

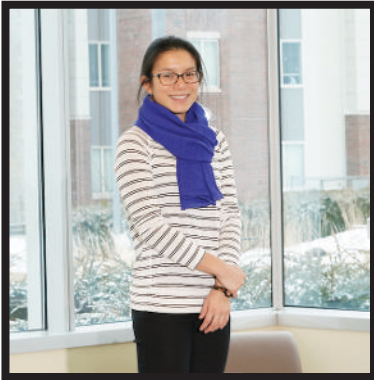
INSIDE AGRONOMY

ISSUE 14 - APRIL 7, 2025



Agronomy

Congratulations Diane and Cankui!



From Dr. Laura Bowling...

I am excited to share that the Board of Trustees certified the promotion of Dr. Diane Wang to an Associate Professor with Tenure and Dr. Cankui Zhang to Full Professor!

Congratulations to you both for all of your wonderful contributions to the Department, Purdue and your scientific communities. We are so fortunate to have you as part of our department!!

Due to a conflicting event, Diane was not able to attend the promotion event.

Congratulations to Ana Morales Ona on passing her dissertation defense!

Please find the record attached: [Ana Gabriela Morales Ona - Dissertation Defense - Zoom](#)



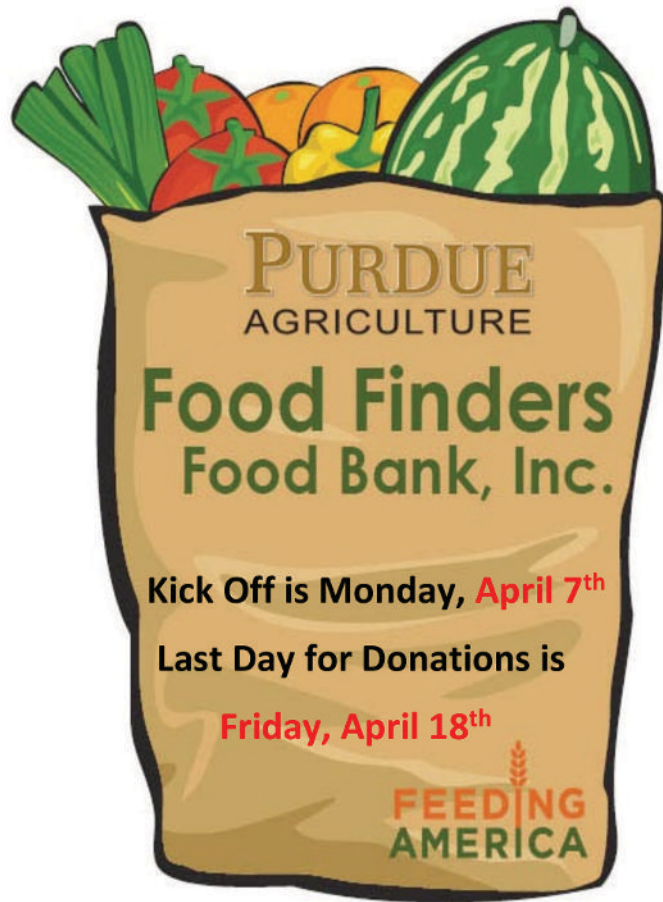
Congratulations Rodrigo Alvarez Ruiz!

Dr. Linda Lee's postdoctoral scholar, Rodrigo Alvarez Ruiz, for being selected as a finalist in this year's **Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition**! This is a significant achievement, reflecting his ability to effectively communicate complex research in an engaging and accessible way.

The final competition will take place on April 15 at 7:00 pm in Fowler Hall, located in the Stewart Center where he will compete for the top prize of \$5,000.

Dr. Lee's encouragement and mentorship have undoubtedly played a key role in his success.

2025 COLLEGE OF AG FOOD DRIVE



It is time to kick off the Food Drive competition between CoA Academic Departments. Who will win the bragging rights and trophy this year?

This year we will be accepting non-perishable items along with cash and online donations made to your department. Please contact your departmental rep for your department link or bin location.

Keep up to date on Food Drive events and post your activities on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/PurdueFoodDrive?ref=hl>

For more information please contact Melissa Funk @ mjfunk@purdue.edu

Online giving can be done through the link below or the QR code to the right.

Agronomy: <https://donate.food-finders.org/-/NHUXCMFV?member=SELJZJHM>



Tracking tornadoes over time

Beth Hall

Indiana has already experienced several tornadoes this year with more certainly to come. Of course, this is not unusual since Indiana is often considered on the far northeastern edge of “Tornado Alley”. Tornadoes get their energy from the battle between the cooler, drier Canadian air moving southeastward and the warmer, more humid air coming north from the Gulf region. The greater the contrast in both temperature and humidity, the more likely winds and energy will be generated to develop those nasty weather events. This is why tornadoes are most common in our spring and in recent years autumn tornadoes have occurred with greater frequency.

The MRCC provides a Tornado Tracks Tool (<https://mrcc.purdue.edu/gismaps/cntytorn>) where users can view the estimated tracks of tornadoes from 1950 through 2023 (Figure 1). Official tornado data from the federal Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is released annually, and 2024 data should be released soon. The tool allows filtering by tornado magnitude, year range, months, and whether there were any documented injuries and/or fatalities. Clicking on a tornado provides further information. Do you remember a tornado from your past that you still tell stories about? Use that tool to explore what official records have to say about it!

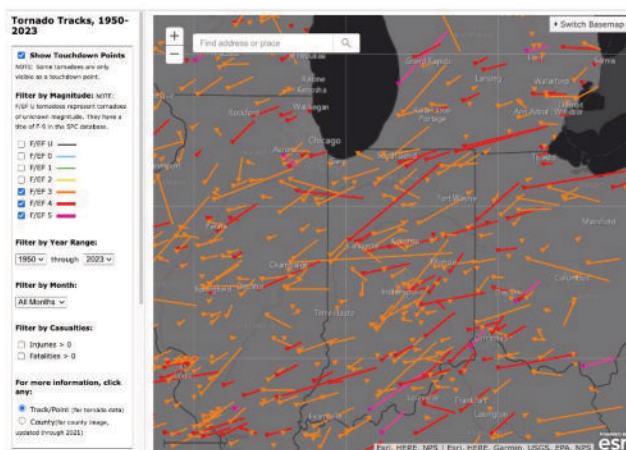


Figure 1. Snapshot of the MRCC's Tornado Tracks tool depicting tornadoes greater than or equal to an EF3 on the enhanced Fujita scale from 1950 through 2023.

The National Weather Service provide a nice tool for looking at the climatology of a broader range of events (e.g., tornadoes, hail, wind) (<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/170541dee33b48b7b88514b8f65e601f>). Similar to the MRCC tool, this tool only has data through 2023.

For more recent storm reports, the [Southern Regional Climate Center \(SRCC\)](#) provides an interactive tool similar to the MRCC Tornado Tracks tool but includes recent storm report data from the SPC (Figure 2). This tool includes a much broader range of storm types such as drought, flood, fire, hail, hurricanes, thunderstorms, and tornadoes. Users can select a period, zoom into their area of interest, and select which types of storm events to view. A table below the map provides additional information about each event.

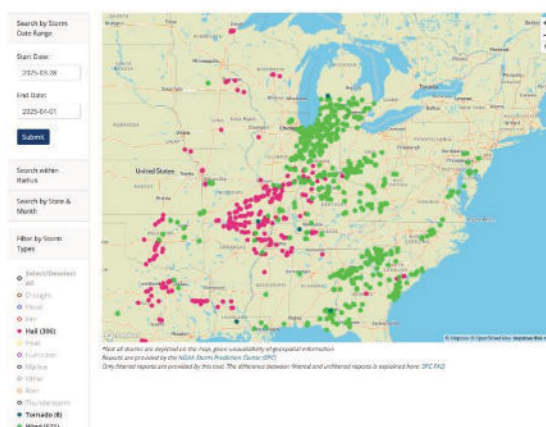


Figure 2. Snapshot of the SRCC storm reports tool showing hail (red), tornado (blue), and strong wind (green) reports from March 28 through April 1, 2025.

Extreme weather events are nothing to take lightly, and safety should always be the priority during the event. However, once the event has passed and it can be shared as a memory or anecdote, using these tools can be a fun way to see how your event stacks up to other events nearby.

STEP UP TO THE PLATE AGRONOMY SOFTBALL NEEDS YOU!

Who Can Join?

Open to students (undergraduate and graduate), faculty, and staff in Agronomy!

When?

League starts in early May

Where?

West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Co-ed League

Cost?

Inscription fee has been covered, but some player contributions may be needed for t-shirts

Why Play?

A great way to have fun, stay active, and connect with the Agronomy community!

Direct any Questions to:

Contact Narciso Zapata by email (nzapatab@purdue.edu) or text (765-409-6379)

Deadline for sign up?

April 15

Sign Up using the QR



WPS TRAINING

The USEPA mandates pesticide safety training for employees who encounter agricultural use pesticides while working at a farm, greenhouse, nursery, or forest and do not possess a Certified Pesticide Applicators license. To ensure compliance, EHS is offering Worker Protection Standard (WPS) training at the times and location listed below. Annual training is required.

April 14, 10am - 11am LILY 2425

April 15, 11am - 12pm LILY 2458

April 23, 1pm - 2pm LILY 2425

May 5, 11am - 12pm LILY 2425

May 20, 1pm - 2pm LILY 2425

Contact Jennifer Kraus, jakraus@purdue.edu with any questions or concerns.

AGRONOMY SPRING 2025 SEMINAR SERIES

**Mondays at 2:30
p.m.**

LILY 2-425

(unless otherwise noted)

**Join friends and
colleagues as they
discuss the latest
in Agronomy and
other related
topics.**

Zoom links for virtual attendance and online-only seminars will be shared closer to their scheduled date.

A detailed flyer will be shared prior to each seminar. Please refer to the specific event flyer for any changes.

**Visit the Agronomy
Seminar Series Website at:
purdue.ag/agryseminars
or by scanning the QR code
below.**



Agronomy

Date	Speaker
January 27th	Dr. Bruno Basso - Michigan State University - On-line only Topic: Understanding Drivers of Spatial and Temporal Variability of the Soil-Plant-Atmosphere System Host: Dr. Bruce Erickson
February 3rd	Dr. Darrell Schulze - Purdue University - Agronomy Topic: Soil Explorer - Visualizing and Understanding Soil Landscapes Host: Dr. Cindy Nakatsu
February 10th	Dr. Gary Steinhardt - Purdue University - Agronomy Topic: A 48-Year Soils Journey in a Land-Grant University Host: Dr. Eileen Kladvko
February 17th	Dr. Chad Penn - USDA ARS National Soil Erosion Research Lab Topic: Phosphorus Management: Feast and Famine Host: Dr. Yichao Rui
February 24th	Dr. Elizabeth Rieke - Soil Health Institute Topic: TBD Host: Dr. Roland Wilhelm
March 3rd	Dr. Mitch Tuinstra - Purdue Agronomy - Dean's Auditorium Seminar Topic: Named Professor Review Host: Dean Engel
March 10th	Dr. Ling Li - Mississippi State University Topic: From Arabidopsis to Crops: A Molecular Tool to Increase Protein Content and Disease Resistance Host: Dr. Cankui Zhang
March 24th	Dr. Joyce Van Eck - Boyce Thompson Institute - Cornell Topic: Leveraging Genome Editing for Pre-Breeding of Physalis Species Seminar co-sponsored by Agronomy & Center for Plant Biology Host: Dr. Cankui Zhang
March 31st	Dr. Eliana Monteverde - University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Topic: TBD Host: Dr. Karen Hudson
April 7th	Dr. Keith Johnson - Purdue University - Agronomy Topic: Story Telling Has Value at Educational Events Host: Dr. Eileen Kladvko
April 14th	Dr. Pragati Pramanik - Indian Agriculture Research Institute - Delhi Topic: Application of Machine Learning Approaches in Soil Health Assessment Host: Dr. Sidd Paul
April 21st	Dr. Kateryna Zhelnina - Lawrence Berkeley National Lab Topic: Metabolomics/Cover Crops Host: Dr. Roland Wilhelm
April 28th	Dr. Jean-Michel Ane - University of Wisconsin - Madison Topic: Biological Nitrogen Fixation on the Aerial Roots of Maize and Sorghum for Sustainable Agriculture Host: Dr. Jianxin Ma

**In case you
missed it...**

All issues of Inside Agronomy
are available on the
Agronomy website. Click
below to view past issues.

[Inside Agronomy](#)



Share news, articles, and publications in
Inside Agronomy by emailing the information
to Stephanie Orem sorem@purdue.edu

SAVE THE DATES

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE NETWORKING GATHERINGS

LEARN MORE AT: purdue.ag/coag-networking



MARCH 7, 2025
3:00-6:30pm

Joint Poster Networking Gathering
Colleges of Agriculture & Engineering
► *Marriott Hall*



JULY 10, 2025
3:00-6:30pm

Mandela Washington Entrepreneurial
Fellows Poster Networking Gathering
► *Lafayette Brewing Company (Upstairs)*



SEPTEMBER 5, 2025
3:00-6:30pm

CoAg Graduate Student Welcoming
Poster Networking Gathering
► *Marriott Hall*



AUGUST, 2025
DATE & TIME TBD

Experience ACRE
Celebrating agricultural field research
► *Agronomy Center for Research & Education*



OCTOBER 3, 2025
3:00-6:30pm

Global One Health
► *Marriott Hall*



January 30, 2026
3:30-6:30pm

Fermentation Frenzy
► *Marriott Hall*

THANK YOU TO
OUR SPONSORS:



College of Agriculture





LONG-SLEEVE DRIVE

MARCH 31ST-APRIL 14TH, 2025

Help us support farm workers across Indiana by donating long-sleeve shirts. These donations help protect farm workers from pesticide exposure and heat-related illness.



Shirts must be:

- long-sleeved
- light color
- natural fabric



DROP LOCATIONS

AGAD office
615 W State St
West Lafayette, IN 47907

ABE Business office
225 S University St
West Lafayette, IN 47907

MESA office
915 W. State St Lily 4-L41
West Lafayette, IN 47907