

HLA Happenings

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Ashley Adair Moderated Panel Discussion at Ohio State Organic Grains Conference



Ashley Adair moderated the “Market Signals from End-Users” panel discussion at the Ohio State Organic Grains Conference on January 9th. Ashley discussed trends and issues in the organic grain trade from the perspectives of three organic grain buyers and processors in the region: Annette Cook of Simmons Grain in Salem, OH; Rex Marquart of Miller Poultry in Orland, IN; and Rob Wallbridge of SureSource Commodities in Petrolia, ON. In attendance were about 175 organic producers, ag professionals,

and industry leaders. Participants left with a better understanding of the challenges grain buyers face every day, including implementing the new Strengthening Organic Enforcement rules, building strong relationships with growers, and maintaining processing capacity in a tight labor market.

Dr. Anna Paltseva Moderated Panel Discussion at SYNKD Live



Dr. Anna Paltseva took the stage at [SYNKD Live](#) in Atlanta, where she moderated an engaging panel discussion on how curiosity drives innovation. The session inspired fresh ideas and practical insights for advancing the green industry.

In addition, Dr. Paltseva coauthored the study “[Nickel phytotoxicity thresholds for ryegrass: Insights from historical copper smelting sites in Bashkortostan, Russia.](#)” This research identifies nickel as the key factor affecting ryegrass growth in soils impacted by historical copper smelting. The study establishes EC25 and EC50 thresholds for nickel toxicity, emphasizing the importance of targeted soil remediation and ecotoxicological evaluations.

Torres Lab Held Third Session in Their Webinar Series



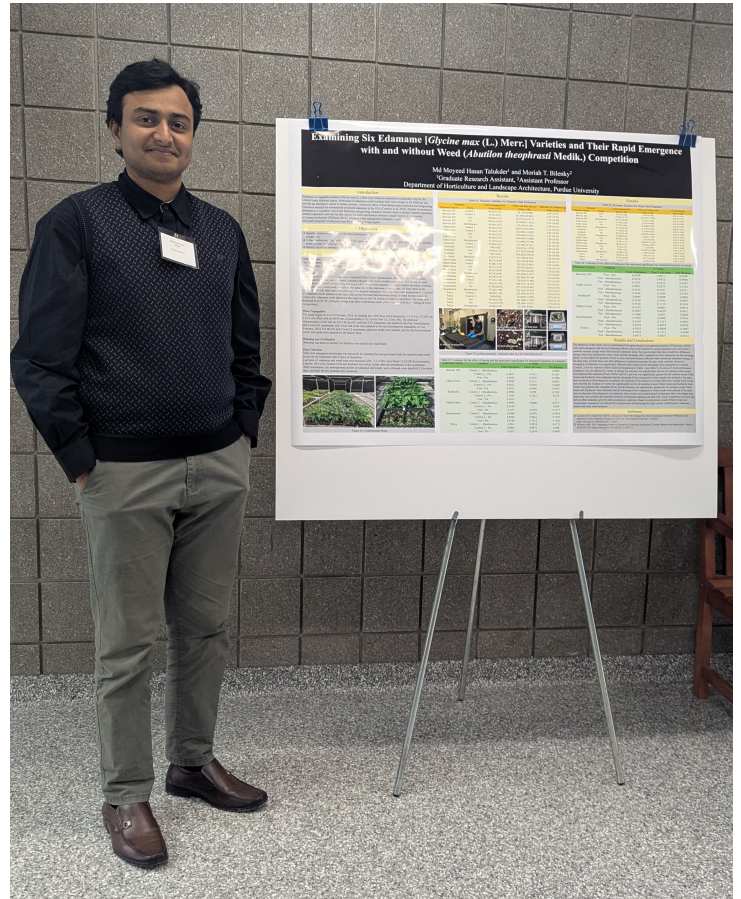
The poster features a green and yellow background. At the top, it says "HortCalculator" with a double-headed arrow above "Q&A Session". Below that, it reads "Understanding Your Farm's Financial Performance". A central image shows a person's hands holding a smartphone in front of a field of green crops. Logos for Purdue University, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and North Central Extension Risk Management Education are present. The text at the bottom says "Exclusive Live Stream" and "We are pleased to share the access link for the third live Q&A webinar of the HortCalculator series! Thursday, January 16 @ 7 PM (Eastern Time) on Zoom. Click the link below to register! Register Here!"

Dr. **Torres' Lab** held the third session of their webinar series designed to help farmers interpret and apply financial performance indicators to their businesses on January 16.

More information about upcoming webinars and to view previous webinar recordings can be found on the Horticultural Business website (<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/hortbusiness/projects/hortcalculator/>).

Spread the word: Share this opportunity with the farmers you work with to help them strengthen their financial decision-making skills!

Moyeed Talukder Presented Poster at Indiana Hort Conference



Moyeed Talukder (Bilenky Lab) presented a poster on his greenhouse edamame project at the Indiana Hort Conference on January 14.

Karen Mitchell Shares Tips and Benefits of Houseplants

Karen Mitchell discussed how to get into growing houseplants with Purdue Agriculture Communications: [Unleash your inner gardener: discover the joy of houseplants this season.](#)

On Wednesday, January 16, WRTV Indianapolis interviewed her about the mental health benefits of houseplants: [Feeling down this winter? Try adding houseplants to your home for a mood lift.](#)

Dr. Kranthi Varala Presented at the Plant and Animal Genome Conference

On January 13, **Kranthi Varala** delivered an invited talk at the Plant and Animal Genome Conference in San Diego. His presentation, titled "Decoding Gene Expression Signals Across Whole Gene Models," showcased his lab's work on using machine learning models to predict gene expression in plants.

HLA Bowling Team

Our team **Good Thyme Gang** played against **We Don't Give a Split** Monday afternoon at Mike Aulby's Arrowhead Bowl for Week 17 of the Purdue Staff and Students league. We won 2 out of 8 points and are currently sitting in 7th place.

In the Team Category: No placements.

In the Women's Category: **Ashley Adair** placed 2nd with scratch game scoring a 181, placed 2nd with scratch series scoring a 492, placed 1st with handicap game scoring a 265, and placed 1st with handicap series scoring a 744. Ashley's new high game for the season went from a 175 to a 181, great job!!

Alexandra Jewell placed 3rd with scratch game scoring a 180, and placed 3rd with scratch series scoring a 473.

In the Men's Category: No placements

Join us for a night of bowling by contacting Alexandra Jewell. Any Purdue Staff, Faculty, or Student can participate. No experience necessary!!

HLA 2025 Spring Seminar Series



HLA 2025 Spring Seminar Series

Date & Host	Seminars	Seminars will be in person with a zoom option unless otherwise noted Thursdays @ 3:30pm in HORT 117
February 6	Jeongim Kim - University of Florida Associate Professor - Horticultural Sciences	
February 6	Olinger Lecture - T&A 5:30 PM PFEN 241	
March 3	Clarenda "Farmer Cee" Stanley - Green Heffa Farms CEO Monday, 1:30 PM	
March 6 Torres	Samuel Zapata - Texas A&M University Associate Professor Department of Agricultural Economics	
March 13 Adair	Yichao Rui - Purdue University Assistant Professor - Agronomy and Agroecology Lab	
March 27 Hirst	Sherif Sherif - Virginia Tech Associate Professor - School of Plant and Environmental Sciences	
April 3 Widhalm	David Braun - University of Missouri Professor of Biological Sciences Co-sponsored by the Purdue Center for Plant Biology	
April 10 Percevault	Brian Schundler - Nelson Byrd Woltz Architects	

Newsletters:

Facts for Fancy Fruits: <https://fff.hort.purdue.edu>

Vegetable Crops Hotline: <https://vegcropshotline.org/>

Purdue Landscape

Report: <https://www.purduelandscape.org>

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