



Agri-Scope

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2009 Thanksgiving Leftovers May Include Money in Pocket

Turkey and the trimmings might not be the only leftovers from this year's Thanksgiving feast. Americans should find a few more dollars left over after purchasing the annual meal, said Corinne Alexander, a Purdue University

agricultural economist. Heading into the holiday, retail food prices generally are lower than one year ago.

In a recent news release, Alexander explained that the lower food prices are the result of a recession-driven drop in commodity and crude oil prices. As wholesale food costs have come down, so, too, have retail prices.

According to American Farm Bureau Federation's 24th annual informal price survey of classic items found on the Thanksgiving Day dinner table indicates the average cost of this year's feast for 10 is \$42.91, a \$1.70 price decrease from last year's average of \$44.61.

Regardless of how much consumers spend this Thanksgiving, Americans can be thankful for an inexpensive bounty. Americans enjoy a wonderful, high-quality food supply that for the average American family costs less than 10 percent of their take-home income. That's much lower than most countries around the world.

According to Alexander, "For our neighbors to the south in Mexico, the average family there spends about 25 percent of their take-home income on food. And for some of the poorest countries in the world, the average families in those countries are spending as much as 60 percent of their take-home income on food. Americans are extremely fortunate to eat well for not very much money."

Important Dates to Remember

Dec. 4	Michiana Crops Conference	Jan. 11	Regional Beef Meeting
Dec. 9	Pesticide Applicator Training	Jan. 12-14	Fort Wayne Farm Show
Dec. 10	Income Tax Planning	Jan. 15	Livestock, Forage & Grain Forum
Dec. 11	Winter Irrigation Workshop	Jan. 19-21	Indiana Horticulture Congress & Trade Show
Dec. 15-16	Certified Crop Adviser Conf.	Feb. 6	Purdue Ag Alumni Fish Fry
Dec. 17	Soybean & Corn Update Mtg.	Feb. 25-26	Midwest Mint Growers Meeting, West Lafayette
Jan. 4	Illiana Vegetable Growers School		
Jan. 7	Purdue Ag Outlook Mtg		

Gene Matzat, Extension
Educator, ANR

Purdue University Cooperative
Extension Service

Purdue University, Indiana
Counties and U.S. Department
of Agriculture Cooperating
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Although Americans spend little of their income on food, the recession has made it difficult for some families this Thanksgiving. There are many who find their budgets tightened by unemployment, minimal wage increases and continued erosion of fixed incomes by inflation. For these, any food price rise is significant. We should remember those who are less fortunate and share our food bounty.

For details on AFBF's price survey, visit www.fb.org (under current news). For the full article by Dr. Alexander, visit <http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/aganswers/story.asp?storyID=5618>.

Michiana Crops Conference

Purdue and Michigan State universities will host the **Michiana Crops Conference on Friday, Dec. 4, 2009**, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST at the Blue Gate Restaurant in Shipshewana, Indiana. This year's conference will cover a variety of topics to help farmers begin planning for their 2010 crop. Topics include global ag outlook, manure nutrient management, weed resistance to herbicides, corn and soybean seeding rates, a wrap-up of corn and soybean diseases, and benefits of using legume cover crops. The registration brochure has a complete list of topics and speakers.

Registration is \$35 prior to Nov. 30th, and \$40 after this date. The registration fee includes conference materials, lunch and refreshments. Continuing education credits for commercial pesticide applicators, certified crop advisors and Michigan pesticide applicators will be available with the registration fee. Indiana private pesticide applicators pay an additional \$10 for Private Applicator Recertification Program (PARP) credit.

Registration is limited to 250 participants. To register, download a registration brochure from www.agry.purdue.edu/dtc or obtain one from the Purdue Extension-La Porte County office. You can also download a brochure at www.extension.purdue.edu/laporte.

Managing the 2009 Harvest

The combination of delayed planting, a cool summer, an early freeze in some areas and a rainy fall has created a harvest situation not seen for many years. Purdue Extension has developed a guide that provides information on a variety management

issues designed to help Indiana farmers make decisions related to harvesting, storing and marketing 2009 fall crops.

Farmers with corn still out in the fields are wondering how much more will corn dry on the stalk? If the wet corn is harvested, what is the best way to dry and store it to minimize losses from breakage and shrinking? What about ear rots and molds in this year's corn crop? Is the corn safe to feed to livestock?

These questions and more are discussed in a recent publication of the Purdue field crops team, a group of Extension specialists who worked together to address tough harvest issues facing farmers in 2009. The publication can be downloaded from Purdue Extension-La Porte County office's website: www.extension.purdue.edu/laporte; go to "Ag & Natural Resources" for the link to "Managing the 2009 Harvest," a 5-page pdf file with printed information and links to more resources and the Purdue specialists.

Purdue Extension corn specialist Bob Nielsen has also gathered information related to this year's harvest at www.kingcorn.org/cafe/harvest. The links represent a collection of information about various aspects of managing the harvest and handling of a late crop that is further impacted by disease, high moisture grain, and freeze damage to immature grain.

For issues dealing with drying, handling and storage of this year's crop, visit Purdue's post harvest grain quality website at www.grainquality.org. Find news and information here about grain drying, conditioning and aeration, all of which are especially important for this year's harvested corn crop. There is also a collection of Extension publications on diseases and mycotoxins, pest management in stored grain, and grain storage systems and management.

Winter Irrigation Workshop

Michiana Irrigation Association hosts its **Winter Irrigation Workshop on Friday, Dec. 11** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. EST at the Blue Gate Restaurant in Shipshewana, Indiana. A variety of water management, economic, policy, and legislative topics will be addressed. The latest research on irrigation scheduling options will be presented. Registration is \$30. Call the Extension office at 219-324-9407 or download a registration brochure from www.extension.purdue.edu/laporte.

Jasper County PARP & CCH Training

Earn needed private applicator or commercial applicator recertification credits at training on Wednesday, **Dec. 9** from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. CDT at the **Wheatfield Library in Jasper County**. RSVP to Purdue Extension - Jasper Co. at 219-866-5741. Session will include info on stacked BT traits in corn, managing for high-yield soybeans and *DriftWatch*, Indiana's registry for sensitive crops. Remember to bring your license. For a schedule of more private applicator training events visit: <http://bteny.agriculture.purdue.edu/parpevents/>

Income Tax Planning for Farmers in 2009

La Porte County will host an informational meeting to help farmers with **income tax planning** in 2009 on **Thursday, Dec. 10** from 6:30-8:30 p.m. CST at the Purdue Extension office located at 2358 N. US Highway 35 in La Porte.

This is a practical, management-oriented discussion of the recent tax law changes and their implications for farmers. Topics to be discussed include a Section 179 expensing and depreciation update, farm income averaging, prepaid expenses and tax planning. Other topics included in the program are net operating losses, tax treatment of soil and water conservation expenses, and a self-employment tax update. Instructors are Purdue ag economist George Patrick and CPA David Frette, both of whom have extensive experience with income tax issues related to agriculture.

This program is presented via Adobe Connect, with capabilities for individual questions, at over 20 locations in Indiana. The program will also be available for viewing via the internet. There is no charge for this program and handout materials will be available at the host sites. Please call the Purdue Extension-LaPorte County office at 219-324-9407 to reserve a seat for this meeting or to get information about viewing it over the internet.

Indiana Certified Crop Adviser Conference

The **2009 Indiana Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Conference** will be Tuesday and Wednesday, **Dec. 15-16** at the Indianapolis Marriott East. Designed to provide technical and professional development opportunities for crop

advisers, the conference will offer two full days of sessions in nutrient management, soil and water management, crop management and pest management. Participants will listen to nationally recognized speakers and can follow one track topic or choose multiple tracks. Among the 40 different 1-hour sessions, topics include irrigation, subsurface drainage, vertical tillage, cover crops, high-yield wheat management and new nutrient application regulations.

This year, four sessions on Tuesday afternoon will be devoted to raising specialty crops including green beans, tomatoes, and forages. The Indiana CCA program's annual business meeting will be held during the lunch hour on Tuesday. Professional development sessions will be featured on Wednesday morning. For more information about topics and speakers, to download a registration flyer or to register for the CCA conference visit www.indianacca.org.

Soybean and Corn Update Meeting

Purdue Extension – Marshall County is hosting a **Soybean and Corn Update Meeting** at their office on Thursday, **Dec. 17**, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. EST. The meeting will take place in Room 30r of the Marshall County Building located at 112 West Jefferson Street in Plymouth. Please allow time to find a parking spot near the County courthouse.

The meeting will feature Purdue Extension Specialists Shaun Casteel, Soybean Specialist, and Kiersten Wise, Field Crops Disease Specialist. Information will be presented on high-yield soybean production through crop health and pest management and managing corn diseases with emphasis on ear rots. Bob Yoder, Marshall County Extension Educator, will discuss managing pesticide drift in row crop production, featuring a new web-based registry for sensitive crops and habitats.

There is no registration fee for this meeting. Private applicator credits are available to participants for \$10. Participants interested in these credits should bring their current license with them. Certified Crop Adviser credits will also be available to participants.

For information on this program contact the Purdue Extension-Marshall County office at 574-935-8545 or email Bob Yoder at ryoder@purdue.edu.

Illiana Vegetable Growers' School

The 2010 edition of the **Illiana Vegetable Growers' School** will be held on Tuesday, January 4, at Teibel's Restaurant in Schererville, IN.

Participants are asked to complete a registration form and pay the \$25 fee by Dec. 29. Registrations will be accepted at the door beginning at 8:00 a.m. CST, but a meal cannot be guaranteed without preregistration. The program begins at 8:30 a.m. CST and runs until 4:00 p.m. CST.

A great variety of topics and speakers are on the program schedule.

During the morning participants will hear about controlling western bean cutworm in sweet corn and aphids in cucurbits as well as managing other insects; top fungicide picks for 2010; avoiding late blight of tomato and potato; using pesticides without harming bees; and *DriftWatch*, an online registry for pesticide sensitive crops.

After lunch topics include a discussion of sustainability in vegetable production; high tunnel production systems used in Indiana; and 2009 pumpkin, sweet corn and tomato variety results. During the afternoon, there will also be concurrent sessions that offer a choice of topics: irrigation of vegetable crops or marketing and adding value to vegetable crops by making and selling homemade foods.

Sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service of Purdue University and University of Illinois, the school will also feature vegetable vendor displays which can be viewed prior to the start of the program, during morning break and before lunch. Certified Crop Advisers can earn continuing education credits in pest and crop management and professional development. Indiana Commercial Pesticide Applicators can earn CCH's. Indiana Private Pesticide Applicators may receive PARP credit towards recertification by attending the morning session and paying a \$10 fee.

Teibel's Restaurant is located at the intersection of US Highways 30 and 41 in Lake County, Indiana. For more information about the Illiana Vegetable School visit the *Purdue Fruit and Vegetable Connection* at www.hort.purdue.edu/fruitveg; follow the link to *Events* to download a meeting flyer or call Purdue Extension-Lake County at (219) 755-3249 for



registration information. For information about the program call Liz Maynard at (219) 785-5673.

Purdue Ag Outlook Meeting: *How Will Agriculture Fare in 2010?*

Sponsored by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service of La Porte and St. Joseph Counties, a free program to help explain factors that are driving the global and agricultural economies will take place **Thursday, Jan. 7, 2010**, at 7:00 p.m. EST (6:00 p.m. CST) at the New Carlisle-Olive Township Public Library, New Carlisle, IN. Dr. Chris Hurt of Purdue's Department of Agricultural Economics will present the **Ag Outlook**.

The program will also examine the impact of the credit crisis and recovery on agricultural commodity prices, Indiana land values, cash rents, and lease arrangements. There will also be an evaluation of expected price levels for corn, soybeans, cattle, milk, and hog prices. Also featured will be strategies for grain pricing, expected input costs for next season, and the best crops to plant in 2010.

Please call the Purdue Extension-La Porte County office at 219-324-9407 by Tuesday, Jan. 5 to reserve your spot. If you require auxiliary aids and services due to disabilities, please contact us prior to the event.

La Porte County to Host Regional Beef Meeting in Wanatah

The **2009-2010 area beef meetings**, hosted by the Indiana Beef Cattle Association (IBCA) and Purdue Extension, will take place in Indiana's 10 Extension Areas, between November and January. For Area 10, which includes La Porte County, the meeting will be on **Monday, January 11, 2010**, at the American Legion Post #403 located at 203 S. Washington Street in Wanatah.

The education part of the meeting will cover the importance of successful calving, vaccinating for scours and the Sandhill Calving System. IBCA will provide an update on policies and programs.

The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. CST (7:00 p.m. EST) with a dinner sponsored by IBCA and local sponsors. Those planning to attend need to RSVP by Jan. 5th to Purdue Extension-La Porte County office; please call 219-324-9407.

Participants do not have to be members of IBCA to attend the meeting as the focus is on education. Membership in IBCA will be available to interested parties at the meeting.

The counties in Area 10 include: Elkhart, Kosciusko, Lake, LaPorte, Marshall, Porter, St. Joseph and Starke. The current IBCA Director for Area 10 is John Camden from Kosciusko County. For meetings in other areas, download a listing from www.extension.purdue.edu/laporte; look under *Ag & Natural Resources*.

The Beef Center: a new Purdue Web site contains all things beef!

The Purdue University Beef Team recently launched a new Web site designed to be an information source for beef producers from Indiana and throughout the Midwest. **The Beef Center**, <http://www.thebeefcenter.com>, hosts a wide range of production beef information in a variety of formats.

Producers can find Extension factsheets, YouTube videos, podcasts and PowerPoint presentations with narration on everything from nutrition and health to reproduction and waste management, according to Ron Lemenager, Purdue Extension beef cattle specialist and Web site host.



The Beef Center includes links to materials originating from other land-grant universities, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Cattlemen's Beef Association and allied industries.

The information is organized and easy to find based on topic area. Online courses, such as the IQ+BEEF Quality Assurance (IQ+BEEF) program and the *Fresh from the Farm* freezer beef program, also can be accessed through the new Web site.

Indiana Livestock, Forage and Grain Forum

Indiana commodity groups from diverse sectors of the state's agricultural industry are teaming up for the **Indiana Livestock, Forage and Grain Forum** in Indianapolis to provide Hoosier farmers with the latest news, trends and issues

affecting Indiana's livestock, grain and forage industries. The forum takes place **January 15, 2010**, at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis from 9:00 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. EST. An optional "early bird" showing of the movie, *FOOD, Inc.* will be from 7:00 to 8:30 a.m. EST.

Sponsors of the forum are the Indiana Beef Cattle Association, Indiana Corn Marketing Council, Indiana Farm Bureau, Indiana Forage Council, Indiana Goat Producers Association, Indiana Horse Council, Indiana Pork, Indiana Professional Dairy Producers, Indiana Sheep Association, Indiana Soybean Alliance and Milk Promotion Services of Indiana.

The forum combines the Indiana Livestock Forum, which has been sponsored the last two years by the Indiana Soybean Alliance (ISA), and the Indiana Forage Council/Indiana Cattle and Forage Symposium, previously hosted by Indiana Beef Cattle Association, Indiana Forage Council, Indiana Professional Dairy Producers, and Milk Promotion Services of Indiana.

The day starts at 9 a.m. with a general session for all participants. The keynote speaker is Dr. Lowell Catlett, an agricultural economist from New Mexico State University who works both nationally and internationally with corporations and organizations including the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Labor, Interior, Defense, Education, Energy and World Bank. He will share his thoughts on the economic future of agriculture.

The morning session also includes the announcement of an exciting new consumer outreach program that unites all sectors of Indiana agriculture. Participants can expect to leave with some exciting take-away messages as well as materials and specific action items to help them get involved in this new program.

Following lunch, each commodity group will offer three breakout sessions where participants can mix and match sessions from any of the commodity topics that interest them. Attendees can also visit a trade show throughout the day, featuring a variety of companies and organizations that farmers do business with on a daily basis.



The day concludes with a reception sponsored by Indiana Farm Bureau from 5 to 6:30 p.m., giving attendees one last chance to visit the trade show and talk with other farmers about what they have learned throughout the day.

Registration is limited and costs \$25 per person; pre-registration is required and no on-site registrations will be accepted. A complete agenda and additional registration information can be found at www.indianasoybean.com/forum.

2010 Indiana Horticulture Congress and Trade Show

The **2010 Indiana Horticultural Congress and Trade Show** is slated for Monday-Wednesday, **Jan. 19-21, 2010**, at the Wyndham Hotel, 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN. This annual event is an educational meeting designed to meet the needs of fruit, vegetable, wine, organics and specialty crop growers and marketers in Indiana and surrounding states.

All interested individuals are invited to attend. Detailed information and registration materials will be available after Thanksgiving at the Purdue Extension-La Porte County office or online at www.inhortcongress.org/. For more information, contact Tammy Goodale, Purdue Horticulture Department, at 765-494-1296 or tgoodale@purdue.edu.



office

Purdue Sorghum Breeder Wins World Food Prize

A Purdue University plant breeder and geneticist whose sorghum research won him the 2009 World Food Prize was honored during a daylong celebration Thursday, Oct. 22, on Purdue's West Lafayette campus.

During Gebisa Ejeta Day, the Distinguished Professor of Agronomy spoke on "The Pursuit of Purpose-Driven Science" and Purdue students sponsored activities to raise awareness of world hunger.

"Gebisa has devoted his career to fighting hunger," said Jay Akridge, Purdue's Glenn W. Sample Dean of Agriculture. "It seems appropriate to honor him by engaging the Purdue community in a discussion of the issue and in helping fight hunger in our own community and around the world."

Ejeta received the World Food Prize Oct. 15 in Des Moines, Iowa, from the World Food Prize Foundation. The award is considered the Nobel Prize of agriculture. Ejeta was selected as a World Food Prize laureate for his research leading to improved sorghum varieties in his native Ethiopia and other African nations. Sorghum is a major food crop for more than 500 million people on the African continent.

In 1994 eight tons of Ejeta's drought-tolerant and Striga-resistant sorghum seeds were distributed to the African nations of Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Farmers in those countries reported yields of as much as four times larger than traditional sorghum crops.



For more information about Ejeta and the World Food Prize, visit Purdue's World Food Prize Web page at www.ag.purdue.edu/Pages/WorldFoodPrize.aspx or the sponsoring organization's website at www.worldfoodprize.org.

This is really an amazing story of how basic research with a focus can make a big impact in our world!