

# Explore a career in agriculture



The agricultural industry provides a variety of opportunities to professionals interested in this often misunderstood field.

According to the employment resource AGCareers. com, more than 250 career profiles are available to people interested in a career in agriculture. And while jobs in agriculture may not be as prevalent as they were a few centuries ago, when 72 percent of the workforce was

employed in farm occupations in the United States, agriculture remains a booming industry that greatly affects the nation's economy. Today, one in 12 American jobs wdepends on agriculture, according to the career resource Payscale.

The following are some potential professions for those considering careers in

agriculture. • Agricultural business manager: This person oversees the business operations of a farm by providing organization and leadership during the production process. He or she contacts creditors, selects seeds, buys new equip-

ment, and ensures the distri-

bution of product.

• Agricultural lawyer: Attorneys who specialize in agriculture deal with water and environmental issues, represent agricultural labor in disputes, ensure proper marketing techniques are followed, handle real estate and land use issues, and much more.

• Animal control officer: These officers enforce local and regional laws that of skillsets.

pertain to the treatment and care of animals. They patrol for distressed animals and ensure cruelty-free practices are adhered to.

• Grain buyer: Grain buyers build relationships with producers so they can purchase grain for their particular companies. They negotiate purchase agreements, source grain supplies and issue purchase orders.

• Poultry hatchery manager: Hatchery managers oversee all of the aspects involved in poultry hatching. These can include management of personnel, handling and sorting of eggs, maintenance of equipment, coordination of pick-ups and deliveries, and overseeing quality control.

• Soil scientist: Among the many tasks they might perform, scientists in the field of agriculture test soil samples for minerals and contaminants. By studying the soil, scientists can recommend which crops the land can support, how much livestock can feed in an area and the implications of agriculture on the area as it pertains to managing natural resources. A career in agriculture

presents many exciting opportunities in a number of different applications. It's a vast industry that utilizes professionals with an array

### **B'ville FFA student** to compete at State

Batesville High School member Kaitlyn Sarringhaus participated and won in the District XII FFA Leadership Contest. She will now represent Batesville FFA at the State Convention set for June 14-17, 2021.

Kaitlyn will be given an agricultural topic at the competition. She will have 30 minutes to research and then an hour to write a persuasive essay.

The Batesville high school student will compete against 11 competitors.



Kaitlyn Sarringhaus

#### Bill to address pesticide violations passes House committee

A bill authored by State Sen. Jean Leising (R-Oldenburg) that would address the enforcement of pesticide violations passed the House Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development unanimously this week.

Under current law, the state chemist may impose a civil penalty on individuals who misuse pesticides based off a schedule of civil penalties that the Indiana Pesticide Review Board created.

penalties with a comprehensive list of violations for which the state chemist may impose a civil penalty of \$250, \$500 or \$1,000, depending on severity of the violation. SB 227 would also grant the state chemist the ability to adjust a civil penalty by 20% for certain violations if the person responsible for the violation takes mitigating action. Low-level violations could only incur a fee if a warning has been issued to the violator within five years of the latest inci-

"The misuse of pesticides interferes with the work of Indiana farmers, who contribute billions of dollars to our state economy every year," Leising said. "Farm-Senate Bill 227 would ers' land needs protection replace the schedule of civil from problems that could arise from pesticide misuse, and SB 227 would grant the state chemist the authority necessary to maintain fair regulatory measures."

> SB 227 will now be considered by the full House of Representatives.

Farmers are the backbone of our community and country. We know the hard work they put in day in and day out to make our community better! All of us at FCN applaud your hard work and thank you for reminding us once again why we choose to call this place "home". We have been honored to serve the Ag Community for over 100 years FCN Bank Building Stronger Communities.

## **B&H PUMPING** SERVICE, LLC

6236 S. SR 129 Versailles, IN

(812) 667-6447



**Ready Mix** 

and

HOLMANDS

**Septic Tank Sales** 







People...Products...Knowledge...

5262 E. US 50 • Dillsboro, IN 812-654-3177

# Milan FFA makes their mark



Madison Cavins is pictured with her plant science demonstration.

Milan FFA members competed in district leadership contest at East Central High School. They competed in animal science demonstration, plant science demonstration, prepared public speaking, extemporaneous public speaking, food science demonstration, job interview, scrapbook and FFA creed. Pictured from left are: Stephanie Hartman, Michelle Hoffrogge, Chloe Hunter, Madison Cavins, Emily Mutter, Jocelyn Allen and Rachel Henson.

#### **USDA** extends application deadline for the **Quality Loss Adjustment Program**

The U.S. Department of program," said Zach Duch-Agriculture (USDA) is extending the deadline from March 5 to April 9 for agricultural producers to apply for the Quality Loss Adjustment (OLA) Program because of recent winter storms and some clarifications to program rules. This program assists producers, including those here in Indiana who suffered crop quality losses due to qualifying 2018 and 2019 natural disasters.

"Because of recent winter storms and some program updates, we want to provide five additional weeks for producers to apply for the

eneaux, Administrator of the Farm Service Agency (FSA). "I want to make sure eligible producers have the opportunity to apply and to work with our team members to help with any questions. We recently clarified policy to ensure producers who sold grain to the feed market due to quality issues are adequately compensated."

#### **About the Program**

The QLA program assists producers whose eligible crops suffered quality losses due to qualifying drought, excessive moisture, flooding, hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, typhoons, volcanic

activity, or wildfires. Eligible crops include those for which federal crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is available, except for grazed crops and value loss crops, such as honey, maple sap. aquaculture, floriculture, mushrooms, ginseng root, ornamental nursery, Christmas trees, and turfgrass sod. Additionally, crops that were sold or fed to livestock or that are in storage may be eligible.

Assistance is available in counties that received a Presidential Emergency Disaster Declaration or Secretarial Disaster Designation, or for drought, a county rated by the U.S. Drought monitor as having a D3 (extreme drought) or higher. Producers in counties that did not receive a qualifying declaration or designation may still apply but must also provide supporting documentation.

FSA will issue payments once the application period ends. If the total amount of calculated QLA payments exceeds available program funding, payments will be prorated.

#### **More Information**

FSA began accepting applications on January 6 and has received more than 8,100 applications so far.

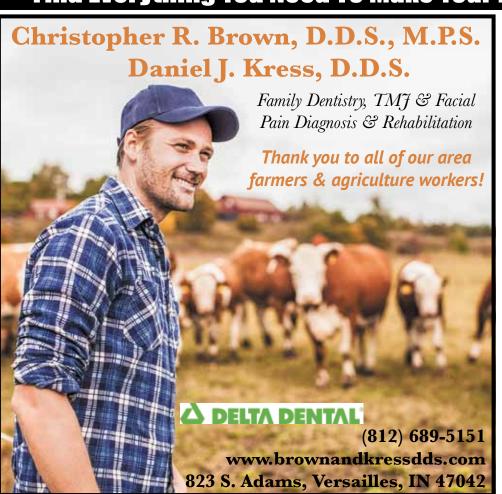
To apply contact your local USDA Service Center. Additional information is also available at farmers.gov/quality-loss. Producers can also obtain one-on-one support with applications by calling 877-508-8364.

While USDA offices are currently closed to visitors because of the pandemic, Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. To conduct business, please contact your local USDA Service Center. Additionally, more information related to USDA's response and relief for producers can be found at



We repair ALL brands of mowers, trimmers & chains saws! 2914 Clifty Dr. • Madison, IN • 812-273-4262 • www.andersonssales.com Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. • Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Find Everything You Need To Make Your Mowing Season A Breeze!





#### A Complete Line of Hay Drying Tools



conditioning, tedding, and raking that will save time, money and improve hay quality. Don't start the hay crop season without them!

A total system for hay

Invest in Quality! 812-591-2221 • EMAIL: lettshardware@gmail.com



**Your KUHN Dealer** Letts Hardware & Equipment, Inc. 4987 S County Rd 700 S Greensburg, IN 47240

### The role of technology in agriculture



Technology has left a significant footprint in every industry, and the agricultural sector is no exception.

industries that utilize technology in unique ways, few people may immediately think of agriculture. But technology has left a significant footprint in every industry, and the agricultural sector is no exception.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture notes that modern farms operate a lot differently than the farms of yesteryear. Dramatic changes have taken place within the agricultural industry over the last few decades, helping farming operations become more efficient and profitable as well as safer and more eco-friendly.

Robots, temperature and moisture sensors, aerial images, and GPS technologies

the value of such technologies cannot be understated. Thanks to the technologies at their disposals, farmers no longer have to uniformly apply water, fertilizer and pesticides to their farms. Technology now allows them to use only the minimum amounts required as they zero in on individual plants and target specific areas of their farms. The NIFA notes that the utilization of these technologies produces some

- Higher crop productivity
- Reduced impact on natural
- Less runoff of chemicals

• Increased worker safety

Safer, more efficient and more eco-friendly operations can only make the agricultural industry more successful in the decades to come. That's especially notable as the world continues to confront climate change and how it might affect the food

Though few may recognize the role of technology in modern farming, there's no denying the impact that various technologies have already had on the agricultural industry. And that impact figures to become even more profound in the decades to come.

Thank you other ag workers!

1321 S. Adams St.

Phone: 812-689-6697 www.hollandinsagency.com ashley@hollandinsagency.com

FRIENDSHIP | DILLSBORO | RISING SUN | VERSAILLES | VEVAY | BATESVILLE | LAWRENCEBURG | MADISON

When asked to think of are now routinely employed within the agricultural industry. The NIFA notes that

very real benefits, including:

into rivers and groundwater

Thank you farmers!

Versailles, IN 47042

**AUTO • HOME • FARM • BUSINESS** 

farmers &



0% Financing

CountryClipper.com

\*Pricing subject to change without notice. "Charge Into Spring" promotional event discounts valid on the purchase of new, in stock dealer inventory only, Country Clipper Zero Turn Mower beginning March 1, 2021 and ending March 31, 2021. Discounts may vary by model. Contact your local participating dealer for full details.

Cutter's Mower Repair

4505 Downey Ridge Rd Rising Sun, IN 47040

Specialty crop growers eligible for federal funding

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) is currently seeking project proposals from Indiana's specialty crop industry to present for funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The proposals must enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in Indiana, defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, horticulture and nursery crops.

"Indiana is a thriving home to many agricultural endeavors, which includes producing a variety of outstanding specialty crops," said. Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch. "This funding opportunity will allow our specialty crop industry the ability to advance through research, market development, and education and training.'

The USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program offers federal funding annually to

the state departments of agriculture to support their specialty crop industries. The allocation amount for Indiana

is unknown at this time. Applicants can include non-profit and for-profit organizations, governments and public or private colleges and universities. ISDA encourages applicants to develop projects focused on issues such as enhancing food safety, pest and disease control, developing organic and sustainable production practices, and developing local

and regional food systems. Funding will not be awarded to projects that benefit a particular commercial product, or provide a profit to a single organization, institution or individual. Each project must identify at least one expected measurable outcome that specifically demonstrates the project's impact on enhancing the competitiveness of eligible

ISDA's funding priority will focus on three main ar-

- Funding Area I: Market
- Enhancement
  - Funding Area II: Access, **Education and Training**

 Funding Area III: Research "It is more important now than ever to leverage these financial opportunities, and I want to encourage all eligible businesses or organizations to apply," said Bruce Kettler, Indiana State Department of Agriculture Director. "These dollars will go a long way in ensuring Indiana's robust specialty crop sector remains thriving for years to come."

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. ET on March 25, 2021, and proposals must be submitted online through the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's Grants Management System.

## Longstanding farm families presented Hoosier Homestead Awards

Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch and Indiana State Department of Agriculture Director Bruce Kettler presented 51 Hoosier Homestead Awards to families on March 5 at the Indiana State Museum in recognition of their commitment to Indiana agriculture.

To be named a Hoosier Homestead, farms must be owned by the same family for more than 100 consecutive years, and consist of 20 acres or more, or produce more than \$1,000 in agricultural products per year.

"For generations, each of the families honored today have been committed to Indiana, to agriculture and to their families," Crouch said. "The past year has been challenging in many ways but our agriculture industry remains strong. Hoosier farmers are a big reason why Indiana remains the 10th largest farming state. I was grateful to have the opportunity to present this award to these historic farming fami-

Families are eligible for three different distinctions of the Hoosier Homestead Award, based on the age of the farm. They can receive the Centennial Award for 100 years, Sesquicentennial Award for 150 years or Bicentennial Award for 200 vears of ownership.

Since the program's inception in 1976, more than 5,800 families have received the award.

Two families were recognized with the Bicentennial Award during the ceremony; the Weinantz farm from Bar-

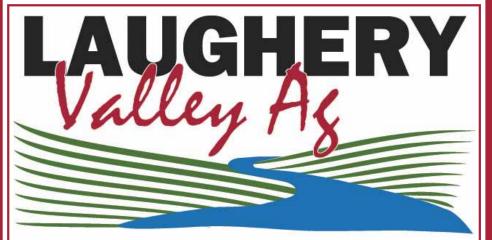
tholomew County was established in 1820 and the Hall farm from Orange County was established in 1818.

"The Hoosier Homestead program is a testament to the resiliency of our Indiana agriculture industry," Kettler said. "Each of these families have played a significant role in the heritage of our state and I am certain their legacy will continue for years to come."

For a list of this year's Hoosier Homestead Award recipients, go to the Indiana Department of Agriculture's website - www.in.gov/isda.



812-689-6060 www.HalcombHomeCenter.com



**336 N. Buckeye St.** Osgood, IN 812-689-4401 800-221-9731

- Purina Feed
  - Seed
  - Fertilizer
  - Hardware
- Lawn & Garden Products
- Grid Sampling & Mapping
  - Energy Plus Station
  - CountryMark Fuels
  - Propane for Home



& Farm

🔀 P U R I N A

### **Updated Indiana Dairy Strategy available**

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture unveiled a new Indiana Dairy Strategy this year, which focuses on dairy business expansion, development and attraction to our great Hoosier state. Indiana Dairy Strategy 2.0 is an update to the previous dairy strategy released in 2015.

"This updated dairy strategy highlights our strengths as an agriculture focused state along with our unprecedented business climate," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch. "We want to encourage processors and dairy businesses to think of Indiana when realizing expansion or adding an

additional location is on the horizon." America's dairy farmers

are critical to agriculture, not just in Indiana, but around the world. Dairy products provide a rich source of protein and other vital nutrients at an affordable cost for consumers and it is readily available in almost all grocery stores. While the coronavirus pandemic did cause some disruptions for the dairy industry, this strategy focuses on data pre-COVID-19.

"Our dairy industry is crucial for our state and we are incredibly thankful for our Hoosier farmers and processors," said Bruce Kettler,

Indiana State Department of Agriculture director. "Our dairy farmers are committed to their profession and we are proud to support them on the state level and will continue to do everything we can to increase milk processing in our state and add value to our dairy products."

The Indiana Dairy Strategy 2.0 was developed to better understand our current dairy industry environment and its strengths. It also gives an overview of the data trends the industry has seen play out over the past few years. A goal of the dairy strategy was to find new ways to strengthen our dairy industry and work with our current processors to increase milk outlets.

"The dairy industry is something I have been a part of all my life, and it is an industry that teaches me something new each day," said Doug Leman, executive director of the Indiana Dairy Producers. "This updated strategy is a big step forward in making more opportunities available for Hoosier dairy farmers."

Some highlights of the dairy strategy are as follows • Indiana produces a net sur-

- plus of 3.5 million pounds of milk each day
  - Indiana producers and

farmers have made strides around sustainability and work each day to reduce ecological impact

• A key asset in growing Indiana's dairy sector is the state's advantage of critical

infrastructure

 Indiana has a positive regulatory and tax environment for dairy producers and proc-

**JOSH HERRING** Owner/Operator

**OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE** Licensed in Indiana & Kentucky 812-599-9402 We offer free estimates!

9320 E. 1050 N. • Canaan, IN 47224 www.RidgeRunnerPest.com Email: ridgerunnerpest@gmail.com

Termites • Bedbugs • Spiders • Roaches • Ants Mosquitos • Bees • Mice • Other Household Pests **SUPPORTING FUTURE FARMERS IN FFA!** 

# D INDIANA FARM D. BUREAU INSURANCE<sup>®</sup>

#### Owen Menchhofer

**Premier Agent** 725 S Buckeye St | Osgood, IN 47037-1331 Office: (812) 689-4600 ext 3525

Mobile: (812) 756-0160

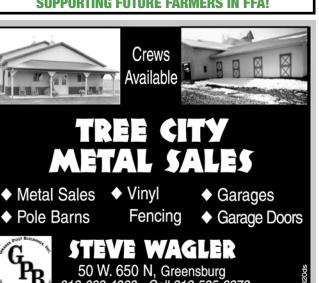


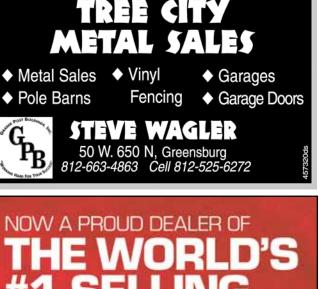
#### **HANOVER** IMPLEMENT INC.

Annual Consignment Auction Location: Hwy. 56 & 62 Hanover, IN 47243

Saturday, April 17th Sale Starts at 9:30 a.m. 812-866-2091

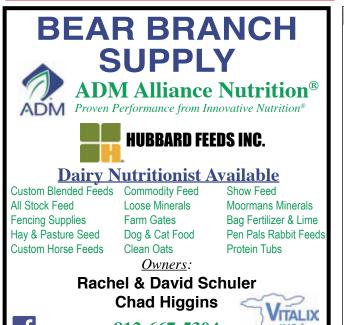
Consignments Welcome







Mahindra



812-667-5304

BearBranchSupply@gmail.com



From essentials like heating, cooling and lights, to daily necessities like cooking, laundry and the kid's bath-time, our lives run on electricity. Protect your home and family with a Generac automatic standby generator and keep life going without disruption.

POWER, OUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT.

Purchase a 22kW total home backup generator and transfer switch at the discounted price of

\$5,900

installed





P.O. Box 196 712 South Buckeye St.

Osgood, IN 47037 812-689-4111

800-737-4111

contact\_us@seiremc.com www.seiremc.com

Friendly Reminders for Spring ... Storms cause power outages. Don't be caught in the dark. Install a Total Home Backup

- Look Up! Don't plant trees under power lines
- Trenching or digging? Make sure to call 811



# SPRING MOTOR **OIL SALE**

March 1st Thru March 31st

Marathon Oil and Grease Products Save During This Sale

**Stop In Or Call** 

Straber Oil Co. 628 E. Pearl St.

> Batesville, IN 812-934-2910

1-800-274-0256



### WHOLESALE FERTILIZER

Service You Need **Prices You Expect** 

- Fertilizer Chemicals Plant Foods
- Soil Conditioners
  Trace Elements

812-689-1046 888-689-1046

Cell: 812-621-2361

**LOCALLY OWNED Over 30 Years Experience** 

P.O. Box 611, 720 W. US 50, Versailles, IN Mark Hartman, Owner



RIPLEY COUNTY Chamber of

Commerce



**Located in the Ripley County Welcome Center** on U.S. 50, Versailles

ripleycc@ripleycountychamber.org www.ripleycountychamber.org

Phone: 812-689-6654