



Agri-Scope

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www.extension.purdue.edu/laporte/agnr.htm

August, 2009

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ENCLOSURE:

Pinney-Purdue Field Day

PINNEY- PURDUE FIELD DAY – AUGUST 19

The 2009 edition of **Pinney-Purdue Field Day** is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 19, 2009**. Participants will have opportunities to get updates on current ag production issues, visit with neighbors and fellow producers, and enjoy a great meal. Registration, a health fair and exhibitor booths open at 7:30 a.m. CDT (La Porte time); tours and program presentations get rolling at 8:30 a.m. New this year will be a free hearing screening (register on-site; takes 5-10 minutes; find out what you may have been missing!). The health fair, which features a health diagnostics screening valued at \$450 for a cost of only \$45, will be available from 7:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. CDT during the field day. Pre-registration for this screening is recommended by calling Health Diagnostics of NWI at 219-836-5799.

The program lineup this year includes topics on controlling weeds in corn and soybean fields; disease issues in corn and soybean; and insect updates for field crops, especially soybean aphids and western bean cutworm. In addition, discussions will be held on the use of fungicides on corn and foliar applications on soybeans – do they work? In the fertility area, you can learn about the impacts of manganese on yields, efficient nitrogen fertilization and other stories from the cornfield. There will also be demonstrations of properly securing your truck and trailer loads on the farm. A new topic this year will be energy efficiencies – what programs and opportunities are available for improving on-farm energy efficiency.

Gene Matzat, Extension Educator,
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Cooperative Extension Service

Purdue University, Indiana
Counties and U.S. Department of
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Important Dates to Remember

Aug. 7-23	Indiana State Fair	Aug. 28	Energy Conservation Conf.
Aug. 19	Pinney-Purdue Field Day	Sept 1-3	Farm Progress Show
Aug. 20	NEPAC Field Day	Sept. 3	Forage Mgt. Workshop
Aug. 21-22	Intensive Grazing Short Course	Sept. 8	Drainage Water Management Demonstration Day
Aug. 25	Cover Crop Workshop and Field Day	Sept. 17	Purdue Forage Day

For those unable to attend the morning programs, a twilight program is planned again this year. Beginning at 6:00 p.m. CDT, participants can still learn about controlling weedy soybean fields and burcucumber and get insect updates for field crops. Signs explaining current crops and research will remain posted around the farm for a while following the field day.

Those needing continuing education credits for the private applicator pesticide licenses can fulfill one-third of their obligations at the field day or twilight program (a \$10 fee will be charged for PARP credits). Those with commercial pesticide applicator licenses and Certified Crop Advisers can also acquire needed continuing education hours.

For more information, please call the Extension office at 219-324-9407. A field day flyer is enclosed or you can access one at www.extension.purdue.edu/laporte; click on “Ag & Natural Resources” under “Topics” to link to a field day flyer in .pdf format under “Events & Educational Opportunities.”

If auxiliary aids and services due to disabilities are required, please contact the Extension office at least three days prior to the event.

NEPAC FIELD DAY – AUGUST 20

If you are unable to attend the Pinney Purdue Field Day, you may want to participate in the **Northeast Purdue Ag Center (NEPAC) Field Day on Thursday, August 20, 2009.**

Sessions, similar to those for the Pinney Field Day, run from 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. EDT. Private and Commercial Pesticide Applicator License as well as Certified Crop Adviser credits are also available. Download a NEPAC Field Day flyer at www.extension.purdue.edu/anr/2009.htm#aug.

SOYBEAN APHIDS: OVER THRESHOLD IN NORTHWESTERN INDIANA

Although it looked like we might avoid it this year, reports have been confirmed of soybean aphids at levels over the treatment threshold of 250 aphids/plant in La Porte County. As was stated in earlier *Pest & Crop* issues, aphids have been relatively scarce in the Midwest this year. However, the first aphids were found two weeks ago in sentinel plots in Indiana and last week brought some higher populations. It appears that a late push from aphids may be seen.



However, time is on our side – once fields reach growth stage R6, aphids are not a concern, and with most Indiana fields well into R3/R4, we are not too far off. Winged aphids were found in the infested fields, but they were relatively few and far between – this is a good sign, as a high proportion of winged aphids are an indication that those aphids will soon leave and become a problem for someone else. Beneficial insects, mostly ladybugs, were also quite abundant which is another good sign. Large populations of ants will often be found in conjunction with soybean aphid infestations. These ants are harvesting the sugary honeydew from aphids and will sometimes actually protect aphids from predators.

All in all, this news should be viewed as a reminder that we are not out of the woods yet, and producers in the northern third of the state (particularly the northwestern corner), should still be scouting. As was the case last week, the vast majority of Indiana soybean fields do not have a single aphid in them at this point. However, among those that do, there are certainly some that require treatment. Don't let your fields be among those that are not scouted until they are over threshold – take the time for a quick survey of 20 whole plants throughout the field. With winged aphids on the move, fields can become infested very rapidly.

Soybean aphids, a native of Asia, have been a serious pest in the Midwest since 2000. Aphids are small, yellow-bodied insects with distinct black cornicles, and they may be either winged or wingless. They are typically slow-moving and often found on the underside of the soybean plant's newest growth.

For more information about soybean aphids and controlling them, contact the Purdue Extension-La Porte County office at 219-324-9407 or download Purdue Extension publication E-217-W, *Soybean Aphid*, from www.extension.purdue.edu/laporte; click on “Ag & Natural Resources” and scroll down to the link under “Current Interest.” There is also a link for the *Pest & Crop* Newsletter; a new issue available each Friday, which you may want to access to help you monitor this and other crop pests. Producers also should check the nationwide soybean aphid map at <http://www.sbrusa.net>. Once at the Web site, select "Soybean Aphid" from the dropdown menu at the top right. Christian Krupke, Purdue Extension Entomologist, will also be addressing soybean aphid issues at Pinney Purdue Field Day on Wednesday, August 19.

Article by Christian Krupke, Purdue Extension Entomologist

GRAZING INTENSIVE SHORT COURSE – AUGUST 21 & 22

Grazing 102, a workshop designed to help producers understand the concepts of a management intensive grazing program, will be held **Friday and Saturday, August 21-22**, at the Centreville Christ Church Family Center and 5 B Farms near Centreville, IN, in **Wayne County**.

Grazing 102 is designed for the novice, as well as the advanced grazer. Everything from fencing to pasture fertility and from the advantages and disadvantages of different forages to water management systems will be covered.

The workshop objectives include: To understand forage growth and utilization and how it affects efficiency of pastures (40-50% in continuous vs. 70%+ in rotational) during the grazing season; to increase grazing knowledge through interaction with professionals and other participants; and to emphasize animal grazing techniques for Indiana.

During the workshop, participants will have the opportunity to visit 5 B Farms and owner Bob Bode, who has been grazing livestock for a number of years. Participants are asked to bring an aerial photo of their grazing operation to assist with a review and development of a grazing system plan. Bringing a clipboard for use in the field is also suggested.

Registration is due by August 17 and costs \$65 per person, which includes handouts, meals and resource materials. The cost for additional members from the same operation is \$30. For registrations received after August 17, participants will be charged an extra \$10. A registration form is available at www.extension.purdue.edu/wayne/. For more information about the workshop contact Stacy Herr by phone (765-973-9281) or email (sherr@purdue.edu).

COVER CROP WORKSHOP AND FIELD DAY – AUGUST 25

The Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) invites farmers to attend a **one-day workshop and field day about cover crops**. The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT, **Tuesday, August 25** at the East Main Street Christian Church in **Elwood**, Indiana.

You have learned about the benefits of cover crops – now get the facts you will need to start using them in your operation. Together with a team of experts from the Purdue University, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Michigan State University, the Midwest Cover Crops Council, Madison County SWCD and Ag Conservation Solutions, CTIC offers a one-day workshop and field day to give producers the tools to use cover crops this fall. The indoor portion of the workshop will include benefits of cover crops, how to choose cover crops, pros and cons of various cover crops, economics involved in implementing cover crops as well as information on how to find seed, plant, manage, kill and benefit from your cover crop. After the indoor sessions, participants will take a bus to a nearby demonstration plot where we will view and discuss several varieties of cover crops.

Invited speakers include: Barry Fisher, NRCS, will provide detailed information on how to plant and manage a cover crop; Eileen Kladvko, Purdue agronomist, will discuss nutrient recycling and nitrate losses to tiles; Dean Baas, Michigan State agronomist, will introduce an online cover crop selection tool which will help you decide which crop will work best with your operation; Dave Robison, CISCO Seeds, will speak about the economics involved with cover crops and help weigh the pros and cons that may influence decision-making; Dan Towery, Ag Conservation Solutions, will provide

practical management tips and discuss no till and soil quality.

A registration fee of \$8 is required to cover the cost of a hearty lunch and bus transportation. For more information or to register online, visit CTIC's Web site: www.conservationinformation.org. Under "Events," find training opportunities/Cover Crops Workshop and Field Day. For questions call Angie Williams at 765-494-1814 or email her at williams@conservationinformation.org.

FORAGE MANAGEMENT TRAINING – SEPTEMBER 3

The **Forage Management Day** at Purdue University's Crop Diagnostic Training and Research Center near **West Lafayette, IN**, is Thursday, **September 3**. This full day of training on forages gets started with registration at 9:00 a.m. EDT (8:00 a.m. CDT) and runs until 4:30 p.m. EDT.

This year, participants will focus on skills necessary to implement and improve pasture management systems. Those attending will be able to assess what should be done to enhance soil fertility, forage composition, water distribution, and fencing on a beef cattle farm located near the Diagnostic Center. Through a hands-on interactive process, participants will develop a pasture management plan for the farm as well as receive more resources for making similar assessments and plans for their own operations.

Cost for this full day of training is \$80, which includes materials, refreshments and lunch. Details about the day, a map to the training, and a registration brochure can be found at www.ag.purdue.edu/agry/dtc/Pages/september3.aspx or by calling Keith Johnson at 765-494-4800.

PURDUE FORAGE DAY – SEPTEMBER 17

The **2009 Purdue Forage Day** will be held on **Thursday, September 17, 2009**, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. EDT at the **Miles Farm** located at the corners of Henry, Fayette and Wayne Counties.

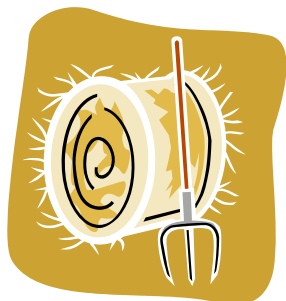
Hosted by the Eric and Carrie Miles, the day will feature educational programs and equipment demonstrations (rain or shine). Sessions will be held on double crop forages and cover crops; weed issues in pastures; bale silage – another tool to reduce rain-damaged hay; and soil test results in hand – now what should be done? A hay quality contest – with prizes – will also be held (unbroken bales need to be entered before 11:00 a.m.); divisions will include legume, grass and mixed hay.

After lunch, interviews with the hosts and presentation of awards, participants will be treated to demonstrations of the latest forage equipment, including mowers, tedders and rakes, balers and wrappers, and related equipment. For more information see: www.agry.purdue.edu/forageday.

Purdue Forage Day is sponsored by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service and the Indiana Forage Council.

NEW CONSERVATION FUNDING FOR IRRIGATORS

Farmers in La Porte County who irrigate cropland and are in the Kankakee River watershed have an opportunity to receive grant funds under a new USDA program that is part of the new Farm Bill. **Agricultural Water Enhancement**



Program (AWEP) is a new conservation initiative that focuses on improving overall irrigation system efficiency to conserve water use and improve water quality on farmland. This voluntary program is administered through NRCS. Producers have until **August 28** to apply for financial assistance through AWEP, which is part of USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). For more information, contact Theresa at the La Porte USDA Service Center at 219-362-6633 Ext. 3.

To assist farmers with evaluating the efficiency of their irrigation systems, the La Porte County Soil and Water Conservation District is providing a technician this summer to assess uniformity of watering and to help with water scheduling. Farmers who irrigate can request assistance for evaluation of up to two systems. An irrigation scheduling tool helps farmers determine when the irrigator needs to be turned on and how much water needs to be applied in order to achieve optimum yields for several different irrigated crops. For more information about this service, please call La Porte SWCD at 219-362-6633 Ext. 3.

USDA ANNOUNCES SIGN-UP FOR NEW CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Farmers are encouraged to consider signing up for a new conservation program authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill. The **Conservation Stewardship Program** (CSP) replaced the former Conservation Security Program and improved the availability of funds and appeal to agricultural and forestry producers. Eligible lands now include cropland, grassland, improved pastureland, and non-industrial private forestland. The new CSP encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations. Continuous sign-up is available, but will end on September 30, the end of the federal fiscal year. For more information

about CSP, including a self-screening checklist and CSP activity list, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html or contact NRCS at the La Porte USDA Service Center at 219-362-6633 Ext. 3.

LATE BLIGHT CONFIRMED ON TOMATO IN INDIANA

You may have seen recent news articles about late blight, a very contagious disease that infects members of the nightshade family such as tomatoes and potatoes, being confirmed on tomatoes in Indiana. This disease was confirmed by Purdue's Plant & Pest Diagnostic Lab on homeowner garden tomato plants from Vermillion and Tippecanoe counties and from a commercial tomato field in Bartholomew County.

When conditions are cool and wet, this extremely destructive disease caused by the fungus-like organism, *Phytophthora infestans*, quickly kills foliage and rots tomato fruit and potato tubers if not managed. Classic symptoms are large (at least nickel sized) olive green to brown spots on leaves with slightly fuzzy white fungal growth on the underside when conditions have been humid (early morning or after rain). Sometimes the lesion border is yellow or has a water-soaked appearance. Leaf lesions begin as tiny, irregularly shaped brown spots. Brown to blackish lesions also develop on upper stems. Firm, brown spots develop on tomato fruit. To



review symptoms or diagnose the disease, please go to P&PDLs website and related links: www.ppdil.purdue.edu/PPDL/hot09/8-6.html.

Commercial growers have a number of fungicides that, if applied early and often, can reduce the spread of late blight. Homeowners have a few products that are registered for use; the common name of chlorothalonil should appear on the product label. These products are only effective if used before the disease appears and should be reapplied every 5-7 days if wet weather persists. Chlorothalonil is a protectant fungicide, with no systemic movement in the plant, so thorough coverage is necessary. For organic growers the options are very limited, since only copper fungicides can be used, and they are not very effective.

Since there are many look-alike diseases on tomato leaves, identification requires microscopic examination, not visual determination. Suspect samples may be submitted to the Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic Lab for confirmation. Please go to the website above or contact Purdue Extension – La Porte County at 219-324-9407 for more information about submitting samples to P&PDL.

A common problem with tomatoes that some might mistake for late blight is blossom end rot – a noninfectious disorder that will not spread. It is most common on the first fruit produced and usually becomes less of a problem as the season progresses. For help identifying blossom-end rot and tips for managing it, please visit <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/3000/3117.html>.

ENERGY CONSERVATION & ALTERNATIVE ENERGY CONFERENCE – AUGUST 28

Are you still thinking of ways to reduce energy consumption for your farm or agribusiness? Purdue Cooperative Extension Service will host a program addressing the issue of energy costs on **August 28, 2009**, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EDT at the **Tipton County Extension Education Center** on 1200 South Main Street in Tipton, IN.

The theme for the conference is ***Getting a Grip on Rural Energy Costs.*** Topics concerning energy conservation and alternative energy sources will be discussed. Topics include tax incentives for Ag producers, grain drying energy audits, and small scale wind energy.

A Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification program will be taking place from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. and will provide PARP credit for private applicators.

In addition to the presentations, conference attendees will have an opportunity to visit with vendors that provide services and products in energy conservation and alternative energy sources.

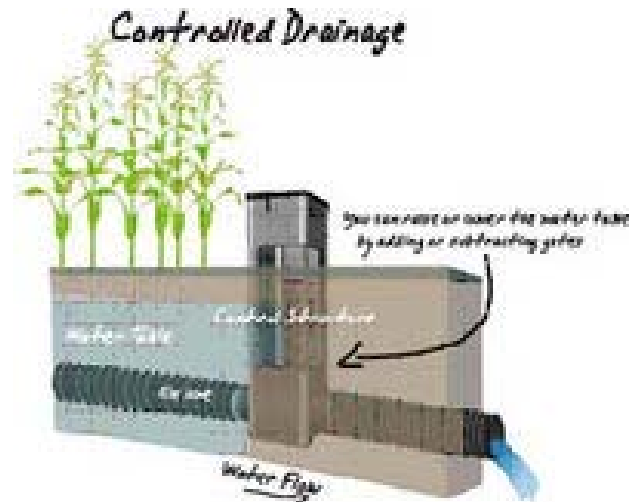
For more information about the conference, contact Mary Day at the Purdue Extension – Tipton County office at 765-675-2694 or mley2@purdue.edu. For directions, visit www.extension.purdue.edu/tipton.

DRAINAGE WATER MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION DAY – SEPTEMBER 8

Managing the water table under agricultural cropping systems with gated control structures and well-planned patterned tile systems delivers a variety of benefits, according to Leonard Binstock, executive director of the Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition (ADMC), including:

- Reducing wintertime releases of nutrient-rich drainage water;
- Allowing growers to drain the root zone for fieldwork and planting in the spring;
- and conserving water in the soil profile for crop use in the summer.

Some studies show agricultural drainage management contributes to higher yields, Binstock adds.



A demonstration day is planned for **Tuesday, September 8**, at the **Doug Mills farm** located at 649 South St. Louis Drive, **Crawfordsville, IN**. The demonstration day will include presentations by Matthew J. Helmers, Iowa State University; Kevin Van Dee, superintendent of the Southeast Iowa Research and Demonstration Farm; and Binstock. The program is funded by ADCMC as part of a Conservation Innovation Grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to demonstrate drainage management technology and techniques.

The Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition is dedicated to promoting drainage water management to reduce nutrient enrichment of surface water, protect crops against dry spells, enhance the potential for increased yields and provide growers with an additional tool for enhancing wildlife habitat during the off-season. ADCMC's web site, www.admcoalition.com, features a wealth of information on agricultural drainage management tools and techniques, as well as data from demonstration sites in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Minnesota and Iowa.

The demonstration day is free. For more information, contact Leonard Binstock at (507) 451-0073 or the Conservation Technology Information Center at www.ctic.purdue.edu. For more information about drainage issues and water management, download Purdue Extension publication **WQ-44: Q & A about Drainage Water Management for the Midwest** at www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/wq/wq-44.pdf.

2009 TILLAGE TRANSECT UPDATE

Results from the 2009 La Porte County Cropland Tillage Transect Survey are in. Final results indicate that acres of no-till corn increased from 14 percent in 2003 to 19 percent in 2009 and no-till soybeans went from 32 percent in 2003 to 43 percent in 2009.

In addition, La Porte County farmers used some type of conservation tillage on 39% of La Porte's corn acres and 81% of the soybean acres in 2009. This compares to 36% for corn and 53% for soybeans in 2003.

Conservation tillage is defined as any tillage system leaving 30 percent or more crop residue cover on the soil surface after planting. No-till is without question the most effective conservation practice for reducing soil erosion and improving water quality. The crop residue cover and infiltration rates associated with no-till maximize the volume reduction of agricultural runoff and contaminants associated with sediment loss, when compared to other conservation tillage systems.

The 30 percent soil cover that is achieved by conservation tillage is significant to reducing soil erosion by 50 percent or more compared to bare soil. Soil erosion and runoff are considered by volume the greatest contaminants of surface water in most Indiana watersheds. Filter strips, buffers and other conservation practices or structures alone cannot adequately protect soil from soil erosion. Nor can they reduce agriculture runoff and maximize their efficiency for improving water quality without the complement of conservation tillage. But the above-mentioned conservation practices and others like use of cover crops and drainage water management together with conservation tillage can conserve soil, maintain productivity and protect and improve water quality.

More than one-half of Indiana's landscape is used to grow annual crops. The use of conservation tillage on this cropland is vital to maintaining the long-term productivity of the soil, as well as improving surface water quality. Farmers benefit from conservation tillage through reduced production costs and therefore have the potential for increased profit margins. Both farm and non-farm residents benefit from conservation tillage through cleaner surface water for drinking, recreation and other uses. Wildlife also benefit from the reduced runoff, cleaner water and the habitat provided, particularly in no-till fields.

The conservation tillage data provides a summary of trends associated with the adoption of no-till crop production, crop residue cover, and soil loss. This data was obtained as a result of conducting a survey in early June of La Porte County's cropland. A total of nearly 500 fields were observed during the tillage transect survey which produces a 95 percent level of confidence in the resulting data.

For more information about conservation tillage and other practices, please contact the Soil and Water Conservation District at 219-362-6633 Ext. 3 or visit them at the La Porte USDA Service Center.

FARM PROGRESS SHOW – SEPTEMBER 1-3

This year's event will be held near Decatur, IL. More information and discounted advance tickets available at www.FarmProgressShow.com or by calling toll-free at 866-279-7469.

