricultural industry. From a school animal experience to a farmer’s breakfast, these activities pay homage to the dedication and commitment of today’s agriculturalists. Throughout the week, the Indiana FFA State Officers travel the state to participate in activities alongside local FFA chapters and their communities.



2022-2023 Indiana FFA officers are, from left, front: Jaden Maze, Sentinel, Jenna Kelsay, Southern Region vice president, Mary Jones, Northern Region vice president, Gracie Lee, reporter; back row: Seth Ariens, president, Anthony Taylor, treasurer, Tobias Sturgell, secretary.

The Indiana FFA Association also received a Senate Concurrent Resolution highlighting the impact of the FFA Organization, which is preparing more than 13,000 members for the over 250 unique careers in the food, fiber and natural resource sectors. The resolution was led by Sen. Jean Leising, Senate District 42 and Rep. Michael Aylesworth, House District 11.

Jenna Kelsay, 2022-2023 Indiana FFA Southern Region Vice President shared what this resolution means to her and the FFA Organization.

“Receiving the proclamation and house concurrent resolution today in the Indiana Statehouse was such an exciting way to kick-off National FFA Week,” said Kelsay. “Indiana FFA and its members are so fortunate to have support and recognition from our states agricultural leaders and elected officials.”

Tamara Ketchen, Director of the Indiana FFA Association, is looking forward to seeing all the work done this week at FFA chapters across the state.

“National FFA Week is a time for local chapters to highlight their programs showcasing their success and passion for agriculture,” Ketchen said. “We also use this as an opportunity to recognize community supporters and broadcast the mission of the organization.”

The first National FFA week was held in 1948, when the National FFA Board of Directors designated a weeklong celebration to recognize George Washington’s example and legacy as a leader and farmer. For the past 75 years, FFA members across the country have taken part in agricultural, leadership and service-based activities during National FFA Week.

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Join the farmers for food and fellowship



Join us at the Johnson County Agriculture Day Breakfast to hear from this year's speaker, Dawn Slack.

The program is March 15 at 7:30 a.m. in Scott Hall on the fairgrounds.

Come celebrate agriculture's importance to our county and world.

Please RSVP to johnsonCES@purdue.edu or 317-736-3724.

The cost is \$1 per person. Breakfast will be served by Rolling Pin Catering.

If you require reasonable accommodations to attend, please contact the program host (Johnson County Purdue Extension) at the phone number above.

About the speaker

Dawn Slack has been studying natural resources for over 30 years as a botanist and biologist. She has worked for the military and state governments, and for profit and not-for-profit entities.

Her work and military lifestyle has led her coast to coast in the U.S. and to Europe, where she has studied and managed natural resources.

She currently resides in Nashville, Indiana, where she works to share biological research and build collaboration for healthy lands, water, wildlife and people.

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BY SARAH HANSON

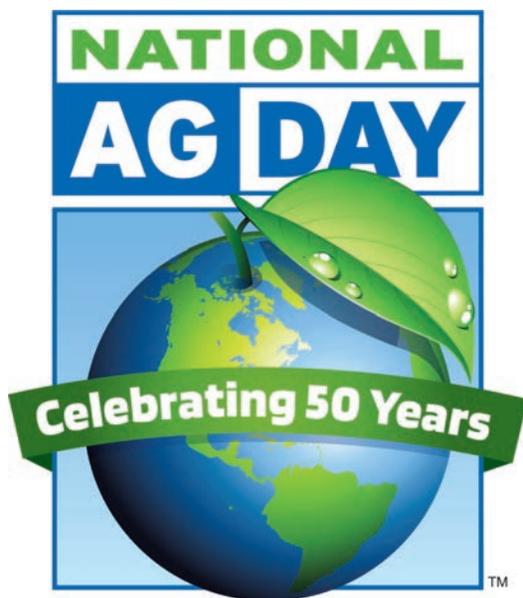
It is my honor to write this article about National Ag Day. Folks all over the country are celebrating agriculture in various ways. And we've been having our fantastic Johnson County Ag Day Breakfast for many years now — bringing together people in the community.

As we hear statistics telling us that there are fewer farmers than before and that the average age of a farmer is going up, the news is a little scary. Farmers and their families work really hard to produce everything that they do — be it food, fiber, flowers, forestry or fuel. Agriculture is all around us every day, which makes it easy sometimes to take for granted. It is good to slow down and appreciate what we are so blessed to have. We have our Ag Day Breakfast in March, then in September, we educate hundreds of Johnson County fourth graders. They visit us on the fairgrounds to see 12 different stations and learn about agriculture.

So what about those up and coming farmers?

For the past several months, I have been (and continue to be) a part of the Indiana Small Business Development Corporation (ISBDC). They have an Agribusiness Initiative that “offers Hoosier small businesses and entrepreneurs in the agriculture sector access to no-cost, confidential specialty business advising and training”.

My job has always entailed giving people information and helping to solve problems.



It is a natural progression for me to be a part of this statewide Agribusiness Initiative team. Please let me know if you want to know more. By visiting their website, you can fill out a quick form to get the process rolling.

The presenter for the Johnson County Ag Day Breakfast is Dawn Slack. She will speak about invasive plants.

She works to share biological science research and build collaboration for healthy lands, water, wildlife and people.

Since farmers are stewards of the land

(and animals), I'd say this is a pretty important topic. If we don't have land to grow our food and grow food for livestock, then what? Landowners in many different sized capacities battle invasive plants that cause stress and take resources. In Johnson County, there is even a group called the Native Plant Partnership (NPP). Check them out on social media.

If you want to learn more about what Johnson County Purdue Extension can offer you, please reach out to us at 317-736-3724 or johnsonces@purdue.edu. We teach youth and adults about so many things; from gardening to food safety, from 4-H to mental health (and of course all things agriculture).

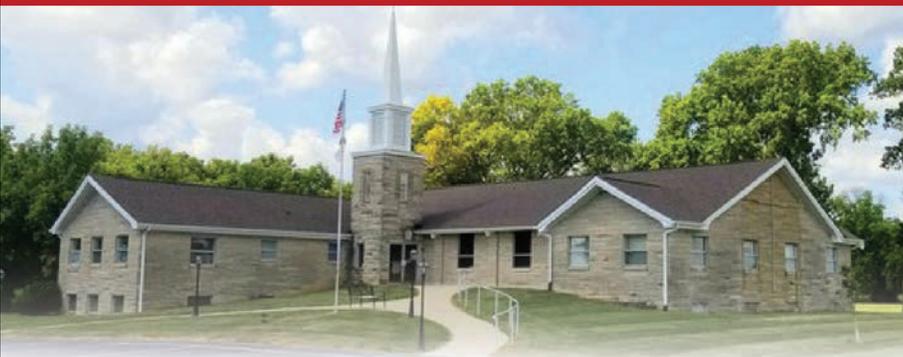


SARAH HANSON IS THE PURDUE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION JOHNSON COUNTY AG & NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATOR AND COUNTY EXTENSION DIRECTOR. SHE CAN BE REACHED AT SSPEEDY@PURDUE.EDU OR 317-736-3724.



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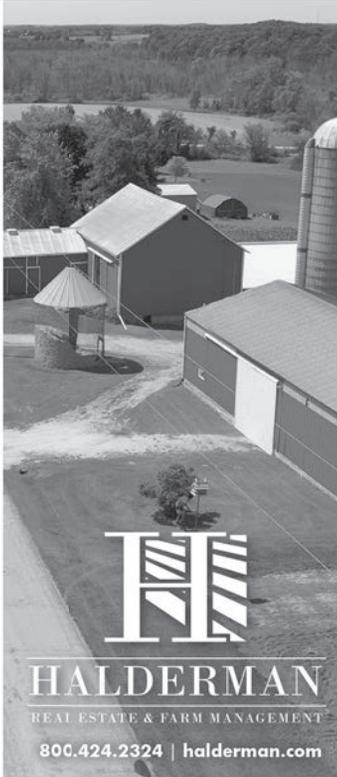
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Spa & Relaxation club builds healthy mindset



BY HEATHER DOUGHERTY

According to the CDC, adolescence is a time for young people to have a healthy start in life. The number of adolescents reporting poor mental health is increasing. Building strong bonds and connecting to youth can protect their mental health. Schools and parents can create these protective relationships with students and help them grow into healthy adulthood. More than 1 in 3 high school students had experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness in 2019, a 40 percent increase since 2009. In 2019, approximately 1 in 6 youth reported making a suicide plan in the past year, a 44% increase since 2009.

Johnson County 4-H implemented the Spa & Relaxation Spark Club for youth in Grades 4 -8, including 6 hours of instruction about healthy mindsets, exercise and healthy eating. Of the 13 participants, 12 completed the post-survey for a response rate of 92%.

Of the 13 participants, 12 completed the post-survey resulting in a response rate of 92.3%. Youths reported they were White (66.7%), female (66.7%), 9 to 14 years old, and in Grades 4-8.

Youths reported they pay attention to how active they are each day (83.3%), how much time they spend in front of a screen (66.7%). Two-thirds (66.7%) reported

they don't get to decide how much time they spend in front of a screen. Most youths (91.7%) reported they encourage their friends to be active with them. When asked if they talked about ways to be active at 4-H, two-thirds responded "Yes" (50.0%) or "Sort of" (16.7%).

Youths indicated that two risky behaviors (drinking alcohol and taking drugs) were not OK for someone their age. All youth reported they encourage their friends to make responsible choices. Less than half (41.7%) of youths reported they talked about risky behaviors during the 4-H program.

It is also not too late to enroll in Johnson County 4-H for the 2023 year. Regular 4-H is for youths in Grades 3-12 and the program fee is \$25. We also offer Mini 4-H for youths in 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 for more information.



HEATHER DOUGHERTY IS THE EXTENSION EDUCATOR – 4H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT JOHNSON COUNTY. SHE CAN BE REACHED AT [HDOUGHER@PURDUE.EDU](mailto:hougher@purdue.edu) OR 317-736-3724

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Several groups work to decrease food waste

BY ERIN SLEVIN

Food waste is a vast problem that impacts our world in many ways. According to Feeding America, 119 billion pounds of food are wasted in America each year. Food waste is safe, high-quality food that is thrown away rather than eaten. There are a variety of reasons that food waste occurs at every stage of food production and distribution.

For example, uneaten food thrown out at homes, stores and restaurants or problems during the manufacturing and transportation of food. Food not meeting retailers' standards for color and appearance can also lead to food waste.

Food waste in our homes makes up close to 39% of all food waste, while commercial food waste makes up about 61% of all food waste. Reducing food waste is important, especially when so many people are food insecure. In Johnson County, 9.4% of people are food insecure (source: Feeding America).

Efforts to reduce food waste

Society of St. Andrew's Indiana Chapter partners with farmers, growers, packers and other produce handlers to save produce from going to waste. Farmers and growers can participate in their Gleaning Network by donating their fields and orchards after their harvest. This allows Society of Saint Andrew Indiana volunteers to come in and glean what's left and donate to local hunger relief agencies. Learn more at <https://endhunger.org/indiana/>



Food is rescued often by several different organizations such as food pantries, schools, and retail establishments. Here are a few examples:

Second Helpings works with partners in the food service industry to safely collect surplus and perishable food that was headed for the landfill. They send out refrigerated trucks to rescue bread, produce and meat that is deemed to be safe and edible. Through their food rescue and culinary job training program, the rescued food is used to

create meals each day that are distributed to agencies throughout Central Indiana. (<https://www.secondhelpings.org/about-us/>)

Founded in Indiana, K-12 Food Rescue engages future generations through education and leadership development to help solve the food waste crisis. K-12 Food Rescue programs partner with schools to help reduce the amount of unwanted, unpeeled and unwrapped food items wasted annually. Many school food rescue programs utilize "share tables," where children may return whole food or beverage items they choose not to eat. These food items are then available to other children who may want additional servings or collected for a local food pantry. (<https://www.foodrescue.net/>)



ERIN SLEVIN IS THE COMMUNITY WELLNESS COORDINATOR FOR THE PURDUE EXTENSION NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM. SHE CAN BE REACHED AT ESLEVIN@PURDUE.EDU OR 317-736-3724.

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Track expenses and save with a food budget

BY AMANDA VEENHUIZEN

Have you noticed an increase in how much you are spending at the grocery store? Let's talk about food budgeting and how valuable it is. With the inflated costs, of well everything lately, it's very important to take some time and review how much you are spending on food.

Do you have a budget that you follow? Making a customized budget plan for you and your family is very beneficial, especially now!

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Americans spend, on average, around 6% of their budget on food. However, the study also showed that we also spend approximately 5% of our disposable income on dining out. That makes our average food budget approximately 11% of our overall income, but varies from house to house of course.

So, for example, if you bring home \$1,500 a month and you estimate 11% for food expenses, that would be \$220. Therefore, if you go to the grocery store

weekly that would be approximately \$55 to spend on food weekly.

What is your food budget?

It is recommended to revisit your budget often. Know what you can spend and how much you have for extras. If you go over your grocery budget by just \$8 each week, that adds up to over \$400 by the end of the year (\$8 x 52 weeks = \$416).

Some tips for sticking to your personal budget:

- Check your current inventory when making your grocery list so that you do not accidentally buy duplicates.
- Make a grocery list and stick to it! Make your list according to your store layout.
- Try meal planning to know exactly what you need and to help eliminate food waste.
- Clip digital or paper coupons.
- Watch for rotational categorical sales.
- Produce expense? Try to shop for

items that are in season however frozen and/or canned are great options as well! (You can rinse canned vegetables to remove some of the extra sodium)

- Buy in bulk however not if you know for sure you are not going to be able to use it all before it goes bad/expired.

- Freeze it! Shredded cheese on sale? Buy a couple bags and freeze until you need them. Meat is another great example. Food saver vacuum sealers are great for this to buy on sale and store in the freezer.

- Pack lunches to save.

Finding ways to stretch your food dollar is an essential skill to have!

Have questions, please let me know at aveenhuizen@purdue.edu.



AMANDA VEENHUIZEN IS THE PURDUE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION JOHNSON COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SCIENCES EDUCATOR. SHE CAN BE REACHED AT AVEENHUIZEN@PURDUE.EDU OR 317-736-3724.



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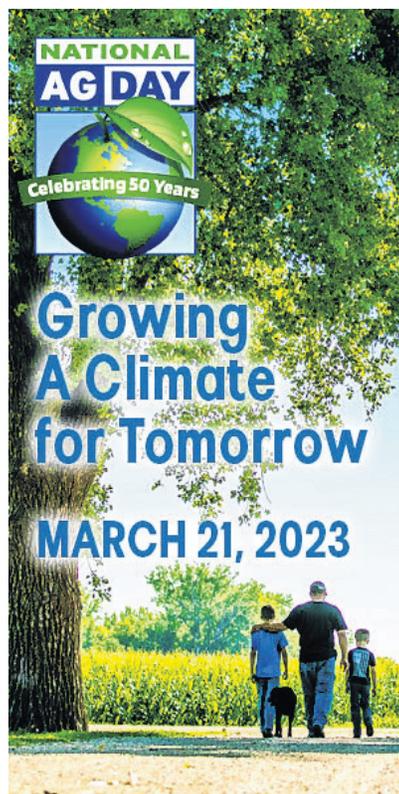
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Day set aside to learn about, celebrate ag



What Is Ag Day?

It's a day to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture. Every year, producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America join together to recognize the contributions of agriculture.

When Is Ag Day?

Ag Day is celebrated on March 21, 2023. National Ag Day falls during National Ag Week.

Who hosts Ag Day?

The Agriculture Council of America hosts the campaign on a national level. However, the awareness efforts in communities across America are as influential — if not more — than the broad-scale effort.

Again this year, the Ag Day Planning Guide has been created to help communities and organizations more effectively host Ag Day events.

What Is Ag Day all about?

Ag Day is about recognizing — and celebrating — the contribution of agriculture in our everyday lives. The National Ag Day program encourages every American to:

- Understand how food and fiber 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.

Why celebrate agriculture?

Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis. But too few people truly understand this contribution. This is particularly the case in our schools, where students may only be exposed to agriculture if they enroll in related vocational training.

By building awareness, the Agriculture Council of America is encouraging young people to consider career opportunities in agriculture.

Each American farmer feeds more than 165 people ... a dramatic increase from 25 people in the 1960s. Quite simply, American agriculture is doing more - and doing it better. As the world population soars, there is an even greater demand for the food and fiber produced in the United States.

What can I do to help?

Put simply, get involved! Your participation in Ag Day is critical in helping us spread this positive message about agriculture. If you are interested in planning an event, download your Planning Guide today. Of course, there are other ways you can lend your support, including sending a letter to your local newspaper, calling your Congressional representatives or simply sharing information about agriculture with youngsters in your community.

More information?

Contact the Agriculture Council of America at (913) 491-1895, visit agday.org or #AgDay23

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INDIANA AGRICULTURE BY THE NUMBERS

\$31.2 billion

Total value of sales for all Indiana agriculture-related products (estimated)

\$11.1 billion

The value of unprocessed agricultural commodities sold in 2017

10th

Indiana ranks 10th largest farming state in the nation

\$4.6 billion

Indiana's agricultural exports

20.5 million

Number of turkeys in Indiana

4.2 million

Number of hogs in Indiana

187,000

Number of dairy cows in Indiana

15 million

Acres of farmland cultivated by Indiana's farming operations

94,000

Farmers in Indiana

55.5

The average age of an Indiana farmer

56,649

Number of farming operations in Indiana

264

Average size of an Indiana farm (in acres)

96 percent

Indiana's farms that are family-owned

80 percent

Land in Indiana that is farms, forests and woodland

Source: USDA NASS; Economic Research Service; Indiana Business Research Center, Kelley School of Business, Indiana University, Beyond the Farm

Top 5 National Rankings

Indiana ranks **1st** in commercial duck production, hardwood veneer, wood office furniture and wood kitchen cabinet manufacturing

Indiana ranks **2nd** in popcorn production, ice cream production, tomatoes (processed), total eggs produced.

Indiana ranks **3rd** in spearmint, tomatoes (all) and cropland planted with a cover crop.

Indiana ranks **4th** in pumpkins, turkeys raised and peppermint.

Indiana ranks **5th** in corn (for grain), soybeans, watermelon and hog production.

Source: USDA NASS

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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

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., Suite 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 North Morton Street, Franklin, IN 46131, 317-736-3724.

Info: 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 syrup 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://findindianaforester.org> District Forester, Zachary Smith at 317-232-4117 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

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: Janelle Lasley, County Executive Director, 317-736-6822, ext. 2. Janelle.lasley@in.usda.gov The office is at 701 W Madison St., Suite 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 1057 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

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

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 2022: 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





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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

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 200 members in the county's 10 clubs.

An executive board governs the organization and includes Dee Kirkham, president; Bev Waltz and Lora Lee Curren co-vice presidents; Arlene Neyer, secretary; Kathy Vest, treasurer; and Cathy Cook, past county president.

Information: Cathy Cook, 317-736-3724 or 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.

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. 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., Suite 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; agricultural conservation programs.

Board of supervisors 2023: Kevin Thompson, Joe Bill Misiniec, Chris Campbell, Jim Risch and Andy Duckworth.

They are located at 550 E. Jefferson St. Suite 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 meet 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.



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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.

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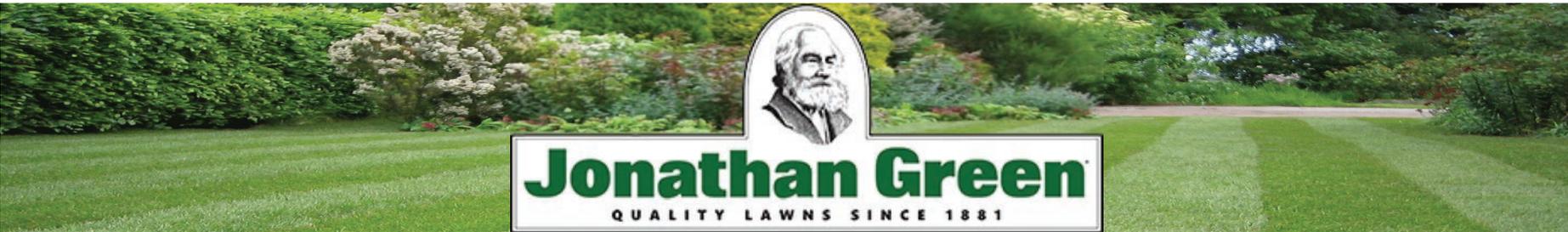


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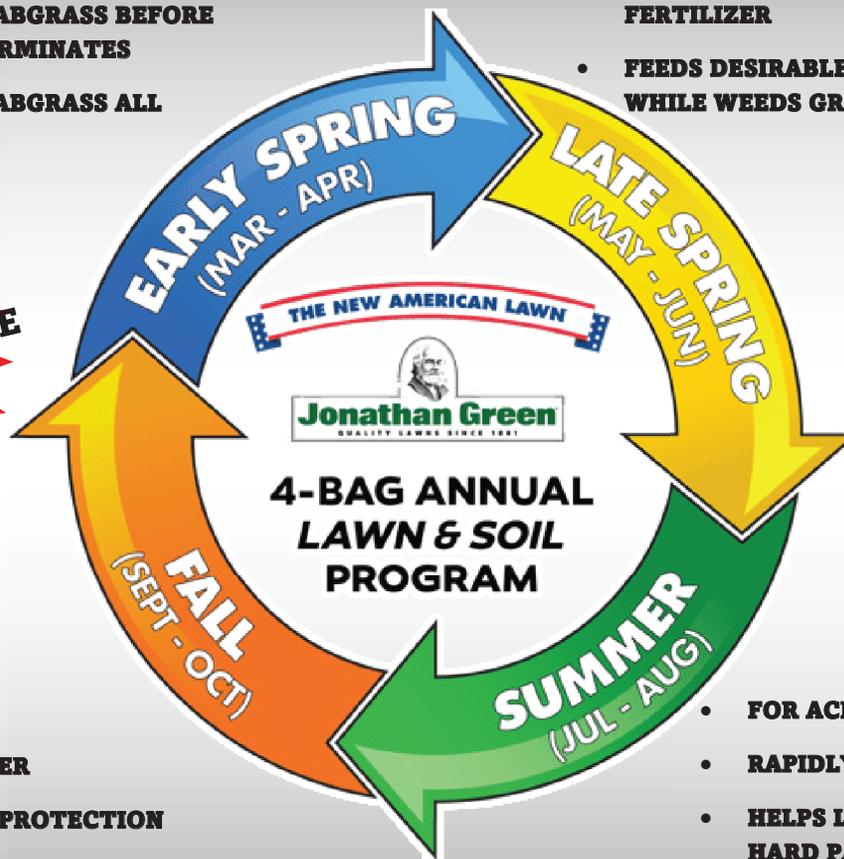


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