

February 2026 Newsletter

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

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Purdue Extension-Jennings County



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Jennings County 4-H handbooks are now available for pick up! We are excited to add 2 projects to our County Only project list. New 4-H members and volunteers may pick up a complete handbook. Returning 4-H members and volunteers may pick up handbook revisions from the Extension Office. Handbooks and revisions will be available one per family.

February 4-H Newsletter

Jennings County 4-H

February
2026

Dear 4-H Families & Volunteers,

We are only 5 short months away from the Jennings County Fair. We still have many 4-Hers that were enrolled last year that have not yet enrolled in 4-H for 2026! Please get enrolled as soon as possible to continue to receive mailing and information regarding upcoming events. As a reminder, to register for IQLC, Camp, and other 4-H Events, members must be enrolled and have paid their county enrollment fee.

Volunteers, if you are currently serving as a volunteer already this year, you MUST complete your enrollment as soon as possible. If you have questions or need any help with enrollment, please contact the extension office at 812-352-3033.

All the best,
Rebekah Cartwright
4-H Youth Development Educator



2026 Handbooks

New 4-H Members and volunteers may pick up a complete handbook. Returning 4-H Volunteers may pick up handbook revisions from the Extension Office. Handbooks and Revisions will be available **one** per family.

Livestock and Fair Schedules

The Livestock and Fair Schedule has been updated. There are quite a few significant changes from what you may be accustomed to. Please review it carefully and acknowledge the changes. Please refer to page 3 and 4 of the newsletter.

Project Manuals

Project manuals for projects you selected in 4-H Online can be picked up from the Extension Office. Not every project requires a new manual each year so be sure to check with us before you make the trip to pick up your manuals!

Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care (IQLC)

Registration through 4-H Online is now open. 4-H Livestock Members showing beef, dairy, dairy goats, meat goats, poultry, rabbits, sheep, and/or swine must attend one of the 3 offered dates or complete the online YQCA Training. Please be sure to register online prior to the event. IQLC is an annual certification. Refer to the dates on page 4 to see which date will best fit your schedule.

Southeastern Indiana 4-H Camp Dates

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 2-5.

Camp Registration

- Be on the lookout for Registration! It will be opening soon!

Junior Staff Upcoming Dates:

- All Junior Staff
 - April 11th from 9 am - 3 pm at new Decatur County Extension Building.
 - May 6th from 6-8 pm at SEPAC

Payment is due May 1st of 2026.

**FOLLOW OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE FOR
MORE UPCOMING
IMPORTANT DATES!**

Important Dates

February

- 2 Muscatatuck Mudpuppies Meeting
- 12 Zenas Livewires & Plowboys Meeting
- 16 Dog Club Meeting
- 19 Tractor Club Meeting
- 19 Beef Club Meeting
- 23 Dog Club Meeting
- 26 JC Riders Vaccine Clinic

Jennings County 4-H

Club Meetings & Events

- Muscatatuck Mudpuppies
 - February 2nd at New Bethel at 6 pm
- Tractor Club
 - February 19th at the Library at 7 pm
- Beef Club
 - February 19th at the Library at 6 pm
- Zenas Livewires & Plowboys
 - February 12th at Zenas Baptist Church at 6:30 pm
- Dog Club
 - February 16th at Branham's Arena at 6 pm
 - February 23rd at Branham's Arena at 6 pm
- JC Riders
 - February 26th Vaccine Clinic at Goins Family Farm at 5:30 pm



Animal ID

4-H Members enrolled in livestock projects will be receiving a mailing with more information about Animal ID Day and requirements. If you do not receive the mailing a week before your scheduled Animal ID Day, please contact the Extension Office. Refer to the Livestock Schedule on Page 4 for upcoming Animal ID Dates.

Premise ID

Registering your premises may be done online, at no charge, and takes only about 5 minutes. Visit the Indiana State Board of Animal Health's (BOAH) website: www.in.gov/boah/2642.htm. Please get your Premise ID number before the tagging day! To verify your premises ID, contact BOAH at email animalid@boah.in.gov. All Indiana premises associated with the purchase, sale, and/or exhibition of cattle, swine, sheep, goats, and farmed cervids must be registered by state law.

Jennings County and Area 1 Livestock Workshops

Jennings County "Show Me The Way"

This year our Jennings County Junior Livestock Committee is bringing back the "Show Me The Way" Program on March 14th! This is intended for 4-H members looking to improve their showmanship skills and learn from tenured members about specific livestock projects. If you are new to a livestock project or need more practice and want to learn more, this is the program for you! Please see page 5 of the newsletter for more information!

Area 1 4-H "Beyond Ready to Show Livestock"

Hone in your skills you learned from the Jennings County "Show Me The Way" Program and take your showmanship skills to the next level with advice from Livestock Judges. Need to get your Quality Care Training done for the fair? If so, we invite you out for a day long Animal Science and Showmanship Workshop! The event will be separated into 2 age-appropriate traveling groups. See page 7 of the newsletter for more details!

NEW 2026 Jennings County 4-H Livestock Schedule *NEW*

CHANGES FROM THE SCHEDULE YOU ARE ACCUSTOMED TO ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW

Species	Animal Identification (ID) Date	Animal ID entered into 4-H Online	Check-in at Fair	Show Date	Mandatory Auction Picture Session
Beef & Dairy	Friday, March 6 5 - 7 pm Fairgrounds	May 15	Saturday, June 6 1-3pm	Sunday, June 7 3 pm Dairy: Heifers, Feeder Calves, Market Steers & Showmanship 6 pm Beef: Heifers 8 pm Beef: Market Show & Showmanship	During Auction Immediately following the sale of your animal
Dairy & Meat Goats	Sat., April 25, 9-11 am AND Thurs., April 30, 5-7 pm Fairgrounds	May 15	Saturday, June 6 1-3pm	Monday, June 8 1 pm Dairy Goat Showmanship, Dairy Goat Show 4 pm Meat Goat Showmanship, Pygmy Goat Show 6 pm Meat Goat Show	During Auction Immediately following the sale of your animal
Horse & Pony	Tuesday, May 12, 6:00pm until finished riding @ Goins Family Farm	May 15	Saturday, June 6 5-7 pm	Tuesday, June 9 8 am Halter, Showmanship, and Western Friday, June 12 8 am English, Driving, Mini Show, Contesting	Optional pictures
Lama & Alpaca	No official Animal ID Day. Call Ext Office for assistance with photos	May 15	Saturday, June 6 1-3 pm	Wednesday, June 10 at 4 pm Obstacle, Public Relations, Pack, Fleece, Llama Halter, Alpaca Halter Showmanship, Costume ***Fleece class - see handbook	During Auction Immediately following the sale of your item
Poultry & Turkey	Thursday, May 7 6-8 pm Fairgrounds	May 15	Saturday, June 6 3-5 pm	Wednesday, June 10 at 9 am Showmanship, Production, Meat Classes and Other Fowl	During Auction Immediately following the sale of your animal
Rabbits	Thursday, May 7 6-8 pm Fairgrounds	May 15	Saturday, June 6 3-5 pm	Thursday, June 11 at 9 am Showmanship, Breed classes and Meat Classes	During Auction Immediately following the sale of your animal
Sheep	Sat., Apr 25, 9-11 am Fairgrounds	May 15	Saturday, June 6 1-3 pm	Monday, June 8 at 8 am Breeding (Ewes), Market Lambs & Showmanship	During Auction Immediately following the sale of your animal
Swine	Thursday, April 30, 5-7 pm Fairgrounds	May 15	Saturday, June 6 7-8:30 pm	Tuesday, June 9 5 pm Gilts Barrow Show to Follow Showmanship will follow barrow show	Tues., June 9 4pm – End of Show

Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care training (IQLC): All members showing beef cattle, dairy cattle, dairy goats, meat goats, poultry, rabbits, sheep and swine must attend one of the 3 offered classes to complete their IQLC training and to show their animal at the fair. (YQCA certifications will still be accepted as some regional and national shows require YQCA. You will have to complete the YQCA training on your own and present proof of completion to the Extension Office by May 22nd, 2026) IQLC will be offered in Jennings County on...

Saturday, March 14 11:30 am @ Jennings County Fairgrounds (Show Me The Way Program)

Monday, March 30 6pm @ JC Government Center

Wednesday, April 8 6pm @ JC Government Center

Pre-Fair Clean-Up: Saturday, May 16, 9:00am to when everything is cleaned and ready for the fair. Cleaning will include livestock areas, display units stored in outer buildings, and the Junior Leaders' Food Stand. We will also be installing new poultry/rabbit cages. **Livestock Check-in:** Dates/times are listed above. If you must make more than one trip to the fair with animals, exceptions to check-in times must be pre-approved by the species superintendents and 4-H Educator.

Community Building Set-up: Thursday, June 4, 4:00pm. ****Volunteers Needed! ****

BBQ Contest: Friday, June 5 at 3:00pm members can set up at the Pavilion for the contest. Judging will take place at 5:00pm **Cat Show:** Will take place on Friday, June 5 in the Show Arena. Registration will begin at 5:30 pm and the show will begin at 6:00pm.

Small Critters Showcase: Will take place on Friday June 5 in the Show Arena and will begin promptly following the Cat Show.

Static Project Check-in: Check-in and judging will take place at the Fairgrounds. Early check-in is Friday, June 5, 5:00-7:00pm. Junior Leader project judging Saturday, June 6, 8:00-8:30am. Open project judging June 6, 8:30am-10:30am.

Mini 4-H Members: Mini 4-H Camp Day: May 27th 9 am; Static Project Judging: Friday, June 5 5:00-7:00pm at the Fairgrounds

The showmanship order for most species is: Junior, Senior, Expert, Novice, Mini 4-H, and Open Show. See schedule on back for dates and times. Horse and Pony Mini 4-H showmanship is before the Contesting Show.

Indiana State Fair 4-H Livestock Shows: Information on show entries, schedules and more can be found by visiting the following website: <https://www.indianastatefair.com/p/state-fair/competitions--contests/4-h-competitions-entry-information>

Grooming Demonstration: Thursday, June 11, 5:00 pm

Goat Milk Production Contest: Thursday, June 11, Milk Out 7:00am, Contest 6:00pm

Supreme Showman Contest: Thursday, June 11, 6:30 pm in the show arena

Auction: Friday, June 12: Registration 4:30pm; Buyer Dinner 5:00pm; Awards 5:30pm; Auction Starts at 6:00 pm

Livestock Check-Out and Barn Clean-Up: Saturday, June 13, 7 am- 10 am. **Anyone planning to check-out before the designated check-out time will be charged a fee. (See livestock handbook for details)** Only exception for early check-out with a waived fee is for health and safety concerns.

Community Building Project Check-Out: Saturday, June 13 from 9 am - Noon. Clean-up and removal of display units will follow. ****Volunteers Needed! ****

Dog Show: May 9th, 10:00am, Livestock Show Arena

Tractor Contest: Thursday, June 18, 6:00pm, Dave and Jenny Vogel's Home

Show Me The Way

4-H Livestock Showmanship Workshop

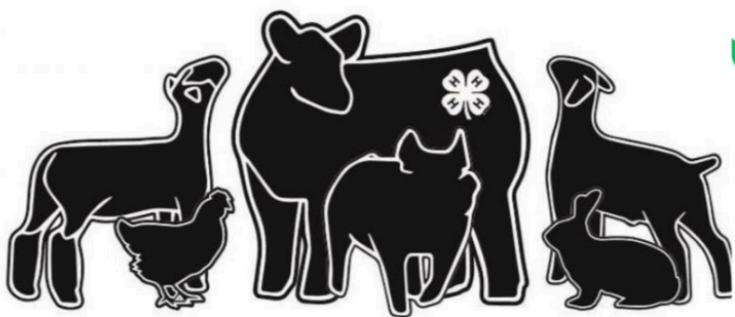
March
14th

We encourage 4-H livestock showman to join us at the Jennings County Fairgrounds to learn more about livestock projects and showmanship and of their preferred species; given by our Junior Livestock Committee Members!

- March 14th
- 8:30-12:30 p.m.
- Grades 3-12
- IQLC training
provided!
- Cost: \$3.00 for
IQLC training

SCHEDULE

- 8:30- 8:45: POULTRY
- 8:45 - 9:00: RABBITS
- 9:00 - 9:15: DAIRY GOATS
- 9:15 - 9:30: MEAT GOATS
- 9:30 - 9:45: SHEEP
- 9:45- 10:00: SWINE
- 10:15 - 10:30: BEEF
- 10:30- 10:45: DAIRY
- 10:45 - 11:00: LLAMA
- 11:00 - 11:15: HORSE
- 11:30- 12:30 : IQLC TRAINING



Join us!

Register through 4-H
Online under the
events Tab by March
10th!



Extension - Jennings County

Area 1 4-H *Beyond Ready to Show Livestock*

March 28, 2026 10:00am - 3:00pm

Jefferson County 4-H Fairgrounds
3767 W SR 256 Madison, IN 47250



Extension - 4-H Youth
Development



Contact your local Purdue Extension Office with questions.



Ag & Natural Resources

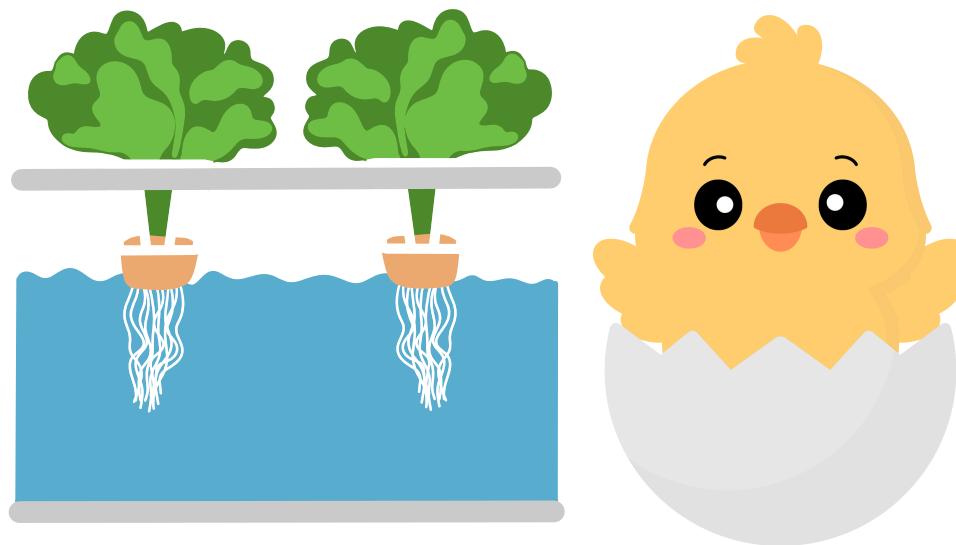
Feb
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Upcoming School Programs

This spring semester, our office is bringing back two hands-on agriculture programs into Jennings County classrooms. The Chicks in the Classroom program allows students to observe chick development, hatching, early chick care responsibility, and animal agriculture by incubating and hatching eggs.

The Grow Tower program gives students the opportunity to plant, grow, and harvest produce while learning about plant needs, nutrition, and sustainable food systems. This is done in a hydroponics grow system where we grow produce in the winter months.

Together, these programs connect science concepts to real-world agriculture in an interactive and memorable way. We are very excited as these programs have started and will last the rest of the school year.



Importance of Record Keeping

- As tax season approaches, February is a timely reminder of the importance of good recordkeeping in agriculture. Keeping receipts, production notes, and expense records organized throughout the year can save time, reduce stress, and help ensure nothing is overlooked. Starting early and staying consistent makes keeping records easier and provides valuable insight for planning and decision-making as the year moves forward.

Ag & Natural Resources

Feb
2026

Purdue on the Farm

Purdue On the Farm program offers farmers the opportunity to conduct research right on their own operations, turning everyday management questions into useful, real-world data. The Jennings County ANR Educator will be offering this program again this year and is looking for farmers interested in participating. Research projects can include trying different seed varieties, comparing tillage practices, or exploring any on-farm question you are curious about. If you are interested in participating or learning more, please reach out to peter516@purdue.edu



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

Upcoming PARPs and Events

- February 10th Jennings County Ag PARP 9:30-12:30
- February 17th Decatur County Ag Winter PARP 9-12
- February 18th Jackson County Ag Winter Meeting PARP 9-12
- March 5th Ripley County NoTill PARP 9-11:30
- 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/department/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

February 2026

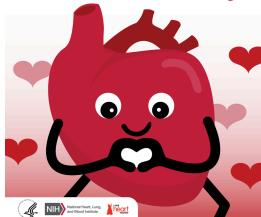
February is Heart Health Month



Did you know that heart disease is the leading cause of death in the U.S.? Know your risk and protect your heart. Follow us on Facebook during the month of February to learn ways to keep your heart healthy.

Friday, February 6 is National Wear Red Day! Sport your favorite red clothing and show your heart some love!

National Wear Red Day®



Captain Cash Sets Sail in February!

It is never too early for children to learn how to become eager earners, savvy savers, wise spenders, and careful borrowers. This financial literacy program engages children in money-smart activities and takes them down the road to financial fitness. Captain Cash set sails this February with Hayden, Sand Creek, and CC-NV third grade students.

Each student will participate in four class sessions with take home parent newsletters given at the end of each lesson. Newsletters contain suggested at-home games and activities that focus on earning, saving, planned spending, and wise borrowing of money. Each session introduces money-related vocabulary words and teaches money concepts that are based on Indiana Academic Standards for Math and Social Studies.



ServSafe Food Manager

Monday, March 16, 2026
Purdue Extension Office
Registration 8:15 AM
Training begins at 8:30 AM
Exam immediately following
Register by March 9th at:
<https://cvent.me/4mWVgd>



2026 Training & Exam Dates
Monday, March 16, 2026
Monday, May 4, 2026
Monday, July 13, 2026
Monday, September 14, 2026
Monday, November 30, 2026

