

## 78th Annual Indiana Farm Management Tour Boone and Hendricks Counties June 23 and 24, 2010

Wednesday June 23, 2010

The public is invited. Pre-registration is required to participate in either sponsored meal — dinner on June 23 or lunch on June 24. The meals are free of charge. Please pre-register by Wednesday June 16 by calling 317/745-9260 or 765/482-0750. Caterer: A L'OVEN SPOONFUL. Thank you to our sponsors: Farm Credit Services of Mid-America, Bayer CropScience, Hendricks County Soil and Water Conservation District, Co-Alliance, Hendricks County Farm Bureau Inc., BASF, DeKalb-Asgrow Seed, Dow AgroSciences, DuPont Crop Protection, Monsanto, and Syngenta. All times are EDT.

1) Prairie Creek Cattle Company – Interview at 1:00 p.m. – Mini-tours at 1:30 p.m. on environmentally sustainable pasture management and stream bank protection, beef production and management practices, and beef marketing strategies.

The number of cattle operations in Indiana has declined by nearly 50% over the last 20 years. Prairie Creek Cattle Company has successfully bucked this trend. Come and learn why. This is an excellent example of a beef cattle business that complements the Lawson family's other farming activities and has afforded Donnie and Tammy Lawson and their children the opportunity to truly farm together. Donnie is a leader in the Indiana Beef Cattle Association and will share his perspectives on profitable and environmentally sustainable beef production.

2) Dull's Tree Farm – Interview on opportunities in entrepreneurial agriculture at 3:00 p.m. – Mini-tours at 3:30 p.m. on marketing agritainment, tree production, and a tree shearing demonstration.

The Dulls seek to provide their customers with not only products for purchase, but an experience to take home with them. The farm has several enterprises, including a grain operation, Christmas tree production, a unique and growing mix of enterprises intended to enhance the tree purchase experience, a bed and breakfast inn, and a recreational club. The grain operation retains a year-round employee who is driving diversification of the grain operation through the addition of a precision planting business. Spreading the Dull Christmas Tree experience, the Dulls give back to the community via the Statehouse Tree Program and Trees for Troops. Come learn about the Dull's Tree Farm experience!

3) Conference Center, Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds – Dinner at 6:30 p.m. and program at 7:00 p.m. on *Opportunities and Challenges for Farm Estate and Succession Planning in 2010 and Beyond*.

Thursday June 24, 2010

4) Little Ireland Farm, Inc. – Interview at 8:00 a.m. – Mini-tours on crop production systems/technologies, Bayer CropScience field trials, and farm safety and disability recovery begin at 8:30 a.m.

The increasing number of regulations associated with crop and livestock production practices is often a concern of farmers. Our stop at Little Ireland Farm provides an opportunity to learn how Jack Maloney is positioning his farm to cope with this potential future. See how Jack has combined production practices, technology, conservation practices, and record keeping to greatly reduce applications of N, P, and K while maintaining strong yields. This stop also provides the opportunity to learn what technologies Bayer CropScience is field testing. Finally there will be an opportunity to consider farm safety — what can be done to reduce the risks that we are unknowingly taking, and if a disability creating accident does occur, what recovery aids are available.

5) Starkey Farms Partnership – Interview at 10:00 a.m. – Mini-tours on no-till equipment settings, nutrient loss through field tiles, and soil profile changes from prolonged no-till at 10:30 a.m.

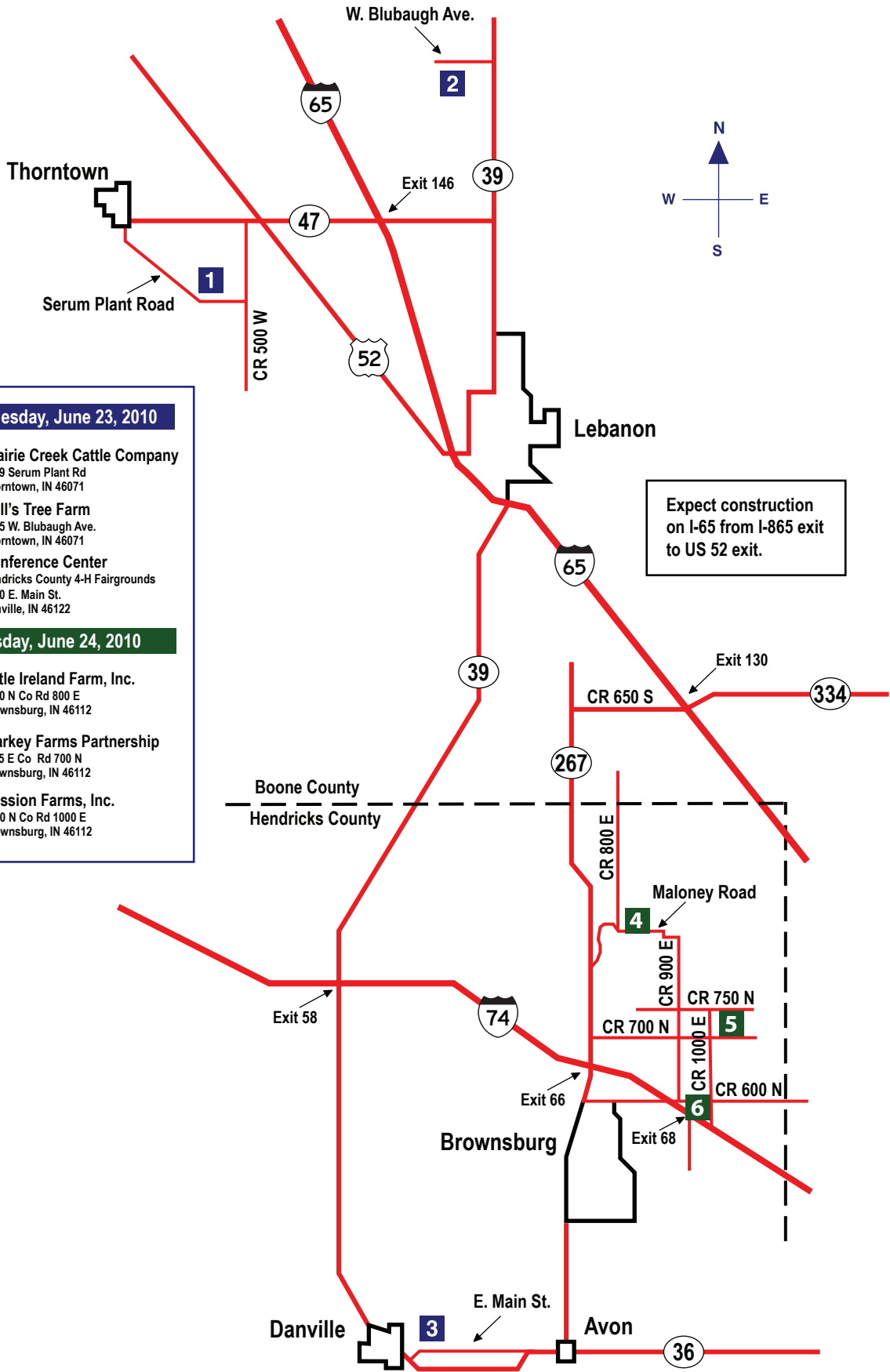
Some no-till producers believe it takes several years to realize the benefits from no-till. The Starkey family feels differently. They have no-tilled beans since 1989, but were unsuccessful in no-tilling corn from 1993 thru 1995. Additional education on planter set-up and the timing of nitrogen applications led to better results. They have been very successfully no-tilling corn since 2000. The Starkeys will discuss what no-till planter and sprayer settings work and don't work for them. They have been involved for five years in a study analyzing nutrient loss from field tiles and using annual rye grass as a nitrogen scavenger. Study results, along with infrared images comparing their farm with conventional-tilled fields, will be presented. Participants will view the soil profile at Starkey Farms and see how no-tilling has changed the soil structure and air and water infiltration.

12:00 p.m. – Sponsored lunch at Starkey Farms  
12:30 p.m. – Luncheon speaker: Joe Kelsay, Director of the Indiana Department of Agriculture. Joe will provide an update on the Department of Agriculture's activities and initiatives.

6) Hession Farms Inc. – Interview at 1:30 p.m. – Mini-tours at 2:00 p.m. on land-holding and operational entities, strip-till/corn after corn, and cultivating goodwill in your community. Tour ends at 3:00 p.m.

Anthony and Matt Hession's farming operation focuses on doing the basics very well. They raise food grade corn and commodity soybeans and were one of the first operations to use a GPS-linked yield monitor to map fields. Previously ridge tillers, they now are all strip-till. While other farms have grown through diversifying their activities and outsourcing labor and skills, the Hessions have opted to stick with their basic enterprises and capitalize on their internal resources. They currently exist harmoniously on Indianapolis' western urban fringe, but a future move to a cluster of recent land acquisitions in Clinton County is inevitable. A forward-thinking strategy using both land-holding and operational entities initiated by their parents a generation ago has the brothers and their siblings and families well-positioned for future success.

Purdue University is an equal opportunity, equal access, affirmative action university. For more information call 1-888-EXT-INFO.



**Wednesday, June 23, 2010**

- 1** **Prairie Creek Cattle Company**  
4919 Serum Plant Rd  
Thorntown, IN 46071
- 2** **Dull's Tree Farm**  
1765 W. Blubaugh Ave.  
Thorntown, IN 46071
- 3** **Conference Center**  
Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds  
1900 E. Main St.  
Danville, IN 46122

**Thursday, June 24, 2010**

- 4** **Little Ireland Farm, Inc.**  
8810 N Co Rd 800 E  
Brownsburg, IN 46112
- 5** **Starkey Farms Partnership**  
9225 E Co Rd 700 N  
Brownsburg, IN 46112
- 6** **Hession Farms, Inc.**  
6290 N Co Rd 1000 E  
Brownsburg, IN 46112

Expect construction on I-65 from I-865 exit to US 52 exit.