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# PEORIA COUNTY

## Soil & Water Conservation District

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*Fall 2023*



# RESOURCE REPORT

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**Congrats to our very own Karla Smith for winning the HOI HERO AWARD!!!!!!**

At the Heart of Illinois Fair annually they recognize people who make contributions to their community in agriculture. This year Karla was recognized for her efforts both here through the Peoria County Soil & Water Conservation District as well as her many years of being a 4-H leader. We are very proud of her and wanted to congratulate her, as she is our HERO EVERY DAY!!



### **Cold Water Fish Sale NOW TAKING ORDERS**

We are happy to bring back our specialty fish sale, working with Herman Bros to provide alternative species than our regular Fish Sale.

Unlike the regular sale, this will be delivery only. Similar to regular sale, orders over \$750 will be free. Orders under \$750 will have a \$95 delivery charge within Peoria County. Staff from Herman Bros will contact you regarding delivery dates and times when fish are available.

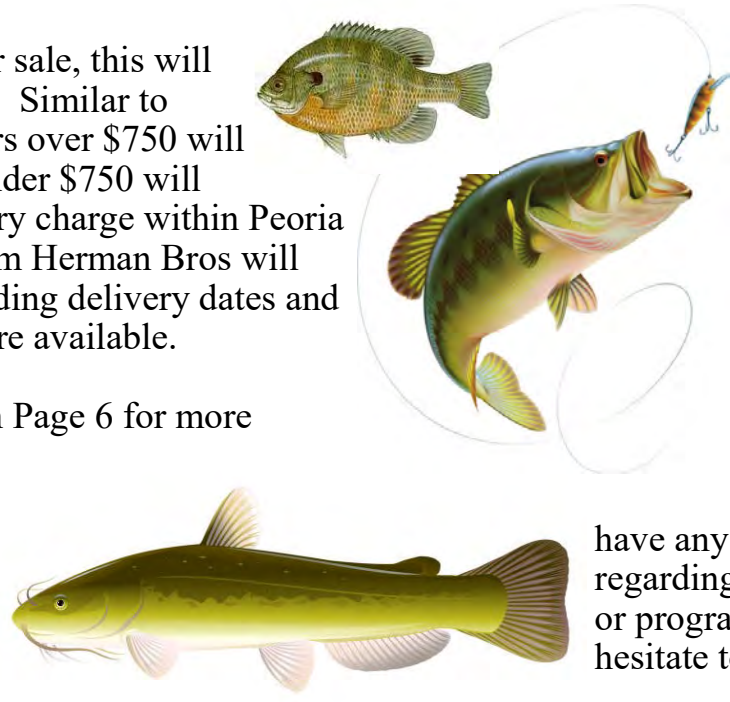
See order form on Page 6 for more details and call us with any questions at 309-671-7040 ext 3

### **Fall Fish Sale Order Form Is Now Available**

If you missed out on the Spring Sale, or are ready to supplement what you currently have swimming around in your pond, the time is now to consider placing an order for our Fall Fish Sale.

Please see Page 7 for the order form. You can also find the form on our website (see above) or we can mail one to you.

As always if you have any questions regarding any of our sales or programs please don't hesitate to call.





# Peoria County SWCD

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Dan Sahn, Soil Conservationist  
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Wilson Yingling, Soil Conservationist  
Ethan Scholl, Ag Engineer

Find us on the Web at  
[peoriacountyswcd.tripod.com](http://peoriacountyswcd.tripod.com)

2024 Tree Order Form  
Coming in Winter Issue



The Peoria County Soil & Water Conservation District will again be holding their annual tree sale. Watch for order forms in the next issue of *The Resource Report*. There will also be order forms on our website [peoriacountyswcd.tripod.com](http://peoriacountyswcd.tripod.com).

This is a pre-order sale only, last spring we sold out of many varieties, so get your orders in early! **DEADLINE TO ORDER TREES IS MARCH 22, 2024. PICK UP WILL BE APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2024.**

Norway Spruce will be back this year after not being offered in 2023. A new variety being offered is the Butternut Tree (pictured above), this is a broad round tree that can be as much as 60 feet wide and offers plenty of shade. It is a slow growing tree that adds less than 12 inches per year. It needs moist, well-drained soil to grow with full sun. The rest of the varieties are ones that we have sold in the past.

Look now at your home and see what your tree needs are and be ready to order them in December!

PEORIA  
COUNTY



## Registration Now Open for Civic Leadership Academy 2023

Free public course gives inside look at government departments with discussions and tours hosted by officials

Peoria County – Peoria County announced today that the Civic Leadership Academy (CLA), an annual program held each fall in conjunction with the City of Peoria, will be returning in September 2023. With an aim to help locals understand governmental functions, the free program includes a weekly session that takes place at either a County or City government facility and usually involves a presentation, tour, and time for questions and answers.

This year, the program will be on Monday evenings at 6:00 PM from September 25 to October 30, plus the City Council meeting and County Board meeting the week of November 5.

Topics and tours include the Peoria Police Department, Emergency Communications Center, Peoria County Coroner's Office, Peoria County Sheriff's Office, Peoria Public Works, and Peoria County Animal Protection Services amongst others. Programs are hosted by local officials discussing the work their department performs, the resources they offer, and the challenges they face.

Civic Leadership Academy is for ages 18 and older and requires registration at [peoriacounty.gov/448](http://peoriacounty.gov/448) or at the Peoria County Courthouse. Details are subject to change with a final schedule to be handed out at the first session. Space is limited, and applicants will be notified upon their acceptance into the program.

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## 2023 DATES TO REMEMBER

Sep 4	Labor Day - OFFICE CLOSED
Sep 22	Grass Carp Orders Due
Sep 29	Fish Orders Due
Oct 7	Fish Sale Pickup
Oct 9	Columbus Day - OFFICE CLOSED
Nov 10	Veteran's Day - OFFICE CLOSED
Nov 23	Thanksgiving - OFFICE CLOSED
Dec 25	Christmas Day - OFFICE CLOSED

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USDA -- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.  
Washington, DC 20250-9410

Or call toll free at (866) 632-9992 (voice) to obtain additional information, the appropriate office or to request documents. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

## PEORIA CO. UPDATES

Continuing on **Page 8** there are a number of events (some with multiple dates) that you can sign up for. For any of the events, admission is free, and registration for all can be done through the following website:

<https://icc.edu/programs/adult-community-education/>

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### Making Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

To be effective for the current Fiscal Year (FY), farm combinations and farm divisions must be requested by **August 1 of the FY** for farms subject to the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program. The 2022 Reconstitution request period for ARC/PLC has ended, but reconstitution requests for 2023 can begin to be processed Oct. 1, 2022. A reconstitution is considered to be requested when all of the required signatures are on FSA-155 and all other applicable documentation, such as proof of ownership, is submitted.

Total Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and non-ARC/PLC farms may be reconstituted at any time.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

**Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate

**Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method, the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding

**DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract

**Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

For questions on your farm reconstitution, contact the Peoria County USDA Service Center at (309) 671 7040 ext. 2.

### Update Your Records

FSA is cleaning up our producer record database and needs your help. Please report any changes of address, zip code, phone number, email address or an incorrect name or business name on file to our office. You should also report changes in your farm operation, like the addition of a farm by lease or purchase. This includes updating records to show the proper succession of deceased owners. You should also report any changes to your operation in which you reorganize to form a Trust, LLC or other legal entity.

FSA and NRCS program participants are required to promptly report changes in their farming operation to the County Committee in writing and to update their *Farm Operating Plan* on form CCC-902. Reporting your updates earlier in the year allows us to update your information more completely and reduces complications created by waiting until contract signup or acreage reporting to make those updates.

To update your records, contact your Peoria County USDA Service Center at (309) 671 7040 ext. 2.

### Submitting Production Losses for Disaster Declarations

Farmers and ranchers know all too well that natural disasters can be a common, and likely a costly, variable to their operation. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has emergency assistance programs to provide assistance when disasters strike, and for some of those programs, a disaster designation may be the eligibility trigger. When natural disaster occurs, there is a process for requesting a USDA Secretarial disaster designation for a county. You can play a vital role in this process.

If you have experienced a production loss as a result of a natural disaster, you may submit a request to your local FSA county office for your county to be evaluated for a Secretarial disaster designation. Once a request is received, the county office will collect disaster data and create a Loss Assessment Report. The County Emergency Board will review the Loss Assessment Report and determine if a recommendation is sent forward to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for the designation.

For more information on FSA disaster programs and disaster designations, contact your Peoria County USDA Service Center at (309) 671 7040 or visit [fsa.usda.gov/disaster](https://fsa.usda.gov/disaster).

### Adjusted Gross Income Forms (AGI's)

The 2018 Farm Bill requires the implementation of an average AGI limitation for payment eligibility, (\$900,000). This limitation provision applies to most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS). All persons and legal entities requesting certain program payments, either directly or indirectly, are subject to the AGI limitation provisions. Participants in programs subject to AGI rules must annually certify their eligibility to receive program benefits. IRS requires written consent from the individual or legal entity to provide USDA verification of compliance with AGI limitation provisions. The annual certification is made possible by completing the CCC-941 form, Average Adjusted Gross Income Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information. The AGI limitation takes into consideration the 3 taxable years preceding the immediate preceding tax year for which payments/benefits are being requested. If you have not filed your annual AGI, please contact the Peoria County USDA Farm Service Agency at (309) 671 7040 ext. 2 so that we may assist you in getting this completed.

### Direct Deposit/Hardship Waiver

If you are currently receiving your FSA/CCC program payment by paper check, or if you have just become eligible to begin receiving an FSA/CCC payment, you should elect to receive your payment by direct deposit through the financial institution of your choice. FSA/CCC makes payments electronically through a program called direct deposit, which is safe, convenient and a reliable way to receive your FSA/CCC payment directly to your bank account. Hardship waivers are available if payment by EFT would impose a hardship because of a physical or mental disability, the individual faces a geographic, language or literacy barrier to receiving payment by EFT and/or payment by EFT would impose a financial hardship. If you are still receiving paper checks, please contact the Peoria County USDA Service Center at (309) 671 7040 ext. 2 so that we may assist you in either setting up your direct deposit for FSA/CCC payments or filling out a hardship waiver to continue receiving paper checks.

⇒ **Electronic payments are faster:**

- Paper checks take days to arrive in the mail and can require additional time to cash or deposit the check.

⇒ **Electronic payments are cheaper:**

- Every check that is converted to an electronic payment saves the American taxpayer and allows the government to save tens of millions of dollars.

### CRP Mid-Contract Management and CRP Maintenance is Required

Participants in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) are responsible for maintaining the acreage under contract to the minimum specifications and acreages as required by their conservation plan and supporting documents. This includes not only controlling excessive weeds, invasive species, and trees in grass practices, but completing required management on CRP practices as scheduled in your conservation plan.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Peoria County USDA Service Center at (309) 671 7040 ext. 2 if you have any questions.

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## PEORIA COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

### 2024 Peoria County Farm Bureau Photo Calendars



Peoria County residents are encouraged to stop by the Farm Bureau office and pick up a FREE 2024 Farm Bureau photo calendar after November 15. The Farm Bureau's Public Relations Committee is sponsoring the printing of 2000 calendars which will feature farm-related pictures that were submitted by members for this year's photo contest. The calendar will debut at the County Annual Meeting on November 11.

It is an 8.5" X 11" wall calendar with space to write birthdays, anniversaries, meeting reminders or other scheduled events.

The calendar will also highlight local events such as Peoria County Farm Bureau programs and meetings, Soil and Water District programs, USDA Crop Reporting Dates, Farm Service Agency deadlines, and other agriculture related meetings and activities.

### 2024 Peoria County Plat Book Coming

A new 2024 Peoria County Plat Book will be available by December 1 of this year at the Farm Bureau building in Peoria. The Peoria County Farm Bureau has teamed up with Mapping Solutions to create the new book. It will feature updated landowners and acreages for the 19 townships in Peoria County. Unique to this book will be historic 1923 township plat maps next to the newly updated plat maps. The historical maps will replace the satellite maps that were printed for each township in the 2018 book.



### Citrus and Nuts Coming

Peoria County Farm Bureau will be offering fresh Oranges, Grapefruit, Clementines, a Holiday Gift Basket, and nut products to members beginning in mid October. Orders will be taken until Wednesday, November 15 and pick up will be at the Peoria County Farm Bureau building on Wednesday, December 13. The oranges and grapefruit are being sold in 20 pound and 40 pound boxes. Although the size of the citrus varies each year, there are typically 50-60 oranges and 30 to 40 grapefruit per 40 pound box and 100 clementines in a 20 pound box. Clementines are a variety of the mandarin orange. They are sweet, peel easy, and seedless.

Cusumano & Sons Inc. in Mt. Vernon, Illinois handled the citrus orders the last five years and will be supplying the fresh produce again this year. They have access to growers throughout the country and strive to provide the highest quality product possible at the best price.

### 111th County Annual Meeting



The Peoria County Farm Bureau will hold its 111th annual meeting on Saturday, November 11, at the ITOO Hall on Farmington Road in Peoria.

Prime Rib will be served by Raber Packing Co. at 6 p.m. The meal will also include au gratin potatoes, green beans, salad, dinner roll, pie, lemonade, ice tea, and coffee. Cost to attend is \$20 and includes a special RADA Bread Knife to each M member. The 2024 Peoria County Farm Bureau calendar will also be unveiled and given to people attending. The calendar will feature at least 14 pictures from the recent 2023 Farm Bureau Photo Contest.

During the business meeting, ten township directors will be elected to a two-year term and four officers to a one-year term. Township director positions up for election are: Akron, Chillicothe, Hallock, Jubilee, Limestone, Medina, Peoria, Radnor, Rosefield, and Trivoli.

To qualify for a Board Director position, current policy of the Peoria County Farm Bureau states "A member of the Board of Directors must be a voting member of this Farm Bureau in good standing and must at the time of their election reside and/or have a vested interest in the township from which they are elected. A member who rents or owns land in another township could represent that township even though they do not reside in the township.

The motivational speaker for the evening will be Adrienne DeSutter, who farms with her family in Knox County. The focus of her presentation will be on leadership.

From 5 p.m. until the start of the meeting, there will be a silent auction to raise funds for the Peoria County Farm Bureau Foundation. New this year will be a short LIVE Auction between the business meeting and the speaker.

A letter of invitation will be mailed to all Peoria County Farm Bureau "M" (farmer/landowner) members in mid October.

## Join the Peoria County Farm Bureau



[peoriacountyfarmbureau.org](http://peoriacountyfarmbureau.org)

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I grew up in Central Illinois and went to school at Augustana College where I received my bachelor's degree in Geography and Environmental Studies. After graduation, I worked for about 5 years at an environmental laboratory testing drinking water, ground water, and soils for organic compounds found in herbicides and pesticides. I decided to leave the lab behind and pursue my passion for a career in conservation. I now own a home in Washington, IL with my fiancé, Ryan, and two cats, Batman and Freya. We love traveling to see new places and experience new things whenever we get the chance. Some of my hobbies include hiking, kayaking, and trying to capture nature's beauty with photography. I am looking forward to all the opportunities and experiences that the future has in store for me here!



**Meet the new  
Survey Aide,  
Marissa Iverson**

### Conservation Tour at the C2A3 Conference

Recently, staff along with our partners from the Land Improvement Contractor's Association (LICA), The Wetlands Initiative, and the Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership (ISAP) conducted a tour of several conservation practices on the campus of Illinois Central College. The tour was held in conjunction with the Community College Alliance for Agriculture Advancement's (C2A3) annual meeting. The C2A3 collaboration was formed to provide more ongoing education, training, and demonstration projects for future farm producers and agricultural service providers to improve soil health, long-term productivity, resilience, and sustainability. This participants in the tour included community college professors and faculty, students and NRCS staff who were able to see these conservation practices hands on. Included in the tour were stops at a newly constructed Water & Sediment Control Basin and pattern tile drainage system; a stop to discuss cover crops and soil health, including a soils pit; as well as a bioreactor and constructed wetland.



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# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT....

On August 26th the Peoria Co. SWCD was pleased to again offer our Pond Clinic. As in past year's it was headlined by Rob Hilsabeck, our IDNR Fisheries Biologist. Rob is a fantastic resource for our Peoria County residents with his decades of knowledge on everything to do with our privately owned farm ponds. As is the case with all of the IDNR staff, Rob covers many counties and his responsibility to the many State owned water bodies makes it tough to get to individual phone calls and pond visits so this event is a great chance for him to get to visit with as many landowners as possible to offer a great presentation regarding pond stocking, vegetation management and general aquatic information.

We were at a new venue this year. Thanks to the Kickapoo Sportsman's Club for hosting the event. Their pavilion, with access to restrooms, and access to their pond, made for a perfect location for the event.

Attendees this year were able to start by seeing a pond shocking. Rob was able to get a volunteer from the crowd to man the dipping net at the front of the boat as they surveyed the current status of the fish populations in the Kickapoo Sportsman's Club pond.



After the shocking, Rob gave a small presentation down by the pond showing off a collection of turtles and a few other talking points before we moved up to the pavilion to enjoy the shade and nice breezes that the day offered.



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Up at the pavilion Rob continued the presentation discussing several topics including stocking rate suggestions and aquatic vegetation control.

He finished the morning taking questions from the crowd. This is always helpful as you can tell how one question always leads into the next. Often times this helps landowners to consider items that they wouldn't otherwise.

We again want to thank both Rob for his time and expertise, Larry Kelch for assisting us with the use of the location and the Kickapoo Sportsman's Club for hosting the event. We hope to plan for another one of these in 2025 and continue on an every other year rotation.



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## Cold Water FISH SALE 2023

### Planning for November Delivery

We are excited to again offer a specialty fish sale focusing on cold water fish. All orders will be delivered this year, with delivery date being determined at a later time. This is the first time in several years we have been able to offer this type of sale, so if you are in the market for some great sport fish for your pond or lake, here is your chance.

All orders due by **Friday, October 27th**

		all prices - each	Quantity	Cost
Northern Pike	(10-12")	\$16.00	_____	_____
Tiger Muskie	(10-12")	\$26.00	_____	_____
Pure Muskie	(10-12")	\$26.00	_____	_____
Walleye	(4-6")	\$1.85	_____	_____
Walleye	(5-7")	\$2.95	_____	_____
Yellow Perch	(3-4")	\$1.25	_____	_____
Yellow Perch	(4-6")	\$2.20	_____	_____
Delivery Fee	orders under \$750=\$95 over \$750 = \$0.00 <b>**Peoria County Only</b>		Check box for delivery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
<b>TOTAL</b>				_____

Please include payment with order. Make check payable to: Peoria County SWCD

Name *	This year we are offering these products and services. Please call the office if you are interested in <b>HB All Seasons Blend Bacteria; Triton High Protein Fish Food; Texas Hunter Automatic Fish Feeder.</b>
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PURPLE TOP TURNIP.....\$2.00/lb.  
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**PEORIA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
6715 N Smith Road, Edwards, IL 61528 Phone: 309-671-7040 Ext 3

**FALL FISH SALE 2023**

**Saturday, October 7, 2023**

The Fall Fish Sale is now in progress and many varieties and sizes of fish are available. The Fisheries Biologist with the IL Dept of Natural Resources recommends the following stocking rates for ponds with no fish: 750 bluegill; 250 redear; 100 channel catfish and 100 bass. All rates are per acre of water surface and are fingerling fish (1-3"). By initially stocking the correct number of fingerlings, rather than releasing a smaller number of adult fish, a lake will produce sport fishing in less time and without stunting. Triploid Grass Carp are available again. Recommended stocking is five (5) grass carp to an acre of surface grass or algae in a pond.

**GRASS CARP** need to be ordered by Friday, September 22nd  
All other fish must be ordered by Friday, September 29th

			Quantity	Cost
Hybrid Sunfish	(1-2")	250/bag-\$95.00/bag		
Hybrid Sunfish	(3-5")	100 for \$124.00		
Bluegill	(1-2")	250/bag-\$95.00/bag		
Bluegill	(3-5")	100 for \$124.00		
Redear	(1-2")	250/bag-\$95.00/bag		
Black Crappie	(2-3")	100 for \$98.00		
Largemouth Bass	(3")	100 for \$145.00		
Largemouth Bass	(5-8")	100 for \$355.00		
Channel Catfish	(6-8")	100 for \$135.00		
Fathead Minnows		\$9.75 per pound		
Grass Carp	(8-11")	\$11.25 each		
Delivery Fee	orders under \$750=\$95	over \$750 = Free		
				Check box for delivery <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>TOTAL</b>				

Please include payment with order. Make check payable to: Peoria County SWCD

Name *	<b>PLEASE FILL IN IF PURCHASING GRASS CARP</b>		
Address *	Legal Owner		
	Township		
Phone/Cell *	County		
	Section		
	Pond Size		

\* Required for all orders  
This year we are offering these products and services. Please call the office if you are interested in **HB All Seasons Blend Bacteria; Triton High Protein Fish Food; Texas Hunter Automatic Fish Feeder.**

Please bring 35 gallons of pond water for every 100 (6-8 inch) Channel Catfish ordered!

All orders over \$750 can receive free delivery to your pond.



**TWO GREAT EVENTS HOSTED BY  
GILLES FAMILY FARMS  
AND ILLINOIS VALLEY CHAPTER #178**



**Family Trap Shoot:**

We'll be at Gilles Family Farms, 22025 N. Maher Rd, Princeville, on Sat, Sep. 30th & Sun, Oct. 1st. Please call ahead to book a 1-hour time slot starting at 8 AM until 4 PM. Guns & 2 boxes of shells are provided or bring your own.

Call Mike Aldrich at **309-229-4090** to register.

**FAMILY TRAP SHOOT**

**AGES 9 y/o to ADULT**

**YOUTH, WOMEN, & VETERAN'S PHEASANT HUNT**

**AGES 9 y/o to ADULT**

**Youth/Women/Veterans Pheasant Hunt:**

Join us at Gilles Family Farms, 22025 N. Maher Rd, Princeville, on November 25th & 26th. We'll provide 2 birds per hunter, along with guns & shells, or bring your own. **Must have successfully completed the Hunter Safety Course** (this year's or previous). Ages 9 and up.



**Monday September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 –  
The Wisdom of Preparedness**

3pm at ICC

**Instructors: Jason Marks and Jill Stowe, Peoria County Emergency Management**

Are you aware of the hazards in your neighborhood, community, or Peoria County? Do you have an emergency preparedness kit and plan? If your answer to these questions is no, then join us for discussion on how we can prepare as individuals and families in making our community more resilient to disaster. Learn about how first responders and community partners collaborate in identifying threats to the community and preparing to respond and recovery from them.

**Tuesday September 12, 2023 –  
Property Tax Assessments:  
Beginning to End**

6 pm at ICC

**Instructor: Dave Ryan, Peoria County Supervisor of Assessments**

Have you ever asked yourself how your property assessment is determined? Who oversees placing values on my property, and where do I find my information? How do I file a complaint and what information do I need if I believe my value is too high? These and other questions will be answered regarding the Property Assessment process.



**Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 –  
The Wisdom of Preparedness**

6 pm at ICC

**Instructors: Jason Marks and Jill Stowe, Peoria County Emergency Management**

Are you aware of the hazards in your neighborhood, community, or Peoria County? Do you have an emergency preparedness kit and plan? If your answer to these questions is no, then join us for discussion on how we can prepare as individuals and families in making our community more resilient to disaster. Learn about how first responders and community partners collaborate in identifying threats to the community and preparing to respond and recovery from them.

**Tuesday October 3, 2023 – Situational Awareness: A Life Safety Skill**

6 pm at ICC

**Instructor: Sheriff Chris Watkins**

In a world full of distractions, being situationally aware and attuned to our environment is not always at the forefront of our minds. Join Sheriff Watkins as he talks through the importance of Situational Awareness as it applies to home, public places, suspicious activity, the behaviors of those around us, and making the safest decisions when facing a threat or issue of concern.

**Monday October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 –  
The Wisdom of Preparedness**

3pm at ICC

**Instructors: Jason Marks and Jill Stowe, Peoria County Emergency Management**

Are you aware of the hazards in your neighborhood, community, or Peoria County? Do you have an emergency preparedness kit and plan? If your answer to these questions is no, then join us for discussion on how we can prepare as individuals and families in making our community more resilient to disaster. Learn about how first responders and community partners collaborate in identifying threats to the community and preparing to respond and recovery from them.

**Tuesday November 7, 2023 –  
Situational Awareness:  
A Life Safety Skill**

6 pm at ICC

**Instructor: Sheriff Chris Watkins**

In a world full of distractions, being situationally aware and attuned to our environment is not always at the forefront of our minds. Join Sheriff Watkins as he talks through the importance of Situational Awareness as it applies to home, public places, suspicious activity, the behaviors of those around us, and making the safest decisions when facing a threat or issue of concern.

**More Topics and Dates for  
Upcoming Peoria County  
Events**

**Tuesday December 5, 2023 – Situational Awareness: A Life Safety Skill**

6 pm at ICC

**Instructor: Sheriff Chris Watkins**

In a world full of distractions, being situationally aware and attuned to our environment is not always at the forefront of our minds. Join Sheriff Watkins as he talks through the importance of Situational Awareness as it applies to home, public places, suspicious activity, the behaviors of those around us, and making the safest decisions when facing a threat or issue of concern.

**Thursday December 14, 2023 –  
Protecting Our Animals**

2 pm at PCAPS (2600 NE Perry Ave. in Peoria)

**Instructor: Director Becky Spencer**

This workshop is perfect for animal lovers. Take an inside look at Peoria County Animal Protection Services animal shelter and animal control. Hear exciting stories about the day-to-day operations of the animal shelter and a day in the life of an Animal Control Officer. Learn about local animal laws, how the operation is funded, and PCAPS community partnerships. The PCAPS Director will talk about local animal issues and opportunities for you to help abandoned, neglected, or abused animals in our own community. Then take a guided tour of the animal shelter and meet four-legged friends available for adoption or currently receiving care, including dogs, cats, and small or unusual animals.

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