

June 28-July 1, 2017



NACTA 2017

West Lafayette, Indiana

INnovation, IN Learning, IN the Heartland

NACTA 2017

Got Questions?

Please contact
NACTA17@purdue.edu.

June 28-July 1, 2017



Registration

REGISTRATION FEES	EARLY Before March 31	REGULAR Before June 14	LATE/ON- SITE After June 14
CONFERENCE ATTENDEES			
NACTA Member	\$425	\$550	\$660
Student	\$300	\$350	\$400
Non-Member	\$515	\$625	\$735
SPOUSE/GUEST EVENT FEES			
All Inclusive Guest	\$300	\$330	\$360
Ala Carte	\$30	\$35	\$40
Welcome Reception	\$50	\$55	\$60*
Delphi Off-Site Event	\$30	\$35	\$40*
Tours	\$50	\$55	\$60*
Banquet			
CHILD EVENT FEES (Ages 5-17)			
Welcome Reception	\$15	\$15	\$15*
	\$20	\$20	\$20*

ONLINE REGISTRATION CLOSED

Online registration is now closed. Please view the paper registration form and call (866) 515-0023.

[View Paper Registration Form](#)

Links

[2017 Call for Abstracts \(submission deadline is Feb 24, 2017\)](#)

[Guidelines and Call for 2017 Workshop Proposals \(due Feb 24, 2017\)](#)

[NACTA Teaching Awards \(due Feb 1, 2017\)](#)

Delphi Off-Site Event	\$15	\$15	\$15*
Tours	\$20	\$20	\$20*
Banquet			

**No guarantee of availability*

Dates

November, 2016	Call for Abstracts will come from NACTA
January 2017	Conference registration will go live
February 24, 2017	Abstracts due to NACTA
March 31, 2017	Early (discounted) registration ends
June 14, 2017	Online regular registration ends
June 28, 2017	Conference starts with welcome reception

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June 28-July 1, 2017



Program Schedule

[Download Program Book](#)

Wednesday, June 28, 2017

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Noon-4:00 pm	NACTA Executive Committee Meeting	STEW 204
4:00 – 7:00 pm	Registration	Outside South Ballroom
6:00 – 6:30 pm	Reception for First Time Attendees/NACTA Executive Committee	PMU – South Ballroom
6:30 – 8:30 pm	Reception for Everyone	PMU – South Ballroom



Photo Credit: <http://www.cityofdelphi.org>

Thursday, June 29, 2017

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
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TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7:00 – 8:00 am	Breakfast	PMU – North Ballroom
8:30 – 10:00 am	Opening/Keynote Speaker	Fowler Hall
10:15 – 12:00 pm	Poster Sessions	STEW 302/306
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch	PMU Restaurants
1:15 – 2:45 pm	Oral Presentations	STEW 214AB, 214CD, 218AB, 218CD, 202
2:45 – 3:15 pm	Break	STEW 206
3:15 – 4:45 pm	Oral Presentations	STEW 214AB, 214CD, 218AB, 218CD, 202
5:30 – 6:15 pm	Buses depart-off campus dinner & entertainment	Delphi Canal Center
8:30 – 9:30 pm	Buses return	



Fowler Hall in Stewart Center at Purdue University

Friday, June 30, 2017

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7:00 – 8:30 am	Breakfast and Committee Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational Issues & Teaching Improvement International Membership & Public Relations 	PMU North Ballroom
8:45 – 10:00 am	Oral Presentations	STEW 214AB, 214CD, 218AB, 218CD, 202
10:00 – 10:30 am	Break	STEW 206
10:30 – 12:00 pm	Oral Presentations	STEW 214AB, 214CD, 218AB, 218CD, 202
12:15 – 12:30 pm	Box Lunch/Tour Departure	STEW – West Foyer
5:00 – 5:30 pm	Tours Return	STEW
7:00 – 9:00	Grad Student Reception	Nine Irish Brothers

pm

Saturday, July 1, 2017

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7:00 – 8:30 am	Breakfast and Committee Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Journal• Teacher Recognition• Journal Awards• Experiential Learning	PMU North Ballroom
9:00 – 10:00 am	Blue Ribbon Presentations	Fowler Hall
10:15 – 12:00 pm	Poster Sessions	STEW 302/306
12:00 – 1:30 pm	Lunch & Business Meeting	PMU North Ballroom
1:45 – 2:45 pm	Oral Presentations	STEW 214AB, 214CD, 218AB, 218CD, 202
3:00 – 5:00 pm	Workshops	STEW 278, 279, 214, 218, 202
5:45 – 6:30 pm	Social Time	PMU North Ballroom
6:30 – 8:30 pm	Banquet/Closing Ceremony	PMU North Ballroom

Sunday, July 2, 2017

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
9:00 am – Noon	NACTA Executive Committee Meeting	STEW 204

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Workshops

Advancing Your Scholarly Teaching into the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

Coordinator: Ann Marie VanDerZanden, Iowa State University

Scholarly teaching is grounded in the subject matter being taught and in the implementation of effective pedagogies to focus on student learning. The scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL), on the other hand, is research focused on teaching and learning. The objective of this workshop is to outline a framework and provide a stepwise process to guide faculty in developing a publishable scholarship of teaching project. Upon completion of the workshop participants will have: 1) identified and developed a researchable question; 2) developed a framework and protocol for data collection; and 3) completed a project timeline including milestones.

Active Learning Facilities and Their Use

Coordinator: John G. Graveel, Purdue University

In this workshop, we will hear from Purdue faculty who have experienced the Instruction Matters: Purdue Academic Course Transformation program. We will also hear from the senior engineer and designer of technology in the new Active Learning Center and from BSA Life Structures (the architectural firm responsible for design of the building and active learning classrooms) who used an analysis of the impact of changes in pedagogy and study to influence facility design. Part of the workshop will be a walking tour of the 59,000 square foot Wilmeth Active Learning Center which is to open in August, 2017.

Can you see me learn? Using the photo narrative process to evaluate student experiential learning

Coordinator: Gary Wingenbach, Texas A&M

Photo Narrative is a purposeful, experiential education method, whereby learners construct “self-identity through photographs and narrative text...to develop a visual autoethnography” (Ownby, 2013, para.1). Learners take ownership of newly learned material through multisensory stimuli and comparative analyses. Workshop attendees will broaden their knowledge of the Photo Narrative process through: 1) Discussion of best practices for evaluation of imagery-based artifacts in experiential education; 2) Participation in photo valuation exercises; 3) Comparison of Photo Narrative exercise outcomes; and, 4) Sharing ideas to expand Photo Narrative’s application in the agricultural sciences. Workshop attendees will be encouraged to collect specific digital photographs on their mobile devices before the NACTA Conference for use during the workshop. In addition, attendees will need a small notepad and pen/pencil in the workshop.

Ag Employment Opportunities Report – Methods and Update

Coordinator: Dennis Buckmaster, Purdue University

The USDA releases an Employment Opportunities for College Graduates (in Food, Agriculture, Renewable Natural Resources, and the Environment) every 5 years. At the time of this conference we will be half way between reports. In this workshop, participants will gain some background from Dr. Alan Goecker regarding how this report was generated (a bit about assumptions, data sources, etc.). Part 2 of the workshop will involve panel discussion regarding the state of the agricultural economy and context changes and how these may be shifting agricultural careers and placement from earlier projections.

Food Truths from Farm to Table: Classroom discussion exercises and divisive debate in courses of agriculture

Coordinator: Brian Pearson, University of Florida

Classroom discussions that incorporate divisive agricultural debates can further enhance student engagement, cognitive gains, and evaluative skills; however, faculty may elect to avoid controversial topics due to fears of uncertainty of discussion management. The goal of this workshop is to discuss how topics presented by Michele Payn, local food system expert and author, can be integrated into attainment of course learning objectives through classroom discussion exercises. Michele will present ideas, concepts, and topics found in her recently released book, Food Truths from Farm to Table. A workshop discussion following Michele’s presentation will foster an exchange of teaching ideas, concepts, and classroom discussion experiences highlighting the utilization of divisive topics.

Going Google

Coordinator: O.P. McCubbins, Tennessee Tech University

This workshop aims to empower instructors to become confident in their ability to harness the power of Google in the learning environment. After a brief overview of the available tools and how to utilize them, participants will work collaboratively to transform lessons and assignments into powerful learning tools for their students. At the conclusion of the Going Google workshop, participants will be able to: 1) utilize Google tools for the delivery of educational content; 2) plan classroom activities that utilize Google tools to promote critical thinking, teamwork, problem solving, and creativity; 3) collaborate with students via Google tools. Participants should bring a laptop computer, a lesson they have taught or will teach, and an assignment that accompanies it.

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June 28-July 1, 2017



NACTA 2017

West Lafayette, Indiana

INnovation, IN Learning, IN the Heartland

Accommodations

The conference will be held in the Purdue Memorial Union and Stewart Center.

Throughout 2017, there will be construction that will affect your travels to campus. Please check the [STATE STREET WEBSITE](#) for up-to-date traffic information.

Purdue Memorial Union Club Hotel

Connected to conference central

101 N Grant Street
West Lafayette, IN

Toll Free: (800) 320-6291
Local: (765) 494-8913



[Visit Union Club Hotel Website](#)

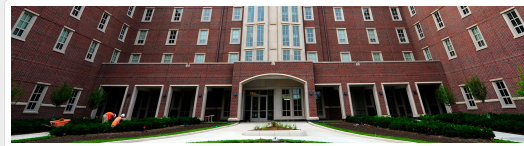
First Street Towers

15 minute walk, 0.7 mile walk from conference central

1250 1st Street

West Lafayette, IN

[Visit First Street Towers Website](#)



Hampton Inn - West Lafayette

160 Tapawingo Drive

West Lafayette, IN 47906

Local: (765) 269-8000

[Visit the Hampton Inn Website](#)



Hilton Garden Inn

17 min, 0.8 miles walk from conference central

356 E State St.

West Lafayette, IN 47906

Local: (765) 743-2100

Citibus regular route available

[Visit Hilton Garden Inn Website](#)



Holiday Inn City Center

29 min, 1.4 miles walk from conference central

515 South St

Lafayette, IN 47901

Local: (765) 423-1000

Citibus regular route available

[Visit Holiday Inn Website](#)



Accommodations (Driving Distance)

Four Points by Sheraton

1600 Cumberland Ave.
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Local: (765) 463-5511

Reservation Deadline: 5/29/2017

[Visit Four Points by Sheraton Website](#)



Hampton Inn - Lafayette

3941 South Street
Lafayette, IN 47905

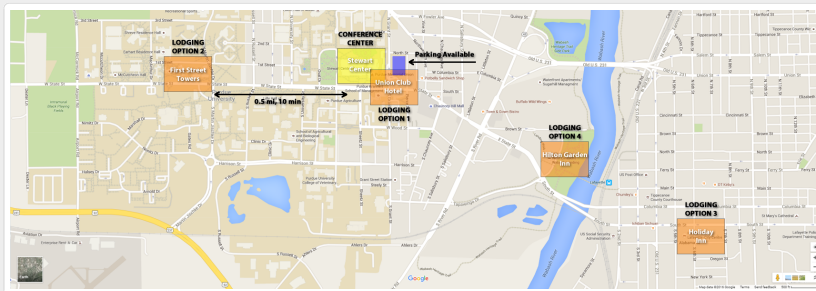
Local: (765) 447-1600

Reservation Deadline: 5/29/2017

[Visit Hampton Inn Website](#)



City Bus Routes



[Click Map to Expand](#)

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Grant Street Garage
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June 28-July 1, 2017

**NACTA**
2017*West Lafayette, Indiana**INnovation, IN Learning, IN the Heartland*

Attractions

[Lafayette & West Lafayette Tourism Site](#)[Indiana Travel Brochures](#)

Near the conference

- [Free Columbia Park & Zoo](#)
- [Prophetstown State Park](#)
- Wineries & Microbreweries
- Several disc golf courses
- [Indiana Beach](#)
- Canoeing, kayaking
- [Fort Ouiatenon](#)

On the way to or from the conference

- [Indy Children's museum](#)
- [Danville, Mayberry Cafe](#)
- [Conner Prairie History Park](#)
- [Holiday World](#)
- [Indiana Dunes](#)
- [Amish Acres](#)
- [Indy Zoo](#)
- [Turkey Run](#)

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Time:

3:45 pm



Transportation to Purdue

The Purdue campus is accessible by all modes of transportation.

By Plane (and Shuttle Service)

Purdue is accessible from the Indianapolis and Chicago O'Hare international airports. The Purdue University Airport is less than one mile from campus and is available for private planes, but it does not currently serve commercial airlines.

Indianapolis International Airport

Indianapolis International Airport (code: IND) is serviced by most major airlines and their partner airlines. Ground transportation to Purdue from the Indianapolis International Airport includes:

Shuttle Services

- **Lafayette Limo**
- **Reindeer Shuttle**

Rental Cars

- **Indianapolis Airport Car Rental Companies**

Purdue University Airport

Purdue University Airport (code: LAF) is less than one mile from campus and is available for private planes. It is currently not served by any commercial airlines.

Chicago O'Hare International Airport

Chicago O'Hare International Airport (code: ORD) is located approximately 140 miles north of Lafayette-West Lafayette and is approximately a three-hour drive from the airport to Purdue. Ground transportation direct from the airport to

campus is available through the shuttle services listed below.

Shuttle Services

- **Express Air Coach**
- **Lafayette Limo**
- **Reindeer Shuttle**

By Automobile

From the South

Take I-65 North to Exit 178 (state Route 43 and North River Road). Turn left and proceed five miles on North River Road; at State Street, turn right. Go up the hill and at Grant Street, turn right. Proceed 1/2 block. The Grant Street Parking Garage (Visitor Parking) will be on your right.

From the North

Take I-65 South to Exit 178 (state Route 43 and North River Road). Turn right and proceed five miles on North River Road; at State Street, turn right. Go up the hill and at Grant Street, turn right. Proceed 1/2 block. The Grant Street Parking Garage (Visitor Parking) will be on your right.

By Train

Amtrak Train service to Lafayette is available from Indianapolis, Chicago and several other cities. The most likely connection is via Chicago, and is described

below. For directions from other departure points, consult [**Amtrak's website**](#). To get to the [**Amtrak Station**](#) or Greyhound Bus Terminal in Chicago from O'Hare Airport, take the Continental Express Shuttle (773-454-7800) to Union Station, 225 Canal St., Chicago. For assistance, Continental's uniformed ticket agents are located in the baggage claims areas of terminals 1, 2 and 3 as well as outside U.S. Customs in Terminal 5. From Union Station, take the Amtrak train bound for Lafayette, Indiana. It is best to book a seat in advance. The toll-free number is 800-872-7245.

By Bus

[**Greyhound Bus**](#) services the Lafayette-West Lafayette area from the Chicago, Gary, Hammond and Indianapolis hubs. Schedules and fares vary, so consult the [**Greyhound website**](#) or call 800-231-2222.

[**Hoosier Ride**](#) provides direct daily service to and from major metropolitan locations with connecting service throughout North America. Visit the [**Hoosier Ride website**](#) to learn more.

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NACTA

North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture

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North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture

WELCOME!

Advancing the scholarship of teaching and learning in agricultural, environmental, natural
and life sciences.

NACTA Office: (208) 957-7001

NACTA Judging Conference

Northeast Community College, Norfolk, NE

April 18 – 21, 2018

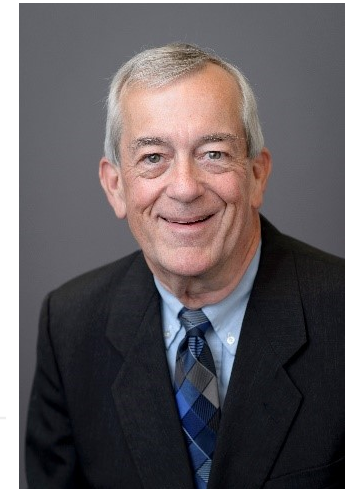


On behalf of the Agriculture faculty and staff at Northeast Community College, you are invited to join us for the NACTA Judging Conference in Norfolk, Nebraska this next April.

[Read more](#)

Message from the NACTA President—Mark Russell

I am humbled to serve NACTA as we “provide all post-secondary teachers of agricultural, environmental, natural, and life sciences a forum for discussion and experiences related to improving and recognition of excellence in teaching and learning.” That is the purpose of NACTA. [Read more](#)



NACTA Executive Committee



#AgSoTL

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Purdue Agriculture

One of the world's leading colleges of agricultural, food, life, and natural resource sciences and now home to

three World Food Prize Laureates

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3 World Food Prize



#1 Agricultural and



#8 Agriculture program in

3 WORLD FOOD PRIZE laureates: Adesina (2017), Ejeta (2009) and Nelson (2007)

#1 Agricultural and Biological Engineering program in the U.S.

#0 Agriculture program in the world



I CAN. WE WILL.

90th National FFA Convention & Expo // Oct. 25 - 28, 2017 // Indianapolis

Tour Ag While at the FFA Conference

The Office of Academic Programs is hosting educational tours during the National FFA Convention October 23th-27th.

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Top Story

Indiana 4-H builds tomorrow's entrepreneurs



MESA director named
Indiana Social Worker of
the Year



World Food Prize laureate
set for Presidential Lecture
Series



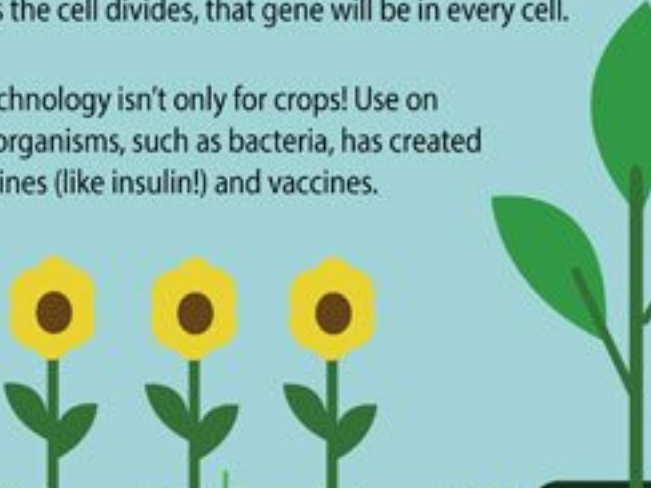
Purdue Ag celebrates
Homecoming



WHAT ARE GMOs?



Humans have cross-bred plants for centuries. Developing genetically modified organisms (GMOs) is a more targeted process.

- GMOs are living beings that have had their genetic code tweaked in some way.
 - What happens? A gene is inserted into the DNA of a single cell. As the cell divides, that gene will be in every cell.
 - GM technology isn't only for crops! Use on microorganisms, such as bacteria, has created medicines (like insulin!) and vaccines.
- 



The Science of GMOs

What are GMOs? Why do we use them? How do they affect insects, weeds and health? As a society, we want to know what we're eating and how our food impacts the environment. This knowledge equips us to make the best decisions for ourselves and generations to come.

Purdue scientists have banded together to answer questions about GMOs, a major issue concerning citizens, yet one about which many of us know relatively little.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT GMOS](#)

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June 28-July 1, 2017



NACTA 2017 Tours

Six tours for the afternoon of Friday, June 30, 2017 are planned. A map showing locations which also includes hyperlinks to websites for some of the stops, is here:

<http://tinyurl.com/NACTAtours2017>

Participants will pick up a box lunch prior to loading the busses. All tours will depart (12:15 pm) from and return (5:15 pm) to the west end of Stewart Center. Handicap accessibility and/or the extent of walking/hiking is indicated.

Tour 1: Purdue Field Research and Teaching Facilities and Ag Alumni Seed

Guide: Mr. Jerry Fankhauser

Handicap Accessible, some walking anticipated

Indiana is known for its popcorn. What many don't know is that Ag Alumni Seed produces the highest quality popcorn hybrids with different combinations of regional adaptation, maturity, disease resistance, yield, kernel size, and popping expansion. Yes, there is much science in snack food. Ag Alumni Seed was incorporated in 1938 by four Purdue alumni and, at present, sponsors undergraduate scholarships to the Purdue College of Agriculture. In this tour, you'll get an inside look into the science and production of popcorn.

Purdue has eight regional research farms known as the Purdue Agricultural Centers (PACs) plus an Animal Sciences Research and Education Center (ASREC) and the Agronomy Center for Research and Education (ACRE); these sites host research, outreach, and education in a variety of forms. We will visit the Throckmorton-PAC (TPAC) and Meigs Horticulture Farm which includes 830 acres near campus. This facility with two active wetlands and 20 acres of timber, 6 high tunnels, a crops processing facility and 145 acres with drip anoverhead irrigation hosts work with 30 different crops. The last stop will be at the ACRE which is now also the home of the Indiana Corn and

Soybean Innovation Center – a new state-of-the-art field crops processing and phenotyping facility with excellent research and teaching capability. This agronomic research farm is also the home to the Beck Agricultural Center (educational facility), the Water Quality Field Station, and numerous research support facilities.



Tour 2: Indy Innovations – DOW and Traders Point Creamery

Guide: Ms. Amy Jones

Handicap Accessible, some walking anticipated

DOW AgroSciences provides a variety of products and services for its customers including innovative hybrids and seed varieties, crop enhancing traits, vegetation management solutions, healthy oils, and more. The company began in the 1950s as the agricultural unit of DOW Chemical Company. DOW Agrosciences employs more than 9000 people worldwide and global sales exceeded \$6.4 billion. Global headquarters are in Indianapolis, Indiana and this location includes research in many recognizable brands such as Mycogen Seeds, Dairyland Seed, N-Serve, Keystone NXT.

For security purposes, participants must include their legal name and countries of citizenship, and register in advance. Individuals should also bring a government-issued I.D. the day of the tour.

Traderspoint Creamery connects visitors to their food. Starting with an organic, 100% grass-fed dairy, they include a creamery and restaurant to connect visitors to their food. With a mission for a farm in harmony with the land and animals, production of the most nutritious and healthful product possible, and education of farming and nutrition, owners Dr. Fritz and Jane Elder Kunz blend tradition and innovation to craft artisan dairy products. The farm also includes whey-fed pigs and pasture-raised chickens.



Tour 3: Wildlife and Environmental Outreach Facilities

Guide: Dr. Liz Flaherty

Walking and mild hiking anticipated

The first stop will be Wolf Park which is a non-for-profit organization located in Battle Ground, Indiana. Wolf Park is dedicated to behavioral research, education, and conservation with the objective of improving the public's

understanding of wolves and their ecosystem values. Since 1972, it has been a facility hosting presentations and research related to behavior and domestication. Wolf Park hosts school tours, seminars, youth camps and many events such as howl night.

The Columbian Park and Zoo in Lafayette, Indiana hosts many educational and outreach events which engage the community. Programs target children from age 1 to 17. Zoo educators lead private animal “Meet ‘n Greet” programs, facilitate research, and internships are provided in areas of exotic animal care, family farm, marketing/public relations, and landscape/horticulture. The Kiwanis EdZooation Station is a place where patrons gather for interactive and educational animal presentations.

The Celery Bog Nature Area was at one time a large vegetable farm supplying fresh produce to more than 80 grocers in the region. The peat-rich soil smoldered one year and the planting beds caught fire, burning for weeks. The area, now listed as one of the state’s “significant ecological sites”, contains five wetland basins covering 105 acres. Exhibits and free educational activities are offered throughout the year at this tranquil spot for wildlife and people alike.



Tour 4: Wings, Woods, & Bugs

Guide: Dr. Trevor Stamper & Dr. Tom Turpin

Walking and mild hiking anticipated

The tour starts with a discussion about how Entomology is partaking in the next generation of K-12 teaching curriculum standards, which include: 21st century skills, Integrate STEM in the classroom and how to improve high school teacher efficacy. From there we move to the exploratory portion of the tour—looking at various resources to

explore entomology and forestry topics.

The Purdue Forestry and Natural Resources Department holds several properties including the wildlife area containing a total of 159 acres with about 8 acres of forest. It is a valuable field laboratory for both undergraduate and graduate teaching. Research there includes wildlife habitat and nutrition, population dynamics, wetlands restoration, and more. The nearby John S. Wright Forestry center and the Martell forest offer teaching and research laboratories, two green houses, and a conference center. Research at this site includes forest regeneration and culture, plantation establishment and management, water quality, and fish habitat and diversity.



The last stop on the tour is the Entomology Field Operations Building (EFOB). The apiary and bee garden at this site supports honey bee research. The fumigation laboratory used by the post-harvest and carrion field sites used by forensic science programs are located here. The fumigation laboratory consists of three temperature controlled chambers that provide the ability to test gas concentrations during fumigations. The forensic science group uses this site for field work focusing on animal carrion experiments (carrion ecology).



Tour 5: Fair Oaks Farms – Education & Entertainment

Guide: Dr. Mike Schutz

Handicap Accessible, some walking anticipated

The story of Fair Oaks Dairy Farm is almost as exciting as the story of Indiana Agriculture that Fair Oaks Adventures tells to hundreds of visitors every day. Established in 1998, Fair Oaks Dairy Farm milks about 12,000 dairy cows on the four dairy farm units that can be seen from the Adventure Center. The Dairy Adventure includes the Adventure Center, the Birthing Barn, Cowfé (cheese and ice cream store), and a bus tour of a working dairy farm. Each dairy farm features a 72-stall rotary milking parlor, sand bedding to enhance cow comfort, and state-of-

the-art manure handling systems. Founders, Mike and Sue McCloskey, have been tireless innovators, developing not only this Adventure, but also innovative products such as Fairlife® milk (in cooperation with Coca-Cola), and methods of recycling manure and the nutrients it contains for use as energy and fertilizers. The entire facility is powered by energy derived from the animal waste, and milk is hauled with trucks operating on compressed liquid methane from the manure. In addition to the dairy farm, there have been additions including a Pig Adventure in cooperation with Belstra Milling, and a Crop Adventure with Winfield as a partner. The Pig Adventure includes farrowing, breeding and gestation, and grower barns. The Crop Adventure features opportunities to learn about soils, insects, and plants associated with corn, soybeans, wheat and cotton farming. The Farm House restaurant and meeting facility have been recently added. While travelling to Fair Oaks Farms, one of the Purdue Soil Science faculty will describe the fascinating soils and land use history of Northwestern Indiana as tour guests use iPads to explore several layers of soil formation and function through the ISee app. Originally sloughs and wetlands, much of the area through which we will pass was drained during the early twentieth century to be among the most productive agricultural counties in Indiana. On the return trip, we will briefly detour through the Meadow Lake Wind Farm in White County. The wind farm generates enough clean, renewable energy to power approximately 127,000 average Indiana homes each year.



Tour 6: Local Diversified Farms

Guide: Dr. Tamara Benjamin

Walking anticipated

Indiana agriculture conjures up visions of corn and soybean fields dotted with hog farms. But Indiana Agriculture is more—so much more! This tour will showcase diversified food and farming systems in a small part of Northwestern Indiana. On the drive you will see traditional field crops and pastured livestock, but featured farms have embraced diversification, marketing to consumers, conservation, and sustainability. The first stop will be at Sheepdog Farms, owned and operated by beginning farmers Teresa and Jason Warner. This is a small farm featuring pasture-based production systems for chickens, eggs, Berkshire pork, and grass finished Angus beef. Oh, and of course they raise sheepdogs! From there, it's on to Huffman and Hawbaker Farms. This farm is presently in its fifth generation near Lafayette. Owner Levi Huffman has been innovative in diversifying farming practices. Though the farm began as a grain farm, over the years, hog and layer production have been tried successfully. In 1999, they began to grow Indiana corn, mini-gourds and pumpkins. Beginning in 2000, the farm began to raise tomatoes for Indiana-based Red Gold. More recently, peppers and cabbage have been added along with U-pick strawberries. The final stop on this tour is Silverthorn Farm, operated by Nate and Emily Parks. Silverthorn is a diversified vegetable and small animal farm of 120 acres near Rossville, IN that has been in Emily's family since 1864. The owners now raise and sell more than 200 varieties of more than 40 different vegetables on the 25 acres devoted to vegetable production. The farm also raises pastured-pork and hens' eggs. They run a highly successful CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) as well as sell to high-end restaurants in Lafayette and Indianapolis. Following this tour, you will have a stronger appreciation of how three very unique farms are embracing diversification and integrating produce and livestock into their business plans.





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