

# Pest&Crop newsletter

**Purdue Cooperative Extension Service and USDA-NIFA Extension IPM Grant**

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## Broomsedge Bluestem- Obvious In The Landscape In The Fall And Winter

(Keith Johnson)

Yesterday I traveled from West Lafayette to the Southern Indiana Purdue Agricultural Center which is in Dubois County. Along the way it was easy to see the beige-bronze warm-season perennial bunchgrass broomsedge bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*) in many grass-dominant pastures and hayfields.



Broomsedge bluestem is obvious in many grass-dominant pastures and hayfields.  
(Photo Credit: Keith Johnson)

One of my first Purdue Extension in-field education events in the early 1980's was my introduction to broomsedge bluestem. Areas of the southern Indiana grass pasture had more broomsedge bluestem than the desired forages that were seeded. I recall that a farmer leaned over and said "We call it poverty weed". I once thought that broomsedge bluestem was a southern Indiana plant only, but as the years have gone by, I see the plant all over Indiana. A few years ago, a group of farmers

were doing sensory analyses of different hay samples and chemical analyses were available, too. One of the samples on display, was broomsedge bluestem. The chemical forage analysis verified why the grass has the nickname poverty weed. It would have made better bedding than a feed resource.

Broomsedge bluestem is a biological indicator plant. Where it becomes invasive it is common that the soil pH and/or phosphorus are very low. As hay is harvested, nutrients are being removed. In time, deficiencies will occur if nutrients are not wisely replaced by commercial fertilizer or livestock manure applications. *The method of reducing broomsedge bluestem is not investing in an herbicide application, but to apply the recommended amount of limestone or fertilizer as determined by a soil test.* Slow but sure, the desired forages will become more dominant.

Don't let your field go into poverty status! If you haven't taken a soil test, do so this fall and get the recommended amendments applied.

Resource information:

[BROOMSEDGE BLUESTEM Plant Fact Sheet \(usda.gov\)](#)

## Heart Of America Grazing Conference To Offer Insights Into Advanced Grazing Research

(Keith Johnson)

[The Heart of America Grazing Conference](#) will take place from February 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, at the Ferdinand Community Center in Ferdinand, IN. Hosted by the Indiana Forage Council (IFC), with input from Purdue Extension, the annual event will feature forage and grazing experts from across the nation.

Speakers will lead discussions on cutting-edge research in grazing, soil science, and grazing options with cattle and small ruminants, among other key topics.

Keith Johnson, professor of agronomy at Purdue University, says "Participants will have the opportunity to interact with a team of presenters on what is needed to develop and put in place an effective grazing plan."

He continues, "Ways to improve grazing efficiency, how to develop and maintain healthy soil, and important recordkeeping items will be shared. There will be ample opportunity to interact with input providers at the tradeshow and to make connections with other attendees."

Highlighted speakers include Greg Halich, University of Kentucky, Alan Franzluebbers, USDA-ARS North Carolina, and Johnny Rogers, Coordinator, Amazing Grazing Project and North Carolina State University.

Registration information and additional details are posted on the [IFC](#)

## 2023 Crop Management Workshops, Registration Now Open!

(John Obermeyer)

### Purdue's 2023 Crop Management Workshop

#### In-Person & Virtual

**When:** January 24, 25, and 26, 2023

#### How/Where:

##### *In-Person -*

Tuesday, January 24: In-Person only, Madison County Community Center, Alexandria, IN

Wednesday, January 25: In-Person only, Westgate Conference Center, Odon, IN

Thursday, January 26: In-Person, Beck Ag Center, W. Lafayette, IN

##### *Virtual -*

Thursday, January 26: Livestream, Beck Ag Center, W. Lafayette, IN

**Time:** All times listed are Eastern Time

In-Person - 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Virtual - 8:45 am to 4:00 pm

**Registration,** click the following link:

<http://www.purdue.edu/conferences/Crop>

In-Person - \$80.00 (includes handouts, refreshments, and lunch)

Virtual - \$50.00 (unique/active email address required)

#### Schedule and Topics:

8:30 In-Person Check-in

8:45 Virtual Log-in

9:00 Meeting Begins

(State Chemist Highlights, Corn Responses to Sulfur, Effective Disease Management, Weed and Herbicide Updates, Insect Corn Traits, Input-Intensive Corn Management, Soybean Canopy and Nutrition, Safely Crossing Railroad Crossings)

4:00 In-Person and Virtual Meeting Concludes

#### Credits Awarded:

- Indiana commercial pesticide applicators (CCHs)

In-Person and Virtual\*: (Cat 1 = 6, Cat 11 = 2, Cat 14 = 2, and RT = 4)

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- Certified Crop Advisors (CEUs)

In-Person and Virtual\*: 5.5 (PM 2.5, CM 2.0, NM 1.0)

- PARP (private applicator) available for in-person attendance only

\*Livestream (i.e., Virtual) meeting may be watched individually, or together in groups. However, if credits (CCHs and/or CEUs) are desired, then each person must register with an individual (unique) email address, attend the entire meeting, and complete an online survey after the meeting. Understand, this is a whole day commitment, your attendance and attention are expected.

#### Additional Questions:

Purdue Conferences, 866-515-0023, [confreg@purdue.edu](mailto:confreg@purdue.edu)



## Pest&Crop 2022 Survey

(John Obermeyer)

Dear Pest&Crop Readers:

Though this is one of the strangest, most challenging years, the Pest&Crop authors haven't stopped providing updated information. The following is a link to a simple, short online survey. Please consider doing this right now, as we need your evaluation of this newsletter. Too, we need to show our funding agencies whether or not this information from Purdue specialists throughout the season is meaningful to you and the industry. Thanks in advance for your support!

[https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bjZPkx07RQgoNo](https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bjZPkx07RQgoNo)

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Editor: Tammy Luck | Department of Entomology, Purdue University, 901 W. State St., West Lafayette, IN 47907