

Extension Edge

An educational publication of Purdue Extension — DeKalb County



Extension - DeKalb County

November/December 2025

Make Your Thanksgiving Gathering Special with the Perfect Herbs

By Brittney Haag, Horticulture Educator, University of Illinois Extension

The comforting smells of Thanksgiving dinner—roasted turkey, savory stuffing, and warm rolls—wouldn't be the same without herbs like thyme, sage, rosemary, and parsley. These flavorful plants add depth to your dishes and can even brighten your home when grown indoors.

Fresh vs. Dried

Both fresh and dried herbs bring something special to the table. Fresh herbs offer bright flavor, perfect for uncooked or lightly cooked dishes. Dried herbs, on the other hand, deliver deeper, richer notes ideal for slow-cooked meals. Remember: use three times as much fresh herb if

substituting for dried.

Herbs for the Holidays

- Thyme – This low-growing perennial forms a fragrant mound and adds a subtle earthiness to roasted vegetables or meats.
- Sage – With its velvety leaves and strong aroma, sage is a Thanksgiving staple, especially in stuffing.
- Rosemary – Its needle-like leaves provide bold flavor. Central Illinois gardeners can grow it outdoors in summer and bring it inside for winter.
- Parsley – Often used as a garnish, parsley also enhances pasta, meats, and sauces. Flat-leaf varieties offer the most flavor.

Growing Herbs Indoors

Most herbs need at least six hours of direct sunlight daily. Keep soil slightly moist—rosemary prefers consistent watering, while sage likes to dry between waterings. Fertilize every two weeks using a liquid fertilizer as directed, and trim plants regularly to keep them compact and flavorful.

Decorate with Herbs

Beyond the kitchen, herbs can enhance your holiday décor. Try a rosemary topiary or a tray of potted herbs as a natural centerpiece. Add a sprig of thyme or parsley to each napkin for a fragrant, festive touch.

This season, invite herbs to your table—whether from your garden or windowsill—and give thanks for the simple, aromatic joys they bring.

In This Issue

2025 4-H at a Glance ...Page 2
Auction Information Page 3
4-H Important DatesPage 4
CPR TrainingPage 4
Air Rifle & ArcheryPage 6
The Quiet Season..... Page 7

Power of NaturePage 7
Rest & Reset.....Page 8
Homemakers Photos...Page 10
Christmas PartyPage 11
Cookie/Candy Walk....Page 12
Jar Mixes ClassPage 12

Candy MakingPage 12
Rooted & ResilientPage 13
ANR Important Dates Page 14
Getting Ready for Winter
.....Page 15

2025 4-H AT A GLANCE

This was another year for the history books! We broke our record for the third year in a row for the number of 4-H members that went to 4-H Camp. We saw many new faces in the 4-H program as we welcomed many new 4-H'ers to the program. DeKalb County 4-H members were praised by judges at both Summer and Fall for their dedication, knowledge of their projects, and their skills. Everyone should be proud of what they accomplished this year! I know I am proud of everyone, and so thank you for the volunteers who give so

much to the program to help make the best, better!

Effie Campbell, DeKalb County 4-H Educator

Top 3 favorite projects

1. Arts & Crafts
2. Foods
3. Construction & Architectural Replica

Top 3 life skills gained

1. Doing Your Best
2. Problem-Solving
3. Planning/Organizing

FALL FAIR

1254	Animals exhibited
314	Exhibitors
305	Youth in Battle of the Barns
83	Beef projects
71	Dairy Beef projects
51	Dairy projects
99	Goat projects
352	Poultry projects
350	Rabbit projects
71	Sheep projects
156	Swine projects

2025 BATTLE OF THE BARNES CHAMPIONS – SWINE TEAM!!



AUCTION INFORMATION

We had a great 4-H Auction this year with great support from the community! For those of you that participated in the auction, be sure to read the information below to know what your next steps are to receive your check.

Very shortly, the Township Auction Chairmen (or the Office) will be sending out letters to each auction participant with a list of the people who donated to your lot, with their addresses.

Youth must write thank-you letters to each donor and turn them in, ready to be mailed, to their Township Auction Chairmen...NOT the Extension Office. Once this is done, your child will receive their check from the auction.

TOWNSHIP AUCTION CHAIRMEN

Township	Chairman	Phone
Butler/Keyser	Julie Malcolm	260-357-6255
Concord/ Spencer/Newville	Melanie McClain	260-437-6172
Fairfield	Tom Orwig	260-541-0068
Jackson/Union	Mandy Young	260-908-1624
Richland	Stephanie Haynes-Clifford	260-413-2904
Smithfield/ Grant/Franklin	Montana Tiernan	260-235-9230
Wilmington/ Stafford/Troy	Abigail Capp	260-573-3741

CHECK DEDUCTION EXPLANATIONS:

1% will be deducted from the check to defray costs of conducting the regular sale (i.e.-postage, checks, sale cards, etc.)

2% will be deducted from the check for a Capital Improvement Fund for improvements to 4-H buildings on the Fairgrounds.



4-H VOLUNTEERS

If you are a 4-H volunteer, don't forget to log into your 4HOnline account and complete your volunteer re-enrollment for 2026

After you have completed the initial Re-enrollment or Enrollment, please go to the Trainings tab to begin your training. Each module must say "Passed" next to it to be considered complete.

CPR TRAINING

Join us for a CPR
Training session

NOVEMBER 15

EXHIBIT HALL
2:00 PM



REGISTER NOW USING THE LINK ABOVE





2025 4-H IMPORTANT DATES	
4-H Enrollment is OPEN! https://v2.4honline.com/	
November 8	Jackson Blue Ribbons Award Night, 5:00 pm - Exhibit Hall
November 12	4-H Council Meeting, 7:00 pm - Exhibit Hall
November 15	CPR Class, 2:00-5:00 pm - Exhibit Hall (Register - https://bit.ly/4-HCPRClass)
December 10	4-H Council Meeting, 7:00 pm - Exhibit Hall

Winter Cancellation Policy

Historically, we have followed schools in regards to meeting and event cancellations. If one school canceled for the day, we canceled all events for that day. However, with schools offering e-learning days, we think they will be quicker to react and cancel.

We certainly care about your safety, but want to be mindful that sometimes the fog fades and the snow is cleared by evening. Moving forward from this point on, we will use cautious discretion and/or consult with the Sheriff's Department regarding cancellation of DeKalb County 4-H programs, events, activities, and meetings.

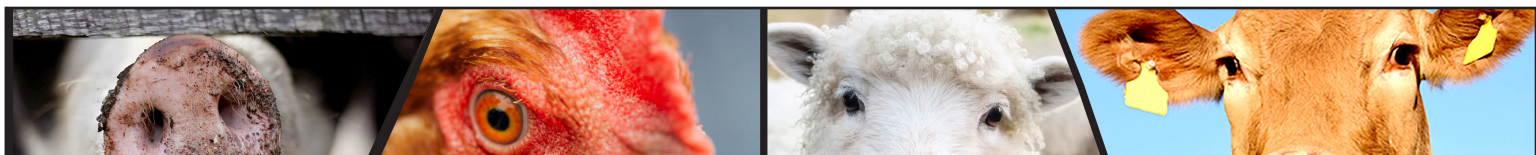


Noble REMC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

4-H Enrollment (State) Fee Reimbursement!

The first 25 youth who enroll in 4-H by Jan. 15, 2026 and whose families are Noble REMC electric customers, can have the State portion of the 4-H Program Fee reimbursed by the REMC. Upon enrolling and paying the Program Fee, a credit voucher can be obtained by contacting the Extension Office. Bring in or mail the voucher to NOBLE REMC for a \$15 bill credit.



2026 4-H ENROLLMENT

October 1, 2025 thru January 15, 2026

Re-enroll at v2.4honline.com

**COST: \$25 4-H Fee* (Grades 3-12) paid at time of enrollment.
\$25 each for up to three children, \$10 for each additional child.**

\$5 for Mini 4-H (Grades K-2) paid at first meeting in May

***4-H Fees are non-refundable and paid at the time of registration.**

The fee can be paid online with credit or debit card

OR at the Extension Office with cash or check.

(Extension Office cannot take credit cards).

AIR RIFLE & ARCHERY UPCOMING DATES

Pistol/Rifle disciplines are always on **Thursday nights**. **Archery** disciplines are always on **Tuesday nights**. All classes take place at the Exhibit Hall with the exception of .22 Rifle (advanced students) which takes place at the Auburn Conservation Club.

Air Pistol (Beginner and Advanced) always runs in the fall, currently starting October 16, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Exhibit Hall. Open to all regular 4-H members (3rd-12th grades). Runs for 8 weeks (with Thanksgiving off). Members must be enrolled in 4-H before arriving for the first night. Cost is \$25 on the first night of class. All equipment and materials are provided. Class usually ends around 8:00 pm. Early arrival is appreciated to help setup, and early arrival is strongly encouraged on the first night to complete sign-in/admin. Description of the course as reflected in the Handbook remains the same. Completion of Beginner course is required before moving to Advanced course.

Beginner Air Rifle will start in January (exact date TBD but will be 2nd or 3rd Thursday of the month). Open to all regular 4-H members (3rd-12th grades). Runs for 8 weeks (with Thanksgiving off). Members must be enrolled in 4-H before arriving for the first night. Cost is \$25 on the first night of class. All equipment and materials are provided. Class usually ends around 8:30 pm. Early arrival is appreciated to help setup, and early arrival is strongly encouraged on the first night to complete sign-in/admin. Description of the course as reflected in the Handbook remains the same. Completion of Beginner course is required before moving to Advanced course.

Advanced Air Rifle will begin 1-2 weeks after the Beginner course concludes. Also runs for 8 weeks, same time, same location. Completion of the Beginner

course (in the same or a previous year) is a prerequisite to the Advanced course. Cost is \$25. All equipment/materials are provided.

.22 Rifle runs after the Advanced course, typically mid-May through June, at the Conservation Club. Completion of at least 1 year of the Advanced course is required before participation in .22 Rifle (can be done in the same year). Cost is \$25. All equipment/materials are provided but students may utilize their own rifle/equipment, upon instructor approval.

Archery is divided into levels 1, 2, and 3. The beginner course is Level 1 and it will start in January, roughly commensurate with Air Rifle. Level 2 will start shortly after Level 1 completes, roughly commensurate with Advanced Air Rifle. Level 3 is taking place right now. Advancement is at instructor discretion. The course is based on the NASP program and all equipment is provided at the Level 1 course. Cost is \$25. As students advance, utilization of their own equipment is permitted, at the instructor's discretion.

Note class/course cost. Households can receive a discount (\$5 for each additional child) but they must make the request at sign-in, the instructors will not automatically know.

Information is primarily disseminated through email--to receive the emails, members must be on the Shooting Sports Club enrollment list. Most information is then also posted to our Facebook page. Individual courses might establish their own text/messaging setup that is specific to that course for purposes of cancellations, etc.

If you have any questions, contact us through email (dekalb.shootingsports@gmail.com) or the FB page (<https://www.facebook.com/DeKalbShootingSports>).

The Quiet Season: Finding Rest and Reset During Winter

By Angela Sorg, LMHC, PMH-C, EMDRPT-II

Extension Educator, Health and Human Sciences

As the rush of harvest ends and the fields turn quiet, many of us finally have a chance to slow down. Yet for some, winter's stillness can feel uncomfortable. After months of constant motion, it can be hard to shift gears from "go" to "rest." But just as soil needs time to recover after a season of growth, so do we.

The quieter winter months offer a valuable opportunity to pause, reflect, and reset. Taking time to rest is not laziness. It is an essential part of resilience. Rest allows our bodies and minds to recover, our relationships to strengthen, and our creativity to return. Whether it is setting aside ten minutes a day to enjoy a warm cup of your favorite drink without distractions, journaling your

thoughts, or reconnecting with a friend, small moments of intentional rest can make a big difference for mental well-being.

Winter can also bring shorter days and less sunlight, which can affect mood and motivation. Make a point to get outside when you can, even briefly, and keep a regular routine that includes movement and connection with others. Sometimes, the best way to recharge is through shared laughter and conversation.

As we move into this season, remember: rest is not a reward for finishing the work. It is part of the work. Caring for yourself now ensures that, when spring arrives, you are ready to grow again.

THE POWER OF NATURE:

Why Kids Need Time Outdoors — Even in Winter

Adapted by Angela Sorg, Extension Educator — Health and Human Sciences, Purdue Extension

As temperatures drop and screens glow brighter, it can be easy for kids (and adults!) to stay bundled up indoors. But research reminds us that time outside isn't just enjoyable — it is essential for children's well-being. Even in the chill of winter, nature offers endless ways to boost mood, energy, and focus.

Outdoor play helps build confidence. Unlike many indoor activities, nature play gives kids the freedom to explore and make decisions on their own.

Whether building a snow fort, collecting pinecones, or spotting animal tracks, unstructured play in nature sparks curiosity and creativity.

Being outdoors also teaches responsibility. Taking care of a small bird feeder, watering houseplants, or helping with winter garden cleanup reminds kids that living things depend on them — a gentle, hands-on lesson in empathy.

Most importantly, outdoor time encourages movement. Even a short winter walk, sled ride, or

hike can lift spirits and improve focus. Exercise not only strengthens the body but also helps kids manage stress and anxiety — benefits we all can use during the busy holiday season.

And here's the best part: nature helps our minds rest and reset. Psychologists say that natural settings give our brains a break from constant noise and screens. Listening to the crunch of snow or the rustle of bare trees invites calm and clarity — a little "soft fascination" that soothes rather than overstimulates.

So, bundle up, grab a scarf, and head outside together. Nature is still open, even in winter — and it just might be the best gift you can give your child's mental health this season.

Reference

Cohen, D. (n.d.). *Why kids need to spend time in nature*. Child Mind Institute. Retrieved October 13, 2025, from <https://childmind.org/article/why-kids-need-to-spend-time-in-nature/>

Rest and Reset:

Simple Ways to Recharge Your Mind and Body This Winter

Adapted from the American Psychological Association (2025), Mayo Clinic (2024), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2025)

Prepared by Angela Sorg

Winter often brings a slower pace which is the perfect time to focus on rest and renewal. Rest is not just sleep; it is how we restore energy, focus, and peace of mind. Try these small, evidence-based steps to help your body and mind recharge this season.

1. Try Different Types of Rest

There are many kinds of rest — physical, emotional, social, sensory, and creative. Notice what kind of rest you need most. For example, turn off notifications for sensory rest or talk with a trusted friend for emotional rest. (American Psychological Association, 2025)

2. Step Away for Mini Breaks

Short breaks can reset your brain. Take five minutes between tasks to stretch, breathe deeply, or step outside. Think of these pauses as “mental pit stops.” (Mayo Clinic, 2024)

3. Unplug to Reconnect

Too much screen time can drain energy and mood. Set boundaries for checking news or social media. Instead, use that time for reading, crafting, or connecting in person. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2025)

4. Practice Gratitude

Each evening, write down three good things from your day, big or small. Gratitude shifts attention from stress toward what is working well, improving resilience and mood.

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2025)

5. Get Daylight and Movement

Even brief daylight exposure and gentle activity (like

a walk or chores outside) can lift mood and help regulate sleep cycles during darker months.

(Mayo Clinic, 2024)

6. Rest Without Guilt

Rest is not a reward for finishing your to-do list. It is what makes you strong enough to keep going. Prioritize downtime as part of your mental health routine.

(American Psychological

Association, 2025)

Remember:

Caring for yourself is part of caring for your family, your work, and your community. The quiet season is nature’s reminder that growth requires rest. Take time to pause, breathe, and begin again.

Online Source Links: <https://www.apa.org/topics/mental-health/seven-rest-types>, <https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/stress-management/in-depth/relaxation-technique/art-20045368>, <https://www.cdc.gov/mental-health/living-with/index.html>



FRILUFTSLIV:

EMBRACING THE OUTDOORS TO BOOST WINTER WELL-BEING

By Angela Sorg

When the days get shorter and temperatures drop, it's easy to spend more time indoors. But this winter, consider taking a cue from the Nordic countries, where the concept of “friluftsliv” pronounced free-loofts-liv, is a way of life. The word roughly translates to open-air living, and it is a reminder that time spent outdoors, even in cold or cloudy weather, can do wonders for your mood and mental health.

In countries like Norway and Sweden, people do not let dark, chilly months keep them cooped up. They bundle up, get outside, and find joy in nature, whether that means a walk through the woods, lunch on a park bench, or chatting with a friend while hiking a familiar trail. As the saying goes, “There’s no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing.”

Research continues to show that spending time in nature helps reduce stress, anxiety, and symptoms of depression. In fact, people who spend just two hours a week outdoors report higher levels of well-being. Being active outside, walking, stretching, or simply breathing in fresh air, also supports better sleep, lowers blood pressure, and improves focus.

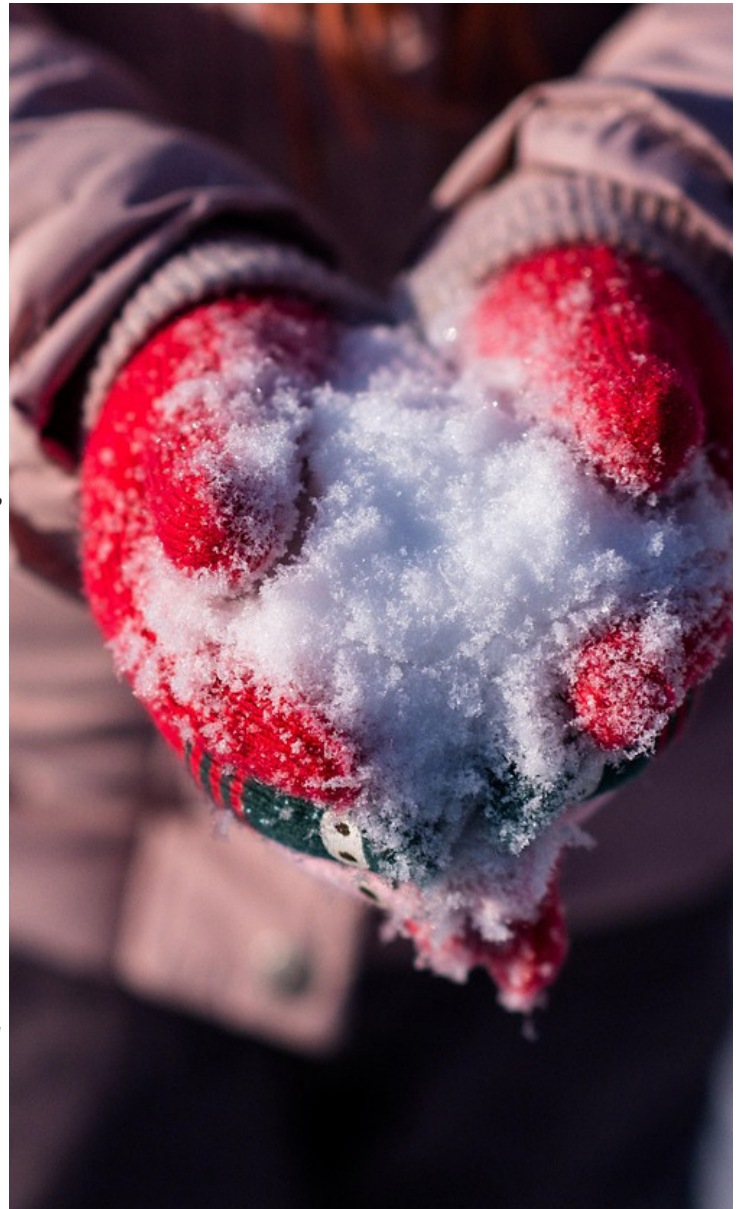
Try “Friluftsliv” This Winter

- Get outside daily, even for a short walk. Fresh air and daylight help reset your body’s rhythm and lift your mood.
- Dress for the weather. Warm layers, waterproof boots, and gloves make outdoor time more comfortable and enjoyable.
- Make it social. Invite a friend for a walk, chat with neighbors, or plan a family hike. Social connection amplifies the benefits.
- Find joy in the simple. Watch the sunrise, feed the birds, or take your coffee outside. Every bit of outdoor time counts.
- Unplug and notice. Put down your phone, take a few deep breaths, and pay attention to the sounds and smells of nature around you.

You do not need mountains or forests to embrace friluftsliv. Just a willingness to step outside and notice the beauty in your own backyard. Remember: even on the coldest days, a little outdoor time can go a long way toward supporting your mental health and overall well-being.

Reference

Geall, L. (2025). *Friluftsliv: Why embracing the Nordic concept could help to boost your mental health this winter*. Stylist. <https://www.stylist.co.uk/health/mental-health/what-is-friluftsliv-open-air-living-nature-mental-health-benefits/445876>



HOMEMAKERS DAY AT THE FAIR

2025 QUICK BREAD WINNERS



Kim Heiser 1st place winner, Michelle VanWye and Miss DeKalb County, Claire Woodcox



Denise Grinder Honorable Mention, Michelle VanWye and Miss DeKalb County, Claire Woodcox



Leann Walker 1st place youth winner, Michelle VanWye and Miss DeKalb County, Claire Woodcox



Roberta Comment 2nd place winner, Michelle VanWye and Miss DeKalb County, Claire Woodcox



Natalee Schitz 2nd place youth winner, Michelle VanWye and Miss DeKalb County, Claire Woodcox



Sue Taylor 3rd place winner, Michelle VanWye and Miss DeKalb County, Claire Woodcox

Hello Ladies

Thanks to everyone that attended the Homemaker's Day at the Fair. Town & Country and the Sewing Club did a great job with all the very interesting programs.

We had a great turn out for the district meeting in October thanks to everyone who was able to go. I have also heard that everyone that went to the homemaker's camp had a great time. If you know someone who attended ask them about it. Maybe I will be able to check it out next August.

Our next big projects are the beef and noodle dinner and the cookie walk happening soon. Everything is coming along nicely with the committee's. They are ready to take on the big task for a great turnout. If you have not signed up to work, please show up and help there is plenty for everyone to do. The more hands helping the better.

We have a few classes starting soon. Mixes in a jar is November 3rd and candy making classes are December 1st and 15th. Call Sarah LeCount to sign up. Don't forget there is not a sew day in November or December. It will start again in January.

If you haven't gone to the Christmas party for a while considering attending this year. The committee has done a great job putting it all together. As always the food is great especially the pies. It looks like to be a fun time. This year we would like to collect play dough for Riley's Children's Hospital. If you would like to give please bring it to the party. If you are not attending please take it to the extension office by December 3rd.

Wishing everyone the best this Holiday season!

Michelle VanWye

*The DeKalb County Extension Homemaker's
Annual Christmas Party*

'Tis the Season to Give'

*Wednesday, December 3, 2025
6p.m. Exhibit Hall*

Dinner Provided by *Dutch Heritage*
Baking & Catering

Baked Chicken Breast/Roast Beef • Mashed Potatoes and Gravy • Green Beans
• Toss Salad • Homemade Bread & Pie • Coffee • Water

Please make reservations by

November 19, 2025

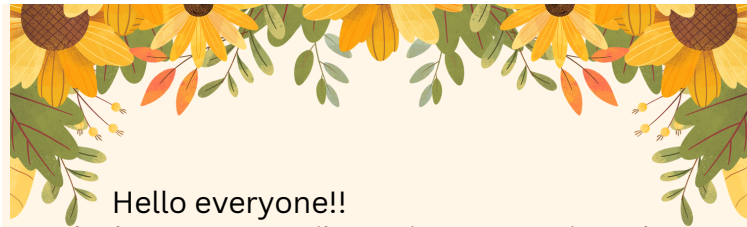
Sue Carpenter

2112 Shady Lane • Garrett, IN 46738

Make checks to DeKalb Extension Homemakers

Cost: \$17.00 for Club Members • \$22.00 for Non Club Members

We will be
collecting donations
of Play-Doh for Riley
Hospital



Hello everyone!!

At the last two council meetings, we reviewed proposed changes to our bylaws, and the council voted to accept at the September meeting. The changes will take effect immediately and our 2026-2027 program books will have the updated bylaws in there. If you would like a copy immediately, please feel free to contact the office or myself. Thank you!!

Sarah LeCount
County Vice President



Dekalb County Extension Homemakers:

HOLIDAY COOKIE & CANDY WALK

NOVEMBER 22ND | 8:30AM-2PM



**HOMEMADE COOKIES,
CANDIES, NOODLES,
AND MORE!
\$10/POUND**

*Also available: hot
drinks! Cocoa & coffee
pair well with cookies!*

**DEKALB CO. FAIRGROUNDS
EXHIBIT HALL
708 S. UNION ST.
AUBURN, IN 46706**



 perfect for
holiday gifts!

dekalb co. extension homemakers:

LEARN TO MAKE: JAR COOKIE MIXES

\$12/person
Cost includes:
-recipe book
-1 jar mix



Monday | November 3 | 6:00pm
Exhibit Hall | 708 S. Union St. | Auburn

**RSVP by October 31
to Sarah LeCount
(260) 499-0848 or
arnettsm789@gmail.com**

Holiday Candy Making Class

Monday, December 1st at 6:00pm
OR
Monday, December 15th at 6:00pm
(only need to attend one class)

 Exhibit Hall
708 S. Union St.
Auburn, IN

 **\$20/person;**
Please bring an empty container
or bring home your candy!

**RSVP to Sarah LeCount, 260-499-0848 or
arnettsm789@gmail.com, by Friday,
November 28th & Friday, December 12th.**

presented by:
Dekalb Co.
Extension
Homemakers



ROOTED & RESILIENT:

A Homesteading Conference to Grow Your Skills



November 6 & 7, 2025

Noble County Community Learning Center, Kendallville, Indiana

Join Purdue Extension for the Rooted & Resilient Homesteading Conference, a two-day learning event focused on self-reliance, community, and hands-on homestead skills. Whether you're new to the lifestyle or managing a multi-acre operation, this event has something for you!

Conference Highlights:

Hands-on Workshops — Dive into topics like gardening, food preservation, livestock care, sustainable energy, and natural building.

Community Connections — Meet like-minded homesteaders, exchange ideas, and build relationships

that strengthen local resilience.

Marketplace & Resources — Explore vendors, tools, and materials that support your homestead journey.

Inspiration & Insight — Learn from experts and peers on how to adapt, grow, and thrive in changing times.

Why Attend?

This conference blends practical education with inspiration to help you build a more sustainable, resilient homestead. Attendees can choose from a wide range of sessions tailored for beginners and experienced homesteaders alike.

Don't miss this chance to gather, learn, and celebrate the homesteading spirit!

Learn more and register:

[https://bit.ly/](https://bit.ly/RootedHomesteadConference)

RootedHomesteadConference



Listen for Agriculture in Christmas Carols



Lisa Foust Prater, editor for Successful Farming magazine

While farming certainly isn't the main theme in songs about the holiday, there are hints of agriculture in many carols.

The First Noel

The first Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. ...Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee, and offered there in His presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Sheep production in the United States peaked in 1884 with 50 million head, according to USDA. Today there are about 5 million. We import more than half the lamb and mutton we consume, mostly from Australia and New Zealand. Myrrh and frankincense are aromatic resins from trees grown in southwest Asia and northeast Africa, used for medicine, flavoring, and perfume.

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. ...The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.

After changing hands many times, today Bethlehem is in Palestine. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, there were 67,760 head of cattle in the country in 2021, up from 33,925 in 2010. Your chances of hearing cattle lowing near Bethlehem have doubled in the past decade.

The 12 Days Of Christmas

On the 12th day of Christmas, my true love gave to me 12 drummers drumming, 11 pipers piping, 10 lords a-leaping, 9 ladies dancing, 8 maids a-milking, 7 swans a-swimming, 6 geese a-laying, 5 golden rings, 4 calling birds, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.

According to USDA, the average hired livestock worker in the U.S. makes \$18.15 per hour, so hiring eight milkmaids for eight hours would cost \$1,161.60. Because the gifts repeat each day, you'd have to hire them for five days, which would run \$5,808. Given the average price per gallon for 2% milk is \$2.24, you could instead buy your true love 2,592 gallons of milk.

The total cost of all the lavish gifts mentioned in the "Twelve Days of Christmas" carol reached an all-time high of \$49,263.47, in 2024.

UPCOMING EVENTS AG IMPORTANT DATES 2025	
NOVEMBER 7 & 8	Rooted & Resilient Homesteading Conference, Community Learning Center-401 S Diamond Street, Kendallville, See Page 13
NOVEMBER 19	9 AM-3 PM - Commercial Pesticide Applicator Workshop, Purdue Fort Wayne Student Union, Union Circle Drive, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815
2026	
JANUARY 13-15,	Fort Wayne Farm Show, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, IN
FEBRUARY 18-19	Ag Women Engage Conference, Monroe Convention Center, Bloomington IN

GETTING LIVESTOCK FARMS READY FOR WINTER

By Dr. Susan Kerr, WSU Klickitat County Extension Director

As fall winds down, take advantage of mild weather to prepare your livestock and facilities for winter. A few hours of planning now can save you from cold, late-night emergencies later.

Fencing and Pastures

Inspect fences for frost heave, loose wires, or broken posts to keep livestock safely contained. Clear branches and overgrowth, and replace any missing “No Trespassing” signs. Fall is also the perfect time to mow, harrow, and manage weeds in pastures, helping grasses store nutrients for spring growth.

Soil and Water

Test your soil to determine nutrient needs. Apply lime now if soil pH is low, but wait until spring to apply nitrogen once plants are actively growing. Check water lines and insulate vulnerable areas before temperatures drop. Make sure livestock always have access to unfrozen water—consider heated waterers or frost-free faucets.

Feed and Nutrition

Stock up on hay early—prices rise and quality drops later in the season. Calculate hay needs based on the number of animals, feeding days, and pounds consumed per day. Store hay and grain in dry, well-ventilated, and pest-proof areas. During cold snaps, increase calories by adding grain concentrates, and consider blankets for species like horses and goats.

Health and Shelter

Review vaccination and deworming programs with your veterinarian, and assess body condition scores regularly through winter. Provide well-ventilated, draft-free shelters with clean bedding and secure roofs. Trim overhanging branches and ensure electrical wiring and heat lamps are safe.

Breeding and Records

Schedule breeding soundness exams for rams and bucks at least 60 days before breeding. Buy replacements only from reputable sources, and quarantine all new arrivals for 30 days. While indoors this winter, organize herd

health records, receipts, and breeding data to plan for next year.

Mud and Emergencies

Address drainage issues before wet weather sets in. Work with your local soil and water district to explore cost-share options for gutters, gravel, or geotextiles to control runoff. Finally, prepare for emergencies—keep flashlights, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, generators, and contact lists accessible. Develop a written plan for power outages, storms, or other disasters.

By tackling these key tasks now, you'll help ensure a safer, healthier, and more efficient winter season for your livestock and your farm.

STAFF:
Elysia Rodgers
eberry@purdue.edu
Angela Sorg
asorg18@purdue.edu
Effie Campbell
campb314@purdue.edu
Brenda Cureton
bcureton@purdue.edu
Heather Waldon
waldenh@purdue.edu



THANK YOUR AWARD SPONSORS

Don't forget to send a THANK YOU note to your award sponsors. Your appreciation may encourage them to contribute again next year. Your notes can make a difference!

Award sponsors' information is attached to the award that you received.

7 STEPS TO A GREAT THANK YOU NOTE

- 1 A greeting to the thank you note recipient
- 2 Specific reason you are thanking them
- 3 The reason you appreciate them
- 4 How you plan to use the gift or why the gift was important to you
- 5 A comment or detail about yourself
- 6 A repeat of your thank you
- 7 A closing and signature of your name

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service is an Affirmative Action, Equal Access/Equal Opportunity institution. If you are in need of accommodations or a translator or interpreter to attend any DeKalb County Extension program, please contact our office prior to the meeting at 260-925-2562 or email eberry@purdue.edu.



Non-Profit Org
U S Postage Paid
Auburn in 46706
Permit No. 80

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

County Office Building
215 East 9th Street—Ste. 300
Auburn, IN 46706