Urban Agriculture: An Overview with Special Emphasis on People with Disabilities and Veterans

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3:00 p.m. EST
Basic Webinar Instructions

Audio available through computer or phone.

Check sound via Communicate > Computer Audio Settings.

Closed captions: use arrow to expand or contact the Media Viewer window.

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Questions and comments

• Click Chat icon at top right of screen (it should turn blue). Enter message in box, choose who to send it to, and click send. You may enter questions about the presentation at any time.

• In addition, during the Q & A period, if you have a web microphone, click the “Raise Hand” icon to indicate that you have a question. We will enable your microphone.
Basic Webinar Instructions

4 quick survey questions + opportunity to share comments
Session recorded and archived with PowerPoint files at www.agrability.org/Online-Training/archived
Problems: use chat window or email agrability@agrability.org
**AgrAbility:** USDA-sponsored program that assists farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities.

Partners land grant universities with disability services organizations. Currently 20 state projects

**National AgrAbility Project:** Led by Purdue’s Breaking New Ground Resource Center.

Partners include:

- Goodwill of the Finger Lakes
- The Arthritis Foundation, Heartland Region
- University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign
- Colorado State University

More information available at [www.agrability.org](http://www.agrability.org)
Emily Toner

Emily Toner is urban agriculture educator for Purdue Extension - Marion County in Indianapolis. She has lived in Indy for two years and supports the urban agriculture community by providing direct education opportunities as well as building the food system community. Emily is originally from Iowa, where she received a bachelor's degree in agronomy from Iowa State University. She also has two graduate degrees from the University of Wisconsin - Madison, a Master of Science in geography and a Master of Arts in journalism.
Emily Toner
Urban Agriculture Educator

Iowa State University

University of Wisconsin - Madison
I. What is urban agriculture?
II. Types of urban agriculture
III. Challenges for urban farmers
IV. Opportunities for urban farmers
V. Financial trade-offs
I. What is urban agriculture?

“The growing, processing and distribution of food crops and animal products — by and for the local community — within an urban environment.”

University of Missouri Extension

Photo credit: Big City Farms, Indianapolis, IN
II. Types of urban agriculture

- Community garden
- Market farm
- Institution-driven garden
- Urban homestead
II. Types of urban agriculture

Community garden

Fall Creek Gardens, Indianapolis, IN
Photo credit: fallcreekgardens.org
II. Types of urban agriculture

Market Farm

Growing Places, Indianapolis, IN
Photo credit: Emily Toner

Big City Farms, Indianapolis, IN
Photo credit: Big City Farms newsletter
II. Types of urban agriculture

Institution-driven garden

Eskenzie Hospital Sky Farm, Indianapolis, IN
Photo credit: EskenzieHealth.edu

Paramount School of Excellence, Indianapolis, IN
Photo credit: Emily Toner
II. Types of urban agriculture

Urban Homestead

Residential backyard, Pasadena, CA
Photo credit: EcoWatch.com
III. Challenges for urban farmers

Soil quality: Contaminants, compaction, subsoil

Water: Access

Policy: Zoning

Learning curve: Beginning farmers, small peer network
III. Challenges for urban farmers

**Soil quality:** Contaminants, compaction, subsoil

**Water:** Access

**Policy:** Zoning

**Learning curve:** Beginning farmers, small peer network
Learning Curve: Purdue Urban Farm Incubator

A land-based program to support urban farmers to develop sustainable enterprises by providing access to land and basic infrastructure along with training and mentorship.
Learning curve: IndyGrown

**Mission:** IndyGrown supports a cooperative network of urban farms by raising awareness of urban farming in Indianapolis and connecting urban farmers to one another and to professional development opportunities.

**Vision:** IndyGrown’s vision is that Indianapolis has a vibrant patchwork of farms that provide an abundance of healthy produce to citizens.

Growing Places Indy, Indianapolis, IN
Photo credit: Emily Toner
Learning curve: Beginning Farmers

Tours
Workshops
Field trips
Indiana Small Farm Conference
(today is last day to register!)
IV. Opportunities for urban farmers

Market access

Highly customized system

Multidimensional focus possible
IV. Opportunities for urban farmers

Market access, direct market sales opportunities are abundant and farm-to-table restaurants are nearby.

Broad Ripple Farmers’ Market, Indianapolis, IN
Photo credit: DoingIndy.com

Bluebeard, Indianapolis, IN
Image credit: Bluebeard.com
IV. Opportunities for urban farmers

Highly customized system

Purdue Extension – Marion County Demonstration Garden, Indianapolis, IN
Photo credit: Steve Mayer
IV. Opportunities for urban farmers

Highly customized system

Butler University Center for Urban Ecology Farm, Indianapolis, IN
Photo credit: Butler University Center for Urban Ecology
IV. Opportunities for urban farmers

Multidimensional focus possible

Growing Places Indy, Indianapolis, IN
Photo credit: Growing Places Indy
V. Financial trade-offs

Lower than traditional agriculture

Higher than traditional agriculture

Tool investment

Land prep and remediation

Machine labor

Hand labor

Acreage

Return per acre
Thanks!

Emily Toner
Urban Agriculture Educator