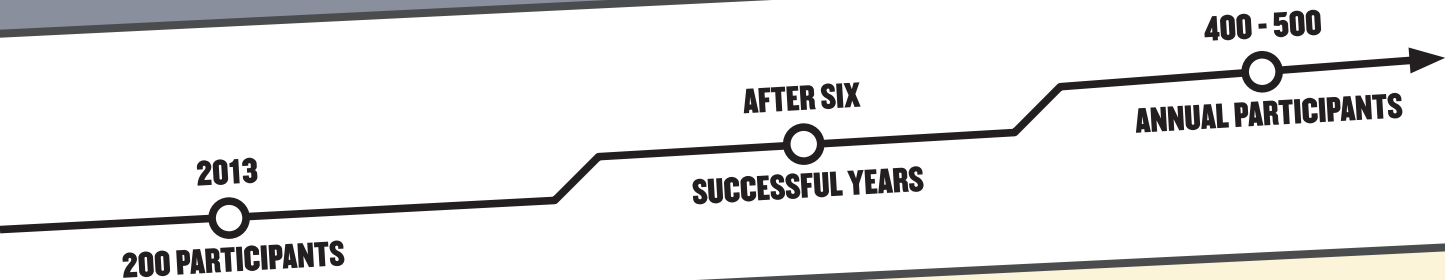




INDIANA SMALL FARM CONFERENCE

www.purdue.edu.dffs/smallfarms



WHAT IS THE INDIANA SMALL FARM CONFERENCE (SFC)?

The Indiana SFC, first held in 2013, resulted from a Purdue Extension 2011 roundtable discussion about Indiana small farmers' need to connect and gather information. That first conference included three tracks, hosted several vendors, and attracted about 200 participants. After six successful years, it continues to grow and evolve with the addition of farm tours and in-depth workshops—and 400 to 500 participants annually.

Participant Background

- Beginning, small scale & diversified farming; community garden management
- Small farms, large farms, industry
- Some to all income from farming
- Just-learning to seasoned professional

Participant Interests

- Regenerative, organic, and sustainable practices
- Expansion or diversification
- Livestock, produce, value-added and urban agriculture

Goals

- Educate/increase awareness about multiple topics in agriculture
- Increase adoption of best practices
- Create networking space
- Bring people together and increase collaboration

Information for farmers

to learn and apply so their operations/businesses are viable

96% learned useful information to start or sustain their farms

61% applied ideas they learned to their operations

64% used information to start or improve farm operations

39% used information to develop or change a farm business plan



Small farms — defined by USDA as earning less than \$350,000 in annual agricultural commodity sales — make up 90% of farms nationally. They tend to have smaller acreage and are nearly 100% family farms.



Opportunities to gain insights for their operations/businesses

A variety of educational activities

- Keynote and breakout sessions
 - 40+ farmer and rancher presenters, local and international
 - Nationally known speakers
 - Extension experts
- Live demonstrations
- Poster session



Addressing many topics and issues

- Farm-life balance
- Farm-to-plate operations
- On-farm trials
- Marketing
- Online marketing
- Hiring and management
- Farmers' markets
- Weed control
- Soil health
- Expanding minority presence
- Season extension
- Food safety
- Regenerative farming
- Farm viability and financial management
- Pasture-raised poultry and livestock
- Farm profitability



A chance to network

with attendees, vendors, and Purdue faculty/staff

- 79%** mentioned networking at the conference was helpful
- 84%** appreciated meeting other small-scale farmers
- 81%** connected with professionals they felt could help
- 89%** shared information they learned at the conference with others

Multiple ways to connect

- Trade show (50 exhibitors)
- Ask an expert
- Catered meals (nutritious, locally sourced food)
- Book signings
- Film screenings

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