

December 2025 Newsletter

200 E Brown, St.
P O Box 365
Vernon, IN 47282

Phone: 812-352-3033
Fax: 812-352-3040

Hours:
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Find us Online:

Website:

www.extension.Purdue.edu/Jennings



Purdue Extension-Jennings County



@purdueextensionjenningscounty



@JenningsCoExt

Jennings County Staff



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Jennings County, We Need You!
Our team is planning the 2026 Jennings County 4-H Life Skills Workshop Series, and your insight is essential. Whether you are a parent, teacher, guardian, or youth, tell us what life skills would best support our teens.

Your input = Stronger, more confident young adults in our community!

Please complete the survey by
December 31, 2025.

Survey Link:

https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2fUeZViAKLQPTme



December 4-H Newsletter

Jennings County 4-H

December
2025

Dear 4-H Families & Volunteers,

We are nearly halfway through the 4-H Enrollment Period but only have about 15% of our members enrolled for the 2026 year! It is important that 4-Hers and volunteers are re-enrolled by January! **You must be enrolled for 2026 to sign up for camps, submit scholarships, enroll animals, receive important mailings, and much more!** If you have any questions or need any help with enrollment, please contact the office by calling 812-352-3033!

Merry Christmas,
Rebekah Cartwright
4-H Youth Development Educator



FOLLOW OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE FOR
MORE UPCOMING
IMPORTANT DATES!

SEI 4-H Camp Updates



The applications for any 4-H member in grades 8-12 who would like to serve as a Junior Director, Group Leader, Counselor, or Counselor in Training (CIT) for 2026 Southeastern Indiana 4-H Camp are available now through December 8th! Payment is not required for you to apply for a Junior Staff Position. Payment is due on May 1st of 2026. You must be enrolled in 4-H to apply!

Camp Dates:

- Junior Directors, Group Leaders, and Counselors will report to camp from June 1-5.
- Counselors in Training and Campers will report to camp from June 3-6.

Junior Staff Upcoming Dates:

- Junior Directors Only
 - January 20th from 6-8 pm at the Ripley County Extension Office
- All Junior Staff
 - April 11th from 9 am - 3 pm at new Decatur County Extension Building.
 - May 6th from 6-8 pm at SEPAC

Volunteer Enrollment

Volunteers, it is extremely important that you get enrolled as a volunteer as soon as possible to be able to assume your volunteer duties. **You cannot attend meetings, events, or vote on committees until you have your volunteer enrollment complete.** You can begin enrolling now. If you have any questions or are not sure which volunteer role you should select, please call the extension office or email bargerr@purdue.edu for guidance.

Adult Volunteer In-Person Training

Any adult volunteer who has enrolled, but has not completed the online training videos, may attend the in-person volunteer training at 5:00 PM on December 8th at the Extension Office. You must have submitted your 4-H Online enrollment before attending! The online training videos or the in person training are mandatory to be approved as a 4-H Volunteer. Please contact Rebekah if you are interested in attending this in person training at 812-352-3033 or bargerr@purdue.edu. You must RSVP to attend.

Important Dates

December

2 Junior Leader Meeting
2 Muscatatuck Mudpuppies Meeting
5 Zenas Livewires and Plowboys Bell Ringing
11 JC Riders End of Year Awards
20 Zenas Livewires and Plowboys Bell Ringing
24 Office Closed - Christmas Eve
25 Office Closed - Christmas Day
31 Office Closed - New Year's Eve

January

1 New Year's Day
5 Muscatatuck Mudpuppies Meeting
6 Junior Livestock Committee Meeting
6 Junior Leader Meeting

Jennings County 4-H

December
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Club Meetings & Events

- Junior Leaders
 - December 2nd at the Extension Office at 6 pm
 - December 6th - Float Prep and Parade
 - December 20th at 8:45 am - Senior Housing Food Delivery
- Junior Livestock Committee
 - December 2nd at the Extension Office at 5pm
- Muscatatuck Mudpuppies
 - December 2nd at New Bethel at 6 pm
- Zenas Livewires and Plowboys
 - Bell Ringing
 - December 5th from 3-5 pm at Walmart
 - December 20th from 11 am -1 pm at Walmart
- JC Riders
 - End of Year Awards
 - December 11th at the Goins Family Farm at 6 pm



Life Skills Survey

If you are a 4-H member or a parent of a 4-H Member, please fill out the survey linked below. Here in Jennings County, we want our youth to be ready to tackle adulthood when that time comes. We would like to provide a series of Life Skills Workshops in the upcoming program year to help prepare our youth for success! Please respond by December 31st

Survey Link:

https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2fUeZViAKLQPTme

Or Scan the QR Code



**BUILD
SKILLS**

2026 4-H Scholarships



In partnership with the Indiana 4-H Foundation, the Indiana 4-H Youth Development Program annually awards more than \$150,000.00 in scholarships to 4-H members to pursue post-secondary education. Scholarships are awarded to recognize youth participating in Indiana's 4-H Youth Development Program on their achievements and life skill development resulting from their participation in a variety of 4-H experiences. On the next page, the different scholarships are listed with brief descriptions. To access the application, visit 4-H Online through the events tab! Youth who are still members of 4-H must be in approved enrollment status to register for scholarships. If you are registering for the scholarships as a graduated senior, you can use your existing profile without re-enrollment.

Scholarship Help - Need help with scholarships? Whether you need help submitting, need scholarship writing advice, or just don't know where to begin, I am always here to help! Your green record folder would be helpful when applying for these scholarships. The Extension Office also has laptops available for you to utilize to help submit scholarships. Call the Extension Office and set up an appointment with Rebekah for help or schedule a time to use a laptop to submit your application!



2026

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Senior Year Scholarship

Available to 4-H members in their senior year of high school

Club Scholarship

Available to 4-H members entering Purdue University majoring in the College of Agriculture or select majors in the College of Health and Human Sciences

Purdue Horticulture & Landscape Architecture Scholarship

Available to a 4-H member majoring in horticulture or landscape architecture at Purdue University and studied plant science in 4-H.

Accomplishment Scholarship

Available to 4-H members in grades 10-12 of high school and the year immediately following high school graduation. The purpose of the 4-H Accomplishment Scholarship is to recognize youth who have excelled in life skills development through their 4-H activities and involvement.

Categories: Animal Science—Meat and Milk Production; Animal Science—Companion and Small Animal Production; Citizenship; Communications; Engineering and Technological Science; Healthy Living, Food and Nutrition Science; Leadership Development; and Plant and Environmental Science. Three additional categories are reserved for applicants demonstrating life skills development in more than one of the previously listed categories. Those are Premier Achievement, Premier Citizenship, and Premier Leadership.

Eligibility: Applicants must be in grade 10, 11, 12, or their first year immediately following 4-H enrollment eligibility at the time applications are due. While an applicant does not have to be a current 4-H member, they must demonstrate multiple years of involvement in Indiana's 4-H Youth Development Program.

Youth who have previously been awarded a \$1,000 accomplishment scholarship are only eligible to compete in the Premier Achievement, Premier Citizenship, and Premier Leadership categories. Youth who have previously been awarded a \$2,000 scholarship are no longer eligible to compete in any category.

Awards: A minimum of thirty \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to youth based on their demonstration of life skills development in these eight categories: Animal Science—Meat and Milk Production; Animal Science—Companion and Small Animal Production; Citizenship; Communications; Engineering and Technological Science; Healthy Living, Food, and Nutrition Science; Leadership Development; and Plant and Environmental Science. A minimum of one \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded in each of these categories: Premier Achievement; Premier Citizenship; and Premier Leadership.

Visit bit.ly/4hscholarship to download applications.

Applications due to County 4-H Educator January 25.

Contact your county's Purdue Extension Office to learn more.

\$174,250 AWARDED IN 2025



Extension

Master Gardener Basic Training

Ready to deepen your gardening knowledge? The 2026 Master Gardener Program runs from February–May. Register now to reserve your spot! Don't forget to sign up by reaching out to epeterson@purdue.edu for more information and registration details.



PURDUE EXTENSION

MASTER GARDENER BASIC TRAINING

THURSDAYS NOON- 3 PM FEBRUARY-MAY

JOIN OUR 2026 COHORT OF LOCAL HORTICULTURE ENTHUSIASTS



Our local Purdue Extension Master Gardener Program will be returning this spring on February 5th and will run weekly through May 7th.

The course includes an in-depth text book and a chance to network with local and state horticultural presenters on topics ranging from soil health and vegetable gardening to invasive species control and fruit tree management. This course is designed to accommodate all gardeners no matter the shade of green on their thumb. The 40 hour course & textbook costs \$175. There is a discount for anyone wishing to share a textbook.

If you are in need of accommodations, an interpreter or a translator to attend this program please reach out to copelanb@purdue.edu by January 15, 2026. Purdue University is an equal access/equal opportunity institution.

CLASSES HELD IN MADISON & SURROUNDING HORTICULTURE VENUES
3767 W SR 265 MADISON, IN 47250

ARE YOU READY TO **APPLY TO JOIN THE 2026 COHORT?**
EMAIL [COPELANB@PURDUE.EDU](mailto:copelanb@purdue.edu) OR CALL (812) 265--8919



Extension

PURDUE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

PARP Credit Reminder

- Don't forget to check your PARP credits before the end of the year and make sure your license isn't expiring – you need 3 credits every 5 years!



UAV Technology Program

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Technology Program

December 10, 2025

8 AM - 4 PM

**Southeast Purdue Ag
Center (SEPAC)**
4425 East 350 North
Butler, IN 47223

COST: \$200

RSVP by Dec. 5th

Dave Osborne
osbornnda@purdue.edu
(812-689-6511)



- FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot Test Preparation
- Flight Instructions / Practice Flights

NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!

If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program, please contact Dave Osborne at 812-689-6511 by November 26.

If you need an interpreter or translator, please contact Dave Osborne at 812-689-6511 by November 26.



PURDUE UNIVERSITY IS AN EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY/EQUAL ACCESS
UNIVERSITY



Final call!

Don't forget to sign up
for the UAV program!
We are very fortunate
to have this
opportunity offered
here in Jennings
County, and it does
not come around
often. If you are
interested, be sure to
get registered during
the first week of
December!

Materials Available

Stop by our office or check the display in the hall outside to see the materials available. If you are interested, feel free to come in and pick some up, or call ahead to ask about what we have on hand.



Ag & Natural Resources

Dec
2025

Upcoming PARPs and Events

- December 16th Jennings County Last Chance PARP 1-3pm
- December 16th Bartholomew County PARP 6-8 pm
- January 12th Decatur County PARP 8:30-11:40 am
- March 10th Jefferson County Tobacco PARP 6-8:30 pm



Check out the Purdue On The Farm YouTube for a bi-weekly crop and weather update:

<https://www.youtube.com/@PurdueOnTheFarm>

Visit -

<https://ag.purdue.edu/departments/hla/extension/publications-and-newsletters.html> or search HORTICULTURE EXTENSION NEWSLETTERS to get signed up for topics such as gardening, fruit, lawncare, flowers, weeds, and insects, and much more. Most newsletters are a simple weekly or bi-weekly email that discusses what growers are seeing across Indiana at the current time. This helps growers of all sorts know and identify any issues they are having in their own landscape. If you are having trouble getting signed up, reach out to our ANR Educator for help.



Extension

Health & Human Sciences

DEC
2025

ServSafe Food Manager

Monday, Jan. 26, 2026

Purdue Extension Office

Registration 8:15 AM

Training begins at 8:30 AM

Exam immediately following

Register by Jan 16th at:

<https://cvent.me/14mPQb>



2026 Training & Exam Dates

Monday, March 16, 2026

Monday, May 4, 2026

Monday, July 13, 2026

Monday, September 14, 2026

Monday, November 30, 2026



12 Nights of Bedtime Stories



We are excited to bring back our virtual stories and partner with North Vernon Main Street and JC Public Library for this special holiday series!



Scan code to register youth by Dec. 7th or at <https://bit.ly/12NightsBedtimeStories>

Virtual Bedtime Stories

8-19 DEC 2025 | **7 PM**
Videos available online at the FB event only!



Join the event here!

Each night will have a special code word to decipher a holiday message to receive a free book at Donuts with Santa!

Donuts with Santa

20 DEC 2025 | **9:00-11:00 AM**
NV MAIN STREET
50 SHORT STREET



MONEY AS YOU GROW BOOK CLUB



Purdue University is an equal access/equal opportunity institution

Money as You Grow

Help for parents and caregivers

No need to be a money expert—the tips and activities here can help your children’s money skills, habits, and attitudes grow.



Interested in joining an online book club?

Scan the QR Code to register your family!

Starting in 2026, Purdue Extension-Jennings County will provide a Facebook event page where parents can access the Money As You Grow resources and virtual stories to share with their children.

Parent Guides will need picked up at the Extension Office.

Can't scan the code?

Register here instead: <https://bit.ly/48ud9K7>