

Issue: 730

VEGETABLE CROPS HOTLINE

A newsletter for commercial vegetable growers prepared by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service.

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Farmer Retirement: An Elusive Concept?

(Renee Wiatt, reneewiatt@purdue.edu)

It is something that those who work with farmers hear frequently: "I'll never retire!" or "I do have a retirement plan; to die in the tractor!". While those statements may seem humorous on the surface, they give insight to a deep-seated issue among farmers. Many farmers are simply disinclined to retire. In a recent survey (1) of farmers in the North Central Region (NCR) of the United States, only 37% of farmers were mentally ready to retire. That leaves 63% of farmers who are not mentally prepared to retire from the farm.

Even though Baby Boomer business owners are retiring in record numbers, farmers and farm households are not prepared for succession. The average age of the American farmer as of 2017 was 57.5 years of age (2). According to research, farmers and other entrepreneurs are working past pension age (3). It does not seem to be the strategic and financial tasks that are difficult to pass to the next generation; it is the social capital related to farming in one's community that comes as the largest loss (3).

Ideally, farmers will spend time planning early and often to pass the farm to the next generation (both management and ownership). It is imperative that all generations reach consensus in regard to expectations, business goals, everyone's role in the farm, and a timeline for the succession process. Without reaching a consensus (or close to one), the succession process will undoubtedly be more costly and timely than expected.



The 2023 Farm Succession Survey did find an inverted relationship between farmer age and the number of years until they expect to retire, which is encouraging. However, of those farmers who answered they would "never" retire, their average age was 35 years. Furthermore, those farmers who predicted 1-5 years until retirement were, on average, already of retirement age (63.74 years).

Famers must grapple with both mental and financial readiness to let go of the family farm to the next generation. The data (1) showed that of farmers surveyed in the NCR, there were 37.3% who were mentally ready to exit the business, and 54.2% were financially ready to exit the business. Measuring overlap, 36.8% of farmers were both financially and mentally ready to exit the business (presumably retire). One fact that stands out among this data is that financial readiness is leading mental readiness. There is an emotional component of the family farm that makes exiting the business more difficult than other businesses. The legacy of the farm, along with the community and family ties, make this exit difficult and thus delayed.

So, what can farmers do to better prepare for retirement?

- Plan early.
- Plan often.
- Communicate with all generations in the farm.
- Strive for consensus and "getting everyone on the same page."
- $\circ~$ Make firm plans but revisit and adjust as needed.

If you are looking for a resource to help start talking about succession in your farm business, check out "The Farm's Legacy:

A Guidebook for Intra-Family Succession", available for free downloading and printing here:

https://edustore.purdue.edu/item.asp?Item_Number=EC-817-W. If you are interested in receiving the Purdue Institute for Family

Business Newsletter, you can subscribe here!

If you want to read more articles about succession, the following are available from the PIFB 2024 Newsletter 1:

- Tax Acts of 2012 and 2017 Were Game Changers, and Portability Is Crucial! *By Polly Dobbs*
- Starting an Estate Plan by Jenna Nees
- Linking Business Income to Family Support, Time Spent Together, and Flexibility in the Family Business by William Walls

References:

- 1. Wiatt, R., Marshall, M.I., and Langemeier, M.I. (2023). 2023 Farm Succession Survey.
- 2. National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017.
- Contzen, S., Zbinden, K., Neuenschwander, C., and Métrailler, M. (2016). Retirement as a Discrete Life-State of Farming Men and Women Biography? Sociologia Ruralis, 57 (S1).

https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/soru.12154

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Institute for Family Business

About

The Purdue Institute for Family Business (PIFB) is an integrated research, outreach, and teaching program. It offers educational programs that address the major competencies needed for effective family business ownership and management. The goal of the initiative is to prepare family business

stakeholders—strategically, financially, and emotionally—for the significant and sometimes unpredictable transitions and decisions that must be made, which determine the success and continuity of the family business.

PIFB provides multi-generational family businesses with researchbased business management resources aimed at improving personal leadership performance and driving operational growth. Our ambition is to prepare family business owners, managers, and stakeholders (including non-owner spouses and future owners) to be effective stewards of their family enterprises.

Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Purdue University or other funders.

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https://ag.purdue.edu/department/agecon/fambiz/index.html

Resources for Vegetable Disease Management

(Dan Egel, egel@purdue.edu, (812) 886-0198)

Perhaps while the weather outside is cold and not conducive to most vegetable production, it is a good time to discuss resources that might be used to help solve vegetable disease problems. This article will discuss resources online that may be useful for vegetable disease management.

Let's start with my favorite resource: the Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory. While it isn't necessary to send in a sample to the PPDL each time you see a spot on a leaf, it makes sense to consider sending in a sample when new symptoms that appears to be spreading appear. Be sure to check the information on the PPDL website

(https://ag.purdue.edu/department/btny/ppdl/) about how to submit a sample and/or call the number provided. The \$11 cost for instate samples is very reasonable. You might also consider sending photos digitally to the PPDL. Some problems can be identified by photos alone, but others may require a physical sample sent as a follow-up. The sample fee covers both the photo sample and any physical follow-up that may be needed at no additional charge. The link to the PPDL submit samples page is

https://ag.purdue.edu/department/btny/ppdl/submit-samples/sub mit-sample.html.

Another option for determining what disease might be present is to study the vegetable disease photos recently posted at https://ag.purdue.edu/department/arge/swpap/veg-disease-photo s.html. These photos are of vegetable diseases that one may observe in a typical season in Indiana. Brief descriptions are included with each crop and disease. While viewing photos is not a substitute for sending in a sample to the PPDL, the photos may help you narrow the possible disease problems that might exist in a field.

Use of the PPDL or the photos described above will help in disease diagnosis. Armed with a disease name, you can review the resources below for management options.

Beginning with the *Midwest Vegetable Production Guide*, which is available as a hard copy or as an online guide at https://mwveguide.org/. The first portion of the guide contains a narrative about many aspects of vegetable production. For disease management, most growers will want to visit the second portion of the guide. At the site, you will be asked to follow the prompts to select which crop and disease is of interest. Management options will include cultural and fungicide options (insect and weed pests are also included). Filters can narrow results, such as limiting recommendations to organically certified options or fungicides labeled for greenhouse use. Searches for a particular disease can be downloaded as PDFs. Be sure to check any fungicides listed on the label.

Fungicide schedules for cantaloupe and watermelon have been condensed into a document that can be found here. A pumpkin schedule can be found here. These links and many others can be found by going to the Southwest Purdue Ag Program page at https://ag.purdue.edu/department/arge/swpap/index.html. Visit resources, then click on cucurbit resources. These fungicide schedules should be used together with current recommendations from the Midwest Vegetable Production Guide described above.

The Southwest Purdue Ag Program cucurbit resource page also provides links to extension bulletins that describe anthracnose and gummy stem blight of cucurbits, Fusarium wilt of watermelon, and other subjects. These bulletins describe symptoms, biology as well as management options. Other resources, such as for tomatoes and greenhouse, can also be found under resources on the Southwest Purdue Ag Program page. Note that several videos are posted on these pages, such as how to diagnose cucurbit downy mildew or bacterial wilt of cantaloupe. The banner menu on the Southwest Purdue Ag Program also has a link to this newsletter, the *Vegetable Crops Hotline:* https://vegcropshotline.org/.

Finally, when searching elsewhere online for vegetable disease information, those websites which are most likely to provide science-based information unrelated to sales are those websites that end in '.edu' or '.gov'. As you gather information, it's helpful to compare and contrast advice given from multiple sources. Purdue specialists are always available to help sort through problems when management recommendations are unclear.

Indiana Small Farms Conference – February 29 and March 1, 2024

(Amy Thompson, afthompson@purdue.edu)



Farmers, researchers, food system advocates, homesteaders, and agricultural agency personnel, among others, will convene for the 12th annual Indiana Small Farm Conference on February 29th and March 1st, 2024, at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds. This year's conference will showcase keynote speaker Michael Kilpatrick, a renowned Midwest-based farmer known for his Thriving Farmer podcast.

Educational sessions during the conference will delve into various topics, including urban agriculture, livestock, and business management. The event will also offer numerous formal and informal networking opportunities, live demonstrations, and a comprehensive trade show.

Registration

The two-day registration fee is \$155.00, covering lunch on both days, refreshment breaks, access to educational sessions, and the Thursday evening social event. One-day registration options are also available. For more information and registration, visit https://purdue.ag/sfc.

The registration deadline is February 21st.

News Release

We look forward to your participation!

For inquiries about the Indiana Small Farm Conference, please contact Amy Thompson at afthompson@purdue.edu or (765) 496-1930.

Integrated Crop-Livestock Systems Study

(Ashley Adair, holmes9@purdue.edu)

Purdue University's Sustainable Horticulture Lab is leading an *Integrated Crop-Livestock Systems* study on organic farms. The study aims to determine the impact of integrated systems on soil health, microbial communities, and food pathogens on the farm. The lab will also explore the economic feasibility of these systems.

For those who would like to participate in the research, requirements include raising chickens or other livestock, using organic practices (certification is not required), and planting a paired strip trial with and without livestock integration.

If you're interested in learning more details about participating in this research, or if you would simply like to sign up for e-mails about the study and related events and activities, please take the following survey:

https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1TA08TBChhf IAyy

If you have any questions, please contact Moriah Bilenky at mbilenky@purdue.edu / (765) 496-0368 or Ashley Adair at holmes9@purdue.edu / (765) 496-6362.

EPA Chlorothalonil Review

(Dan Egel, egel@purdue.edu, (812) 886-0198)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published a

"proposed Interim Review Decision" regarding the fungicide chlorothalonil. I only recently became aware of this review. Unfortunately, the deadline to comment is January 10, 2024. A link to comment is provided at the bottom of this article. Read on for more details.

Chlorothalonil is the common name of the active ingredient (a.i.) in many common trade names such as Agronil[®], Bravo[®], Echo[®], Equus[®], Daconil[®], etc. Chlorothalonil is also included as an ingredient with many other fungicides. Chlorothalonil has the FRAC group M5, which means it has multi-sites of action. In over 60 years of use, there has never been any recorded instance of fungicide resistance because it has multi-sites of action. For this reason, chlorothalonil is an important tank mix partner and is important is alternations in the field to limit the fungicide resistance of systemic products which have single sites of action. In addition, chlorothalonil has a broad range of diseases it is effective against in contrast with many systemic fungicides.

However, chlorothalonil has some disadvantages. In general, chlorothalonil has more potential for mammalian toxicity than many of our systemic fungicides. In addition, aquatic animals may be affected by certain doses of chlorothalonil. Finally, chlorothalonil may harm bees, although fungicides, in general, are not nearly as toxic to bees as some insecticides. Much more information about the effects of chlorothalonil can be found here.

Much more information about how the EPA proposes to limit the amount of chlorothalonil applied is given in the link above. In general, however, the yearly amount of chlorothalonil that can be applied is proposed to be halved. For example, with cucurbits, Bravo Weather Stik[®] is now labeled for up to 15.75 lb a.i. per acre per year. The EPA proposes to reduce the amount of chlorothalonil that can be applied per year to 9 lb. a.i. per acre. If one applies Bravo Weather Stik[®] at the maximum rate of 2.25 lb ai/acre, then the number of applications per year would be reduced from 7 applications per year to 4. Tomatoes are now limited to 15 lb ai per acre per year. At the maximum rate, 2.1 lb ai can be applied per acre per year to tomatoes. The EPA proposes to reduce the amount of chlorothalonil a.i that can be applied per acre per year to 6.5 lb ai. Therefore, the number of applications per year would be reduced from 7 to 3 under the EPA proposal. Much more information can be found at the link above.

To comment on the proposal, use the link below. If you have questions, contact me.

https://www.regulations.gov/commenton/EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0840-0140

Cleaning and Sanitizing Workshop – February 27

(Petrus Langenhoven, plangenh@purdue.edu, (765) 496-7955)

Safe produce In Purdue extension

The Safe Produce Indiana team is partnering with Michigan State University and the North Central Region Center for FSMA Training, Extension, and Outreach to host a cleaning and sanitizing workshop at the Purdue Extension Food Safety Training Hub on February 27.

This will be a full day of training. Topics include produce food safety basics, cleaning and sanitizing, establishment of a cleaning and sanitizing program, and much more. The workshop would be useful for farm supervisors, managers, and employees who have cleaning and sanitizing responsibilities.

Date: February 27, 2024.

Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm ET

Venue: Purdue Extension Food Safety Training Hub, 4207 N. Purdue Rd. Vincennes, IN 47591

Registration fee: \$65

Register HERE:

hhttps://INCleaning-SanitizingWorkshop2024.eventbrite.com

Registration is through MSU.

Download the flyer HERE:

https://vegcropshotline.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Cleaning-Sanitizing-Workshop-Flyer-6.pdf

Senior Horticulture Crops Research Technician

(Petrus Langenhoven, plangenh@purdue.edu, (765) 496-7955)

Take your Next Giant Leap and Discover your next career at Purdue University.

At the Meigs Horticultural Research Facility, part of the Throckmorton Ag Center at Purdue University, there is a job opening.

We are hiring a Senior Horticulture Crops Research Technician. The technician will be responsible for overall field operations, pesticide applications, and crop maintenance required to achieve successful field research on horticultural crops.

For more information about the position, visit Careers at Purdue or copy this link

https://careers.purdue.edu/job/West-Lafayette-Senior-Horticulture -Crops-Research-Technician-IN-47906/1111468200/

Indiana Vegetable Growers Association Membership

(Petrus Langenhoven, plangenh@purdue.edu, (765) 496-7955)

Indiana Vegetable Growers Association (IVGA)

Membership Renewal /Application

The IVGA was established in the early 1900's to be the Voice for Vegetable Growers in Indiana and is dedicated to the improvement of vegetable production and marketing in Indiana. The IVGA supports education and research about vegetables and melons in Indiana, and as your advocate, the IVGA is your resource to help find solutions for your everyday growing and harvesting problems.

IVGA is a partner with Purdue for the annual Indiana Horticultural Conference and Expo.

We communicate with public institutions, government agencies, and others to discuss issues important to Indiana vegetable growers.

Join or Renew today and reap the benefits of being a part of a great team in Indiana!

Download the Membership Application/Renewal form HERE, or visit the IVGA webpage.

Midwest Cover Crops Council to Host Conference in Indianapolis

(Anna Morrow, annamorrow@purdue.edu, (765) 392-6417)

The Midwest Cover Crops Council (MCCC) will host its 2024 Annual Meeting and Conference at the Crowne Plaza Indianapolis-Airport on February 13-14, 2024. The MCCC is a collaboration of researchers, extension staff, farmers, agencies, and industry with the mission of facilitating the widespread adoption of cover crops across the Midwest. February 13th is the MCCC Annual Meeting, which is open to the public and will largely be State and Province reports. These reports summarize cover crop research and activities across the Midwest. The first day will conclude with a reception, including a graduate student poster competition.

The second day (Feb 14) is a typical conference program with a keynote presentation by Dr. Rob Myers, the Director of the MU Center for Regenerative Agriculture and SARE Regional Director of Extension Programs. There will also be a farmer panel and a general session by Barry Fisher, Indiana farmer and retired USDA NRCS Soil Health Specialist. Breakout sessions throughout the day include tracks on cover crop use in field crops, grazing, and specialty crops. One or two-day registrations are available. Early bird registration ends December 15.

Students are encouraged to attend with free registration and cash prizes for graduate student poster competition winners. The MCCC is still accepting exhibitors and sponsors for the conference. Details and registration are available at midwestcovercrops.org/meetings.

Get Your Farm Off to a Great Start with the Beginning Farmer Virtual Program

(Amy Thompson, afthompson@purdue.edu)



The goal of this 8-session program is to help new and beginning farmers find success through the creation of a practical action plan. The program helps farmers set goals, identify assets and challenges, and become aware of outside assistance and resources that can lead them toward a successful farming operation. Each participant will be encouraged to explore outside resources and supplemental materials presented in the class, as well as other resources shared by classmates.

When

Sessions will be held virtually via Zoom on Monday nights from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Eastern time from February 5 to March 25.

Registration

Cost is \$85 per person. Space is limited. Registration Deadline is January 31, 2024.

For more information, click HERE

Register at http://bit.ly/VBF2024

For inquiries about the Beginning Farmer Program, please contact Amy Thompson at afthompson@purdue.edu or (765) 496-1930.

Urban Agriculture Pest Management Special Event

(Petrus Langenhoven, plangenh@purdue.edu, (765) 496-7955)



Join members of the Great Lakes Urban Agriculture IPM Working Groups to debut our first of nine virtual farm tours that were created during the 2023 growing season. We will use this innovative technology to transport you to the farm so that we can navigate around to talk about the farms' pest challenges and what the farmers are doing to address these issues. Amy Mathews with Mad Farmers Collective will join us. The Mad Farmers Collective has grown at the South Circle Farm site for 13 years.

Date: February 8, 2024.

Time: 6 pm to 7:30 pm ET

Register at no cost HERE:

https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV e9HD3tfOhaHr0mG

Download the event flyer HERE:

https://vegcropshotline.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2023-IPM -Virtual-Farm-Tour-Event.pdf

Hosts

Amy Mathews with Mad Farmers Collective Jim Jasinski, The Ohio State University Maggie Rivera, The Ohio State University Laura Ingwell, Purdue University



FARMERS

COLLECTIVE

Urban Agriculture Pest Management **Special Event.**

Virtual Farm Tour & **Q&A** with Farmer

February 8th 6 pm to 7:30 pm ET, A Zoom link will be sent to those who register. Register here, no cost

Join members of the Great Lakes Urban Agriculture IPM Working Groups to debut our first of nine virtual farm tours that were created during the 2023 growing season. We will use this innovative technology to transport you to the farm so that we can navigate around to talk about the farms' pest challenges and what the farmers are doing to address these issues. We will be joined by Amy Mathews with Mad Farmers Collective. The Mad Farmers Collective has grown at the South Circle Farm site for 13 years.

Amy Mathews with Mad Farmers Collective Jim Jasinski, The Ohio State University Maggie Rivera. The Ohio State University Laura Ingwell, Purdue University

Central State University

ornell University



Webinar series coordinated by Great Lakes Urban Agriculture IPM Working Group Working Group Member Organization

North Central Center

The Ohio State University University of Illinois Purdue University University of Minnesota Michigan State University University of Connecticut University of Wisconsin

This work is/was supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Crop Protection and Pest Man Center (2022-70006-38001). gement Program through the North Central IPM

Feb. 1, 2024 Vegetable Programs in Northern Indiana

> (Liz Maynard, emaynard@purdue.edu, (219) 548-3674) Save the Date!

NWI Vegetable Growers Series

Programs for vegetable farmers are scheduled for Feb. 1, 2024, in Elkhart and Porter Counties.

The half-day event will include presentations on pumpkin weed management, compost use in high tunnels, soil health, and a marketing panel. PARP credits are available. \$10 cash is payable on the day of the event.

Hardcopies of the Midwest Vegetable Production Guide for 2024 will be available for purchase. Guides are selling for \$12. A check is preferred, but you may also pay with cash. Make sure that you have the correct amount of cash available.

In Elkhart County, the program will be held from 9 to noon Eastern time at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds, 17746 County Rd. 34. Goshen.

In Porter County, the program will be held from 1 to 4 pm Central time at the Valparaiso Public Library, 103 Jefferson St., Valparaiso.

Register at https://tinyurl.com/Veg2024

Elkhart County Program

Porter County Program

It is the policy of the Purdue University that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran. Purdue is an Affirmative Action Institution. This material may be available in alternative formats. 1-888-EXT-INFO Disclaimer: Reference to products in this publication is not intended to be an endorsement to the exclusion of others which may have similar uses. Any person using products listed in this publication assumes full responsibility for their use in accordance with current directions of the manufacturer.