

INSIDE AGRONOMY

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Agronomy



Congratulations Dr. Shams Rahmani!

Dr. Rahmani has been selected as an Online Excellence Award winner for 2025!

This award recognizes those whose work supports the mission of providing high-quality, online educational experiences through the Purdue system.

Congratulations to the following graduate students on their recent achievements!



Lynda Peter passed her dissertation defense!

No recording available



Carson Pearl passed his Master's thesis defense!

Video recording of [Carson Pearl Master Thesis Defense](#)



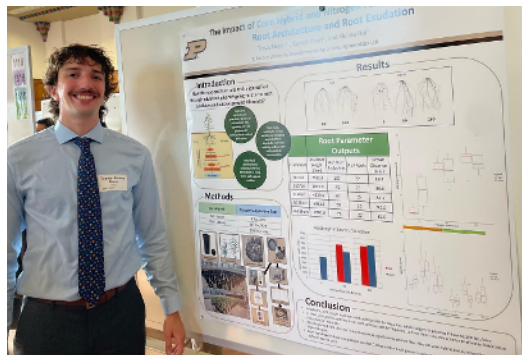
Krista Zapata passed her Master's thesis defense!

Video recording of [Krista Zapata-Thesis Defense](#)



Arval Viji Elango passed his Master's thesis defense!

Video recording of [Arval Viji Elango Master Thesis Defense](#)



Travis Nixon from Yichao Rui's lab presented his poster titled, "The Impact of Corn Hybrid and Nitrogen Fertilization on Specific Root Architecture Parameters and Root Exudation", in the 2025 Spring Undergraduate Conference on April 8th.



The overall purpose of IndianaView is to promote sharing and use of public domain remotely sensed image data (aerial and satellite platforms) for education, research, and outreach across universities, colleges, K-12 educators, and state and local governments.

The IndianaView Student Scholarship Program provides an opportunity for participants at member institutions to support the goals and objectives of IndianaView and AmeriView. The purpose of the scholarship program is to promote student development in remote sensing and other geospatial technologies.

LEARN MORE:



indianaview.org

NACTA Judging Competition Results (Photos on next page)

Submitted by Corey Gerber

Members of our Purdue Agronomy Crops and Soils Judging Teams (**Maddie Brink, Jason Emsweller, Josh Havron, Bradley Yunker, Josh Terrell, Anna Phillips, Ahren Berlanger, Jade Larrison, Levi Brush, Allison McCabe, Madilyn Morgan, and Kaia Wright**) wrapped up their spring NACTA (North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture) competition in Canyon, TX on April 12th.

As part of the trip/experience, we took an agricultural tour of west Texas, and visited a peanut processing facility, a cotton gin, and the Texas Tech agricultural research farm. The students were able to learn about peanuts, cotton, examine different pieces of equipment not common in Indiana (cotton stripper, sand fighter, etc.), and experienced the livestock and irrigation systems around the area. We also enjoyed a day at Palo Duro Canyon.

It was a very exciting competition with over 50 (2- and 4- year) universities/colleges competing; totaling over 800 college students.

Below are some of the **highlights** from the contest:

Crops Judging Contest (141 individuals competing from 24 universities/colleges):

- **Team Place, 2nd** (this was our highest placing in the last 20 years!!!! Out of 2,400 points possible for each team, we were only 10 points away from 1st place. Iowa State University took first.)
- **Individual Overall, NOTE: Jason Emsweller captured 1st place** (a true national champion)!; 6th (Maddie Brink); 10th (Josh Havron); 17th (Bradley Yunker); 26th (Ahren Berlanger); 28th (Josh Terrell)
- **Lab Practical**, 4th (Maddie Brink); 6th (Jason Emsweller); 9th (Josh Havron)
- **Agronomic Quiz**, 7th (Jason Emsweller, Maddie Brink); 12th (Bradley Yunker); 19th (Josh Terrell)
- **Identification**, 3rd (Jason Emseller); 8th (Bradley Yunker); 11th (Maddie Brink, Ahren Berlanger, Josh Terrell); 17th (Josh Havron)
- **Math Practical**, 1st (Jason Emsweller); 7th (Josh Havron); 10th (Maddie Brink)

Soils Judging Contest (87 individuals competing from 16 universities/colleges):

- **Team place, 8th**

Based on the student recognitions, it is quite evident that they worked/studied exceptionally hard during the last couple of years, and represented Purdue extremely well in Texas.

We are very proud of all of our students!

This was the last contest for all of our Seniors. Jeff, Gary, and I really enjoyed working with these students over the years. They will be missed!!

Jason Emsweller - Crops

Allison McCabe - Soils

Josh Havron - Crops

Madilyn Morgan - Soils

Josh Terrell - Crops

Kate Alsdorf - Crops

As you see these students in and around the department, or in your classrooms, please congratulate them.

Thank you for your support, Corey, Jeff, and Gary

PURDUE TEAM



TEXAS TECH FARM



TEAM AT PALO DURO CANYON



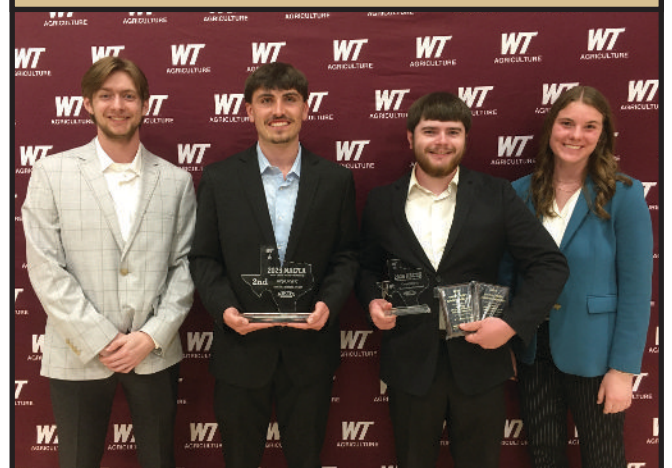
SOILS PRACTICE



NATIONAL CHAMPION



PURDUE RUNNER-UP CROPS TEAM



LI-COR will be holding a one-day workshop at Purdue University for researchers and students interested in learning more about the theory and application of LI-COR's soil gas flux systems for the measurement of CO₂, CH₄, N₂O and ¹³CO₂ fluxes. The workshop is free of charge for participants, but registration is required for organizational purposes. If you are interested in attending, [please register here](#).

Date and Time:

Friday, May 16th 2025

9:00am - 4:30pm

Venue:

Purdue University

Department of Agronomy

915 Mitch Daniels Blvd

Lilly Hall - Room 2-245

West Lafayette, IN 47907

Dr Liukang Xu and Jim Le Moine will be conducting the workshop. During the morning session, they will provide an overview of measuring gas transport at the soil-atmosphere interface using LI-COR's soil gas flux systems and trace gas analyzers. The afternoon session will provide data analysis and discussion. As the workshop will include analysis of sample datasets, participants are bring a laptop and download LI-COR [SoilFluxPro software](#) before attending. Click here to view the tentative [agenda](#).

ACRE SAFETY TRAINING!

ACRE will be hosting a mandatory student safety training on June 5th for all graduate and undergraduate students, visiting scholars, and Post Docs doing work at ACRE.

This will be a joint training with TPAC.

Details:

June 5th

9- noon

Lunch provided

Beck Center @ ACRE

RSVP:

<https://airtable.com/app89piqVmuY5f03l/shrUVvHc1mMtz7TWr>

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 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.

WELCOME GRACE BEARD!

Grace Beard begins her role today as our new **Student Recruitment and Success Administrator**! Grace is an Agronomy alumna, graduating in 2022, and we are thrilled to have her return to the Agronomy Family in this important role.

In this position, Grace will lead student-facing support activities related to recruitment, retention, student success, and K-12 outreach. She will also collaborate with faculty, staff, alumni, and industry partners to create meaningful opportunities for prospective and current students, supporting both undergraduate and graduate programs.

Grace's office is located in the **Student Services suite, LILY 3-440**— please stop by to say hello and give her a warm welcome!

Agronomy Retirement Picnic

FRIDAY, MAY 30TH

OPEN HOUSE: 11 AM

LUNCH: NOON

AGRONOMY CENTER FOR RESEARCH & EDUCATION (ACRE)

HONORING



Darrell Schulze



Gary Steinhardt

REGISTER TO ATTEND:



purdue.ag/agrypicnic



PURDUE
UNIVERSITY®

Agronomy

*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:



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