

May 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/county/jennings



Purdue Extension-Jennings County



@purdueextensionjenningscounty

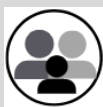


@JenningsCoExt

Jennings County Staff



Rebekah Cartwright
4-H Youth Development
County Extension Director
bargerr@purdue.edu



Deidre Wagster
Health and Human Sciences
dvagster@purdue.edu



Jeff Walker
Community Wellness Coordinator
wake526@purdue.edu

Emily Dunn
Nutrition Education Program Advisor
egeorgi@purdue.edu



Emily Peterson
Agriculture and Natural Resources
epeterson@purdue.edu



Stacey Lane
Office Manager
lane155@purdue.edu

April Showers Bring May Flowers & Mini 4-H Camp!

Jennings County 4-H is excited to bring your 4-H'er a Petal Party on May 8th! This floriculture workshop is open to Jennings County 4-H'ers in 3rd - 12th grade. We also have Mini 4-H Camp planned for our Mini 4-H'ers on May 28th. Registration information for both events can be found in the 4-H section of this month's newsletter.



May 4-H Newsletter

Jennings County 4-H

May
2025



Dear 4-H Families & Volunteers,

We are one month out from the Jennings County Fair! Can you believe that it is almost here already? Be sure to watch your email and upcoming due dates as many items need completed this month! As always, if you ever have any questions send us an email or give us a call!

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



What Needs Completed By May 15th?

- All project changes should be made in 4-H Online no later than May 15th. You may add/drop projects from what you originally decided until then.
- Animal ID information **MUST** be entered into 4-H Online, excluding poultry.
- If you plan to exhibit livestock at the Indiana State Fair, DNA envelopes must be returned to the Extension Office by 4:00pm on May 15th.
- Horse and Pony Vaccination forms are due. Upload these into 4-H Online and submit a copy to the JC Riders Club Leaders
- Senior: The Questionnaire and 4-H Scholarships are due to Extension Office by May 15th.

Call Ahead Before Visiting The Extension Office

We are reaching our busiest time of year. Many of the educators will be in and out of the office with programming and other events. Please call ahead before visiting to ensure someone will be available to assist you. Calling ahead will also allow us time to gather the materials that may be the reason for your visit to the office. We appreciate your patience and always look forward to seeing you.

IQLC & YQCA

There is one last chance to attend an IQLC session on May 7th! If you have not attended or plan not to attend the May 7th training, you must complete the online YQCA Program and provide your certificate to the Extension Office by May 23rd.

FairEntry

FairEntry will open May 16th and will close on May 23rd. All 4-H members and Mini 4-H Members should complete FairEntry by May 23rd. A mailing with specific instructions on how to complete FairEntry will be sent to 4-H Families by May 16th. If you did not receive this mailing by May 16th, please contact the Extension Office!

Clean-Up Day

Be sure to mark your calendars for Clean-Up Day on May 17th. We will need all hands on deck to prepare the fairgrounds for the upcoming Jennings County Fair! The military is renting and utilizing the large parking lot at the fairgrounds during this time so please be courteous and park in the small lot next to the barns!

Important Dates

May -

- 1 Goat and Swine ID Day 5-7 PM
- 5 Dog Club 6:30 PM
- 5 Muscatatuck Mudpuppies 6 PM
- 5 4-H Council 5 PM
- 5 Livestock Committee Meeting 6 PM
Jr. Livestock Committee Members attend
- 6 Horse and Pony ID Day 6 PM
- 6 Shining Stars 6 PM
- 7 IQLC 6 PM
- 8 Tractor Club Practice 6 PM
- 8 Poultry & Rabbit ID Day 6-8pm
- 8 Petal Party Floriculture Workshop 6 PM
- 12 Dog Club 6:30 PM
- 13 Zenas Livewires and Plowboys 6:30 PM
- 15 BIG DEADLINE**
- 17 CLEAN-UP DAY! 9 AM
- 17 Llama Club Meeting 1:00 PM (After Clean-Up)
- 19 Jr. Leaders 6 PM
- 19 Dog Club 6:30 PM
- 21 Tractor Meeting & Practice 6 pm
- 26 Extension Office Is Closed**
- 27 Dog Club 6:30 PM
- 28 Mini 4-H Camp Day

June -

- 3-6 4-H Camp!!!
- 8-14 Jennings County Fair

Club Meetings & Events

FOLLOW OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE FOR
MORE UPCOMING
IMPORTANT DATES!



- **Junior Leaders Meeting**
 - May 19th at 6 PM at the Extension Office
- **Zenas Livewires & Zenas Plowboys Meeting**
 - May 13th from 6:30 PM Zenas Baptist Church
- **Llama Club Meeting**
 - May 17th after Clean-Up is finished at the Fairgrounds
- **Shining Stars Meeting**
 - May 6th from 6-7 PM at Jennings County Public Library (Conf. Rm. 2)
- **Muscatatuck Mudpuppies Meeting**
 - May 5th at 6 PM at New Bethel Methodist Church
- **JC Riders**
 - May 5th at 6 PM at Goins Family Farm (Horse and Pony ID Day)
- **Tractor Club Meeting/Practice**
 - May 8th at 6 PM at the Vogel's (practice)
 - May 21st at 6 PM at the Vogel's (meeting and practice)
- **4-H Council Meeting**
 - May 5th at 5pm at the Jennings County Government Center
- **Livestock Committee Meeting**
 - May 5th at 6 pm at the Jennings County Government Center
- **Junior Livestock Committee Meeting**
 - May 5th at 6 pm at the Jennings County Government Center (Adult Livestock Committee Meeting)
- **Dog Club Meeting/Practice**
 - May 5th at 6:30 PM at the Branham's arena (showmanship, difficulties)
 - May 12th at 6:30 PM at the Branham's arena (obedience, difficulties)
 - May 19th at 6:30 PM at the Branham's arena (showmanship, agility course work)
 - May 27th at 6:30 PM at TBD

Animal ID & Tagging

4-H Members enrolled in livestock projects should have received a mailing with more information about Animal ID Day and requirements. If you do not receive the mailing a week before Animal ID Day, please contact the Extension Office. Refer to your livestock schedule 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: <http://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.

Static Project Schedule

Friday, June 6th:

- 3:00 pm - BBQ Project Set-Up @ the Pavilion
- 5:00 pm - BBQ Project Judging
- 5:00 pm-7:00 pm - Mini 4-H & Early Project Check-in @ The Community Building
- 6:00 pm - Cat Show Registration @ Livestock Show Arena
- 6:30 pm - Cat Show @ Livestock Show Arena

Saturday, June 7th:

- 9:30 am-10:00 am - Junior Leaders Project Open Judging @ Community Building
- 10:00 am - 12:00pm - Open Project Judging @ Community Building

Livestock Members: Refer to your Livestock Schedule for specific Check-In Times

Jennings County 4-H

May
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2025 Indiana State Fair

The 2025 Indiana State Fair will be held August 1-17. The livestock show schedule has been updated online and can be found by following the link below:

<https://www.indianastatefair.com/p/state-fair/livestock/livestock-show-schedule>



INDIANA
STATE FAIR

Local Summer Events

- 4-H Petal Party Spring Floriculture Workshop - May 8th
- Mini 4-H Camp @ the Fairgrounds - May 28th
- Southeastern Indiana 4-H Camp - June 3rd-6th
 - Junior Staff - June 2nd-6th
- Area 1 4-H Horse and Pony Show - June 7th & 8th
- Jennings County 4-H Dog Show - June 21
- Jennings County 4-H Tractor Contest - June 27th
- Area 1 4-H Tractor Contest - July 26th

Mini 4-Hers:

 **MINI 4-H CAMP** 

Jennings Co
Community Building

\$5.00

PLAY GAMES. DABBLE IN STEM. MAKE CRAFTS. AND MORE
Pre-registration preferred by May 23, 2025

Grades K-2

Already enrolled in 4-H?
Follow the link below to sign up:
<https://2025jenningsminiday.4honline.com>

Lunch provided

Not Enrolled in 4-H?
**No problem! Contact the Jennings County
Extension Office at 812-352-3033 for instructions
on how to register!**

May 28th
9am-2pm

If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program or have special dietary needs, please contact Rebekah Cartwright at 812-352-3033 or bargerr@purdue.edu by May 24th, 2024
Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service is an equal access/equal opportunity institution



Extension - Jennings County

Jennings County 4-H presents

Petal Party!



Jennings County Spring Floriculture
Workshop

May 8th, 2025

6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Jennings County Extension Office
200 E. Brown St.
Vernon, IN 47282

**Only 10 Spots
Available!**

Learn the ins and outs of flower arrangement with our Spring Floriculture Workshop. Attendees will get to make their very own arranged bouquet to take home with them to share with someone special just in time for Mother's Day. The cost of the program is \$10.00 and can be paid by cash or check at the Jennings County Extension Office. Registration is required and must be completed by May 8th, 2025 or until the workshop is full. Registration can be completed at <https://petalparty2025.4honline.com>

If you need any accommodations to attend this workshop please contact Rebekah at bargerr@purdue.edu or call the Extension Office at 812-352-3033

Ag & Natural Resources

May
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End of the Year Excitement in Schools

The ANR Educator is wrapping up a fun and educational end to the school year in all Jennings County elementary schools. Students are getting hands-on experience with growing their own food through the grow towers and garden beds, where they'll soon celebrate with a harvest party and taste a variety of fresh vegetables they've helped grow. In addition, excitement is building in classrooms as students participate in the "Chicks in the Classroom" project, observing the final stages of chick development and hatching during the last few weeks of school.



Spring Reminder:

As farmers begin working in the fields this season, it's important for all drivers to practice road safety by slowing down, staying alert, and sharing the road with large farm equipment. Patience and caution can help prevent accidents and ensure a safe planting season for both farmers and motorists.



Ag & Natural Resources

May
2025

Jennings ANR Services

Soil Sample and Testing:

The Jennings County Extension Office offers soil sample bags and test forms for sample submission. We have a soil probe available to borrow. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm.

Plant and Bug Identification:

If you need a plant, weed, or bug identified, bring it to our office and Emily Peterson, our ANR Educator, will assist you. Please call ahead at 812-352-3033 to make sure Emily is in the office and available. You may also email photos of the specimen to Emily at epeterson@purdue.edu for ID.



Protect Your Flock

From Avian Influenza

- Prevent waterfowl from accessing or mingling with your birds.
- Wear dedicated clothing and shoes to care for your flock. Do not visit other poultry unless absolutely necessary, and wear different clothing/shoes before entering your premises.
- Wash hands before and after handling birds, feed, or waste.
- Clean and disinfect equipment in contact with birds or waste.
- Check birds daily for signs of illness or death. Signs include: lack of energy, decreased or malformed egg production, swelling of head, purple discoloration on wattles/combs/legs, Stumbling, diarrhea, sudden death.
- Obtain a premise ID number from the Board of Animal Health.

More info? Scan.



CALL 1-866-536-7593
to report sick or dead poultry



Ag & Natural Resources

May
2025

Upcoming PARPs and Events

There are no upcoming PARP events in the South East District at this time.

Check out additional PARP program details at:
<https://ag.purdue.edu/departments/extension/ppp/private-applicators/recertification-parp/parp-events/parp-events-southeast.html>

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, weed 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.



College of Agriculture

Publications & Newsletters

Purdue Agriculture, 615 Mitch Daniels Blvd., West Lafayette, IN 47907-2053 USA, (765) 494-8392

 Purdue University

Health & Human Sciences

MAY
2025

In Loving Memory of Beth Steiner



Beth was a dedicated Purdue Extension advocate and volunteer in Jennings County for many years. Beth was an avid reader and champion for our Reading Made Fun program that has delivered 30K+ books to kindergarteners in Jennings County. Beth served as a Madison District Representative for Indiana Extension Homemakers Association as well as a devoted Purdue CARET member. Beth was instrumental in the development of the Jennings County 4-H Endowment that provides 4-H experiences each year for Jennings County youth. Her impact on Purdue Extension in Southeast Indiana will be known for years to come.

Please keep her husband Bob, another Friend of Extension, and the Steiner family in your thoughts.

Beth's obituary:

<https://www.sawyerfuneralservice.com/obituary/Beth-Steiner>



Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental Health Awareness Month is every May to increase awareness about the vital role mental health plays in our overall health and well-being while providing resources and information to support individuals and communities.

Join in on the weekly highlights for the 2025 campaign on our Facebook page @Purdue Extension -Jennings County.

Week 1: How to support the mental health needs of older adults.

Week 2: Highlights the importance of early mental health support, resilience, and self-care for children and teens

Week 3: Focuses on raising awareness, reducing stigma, and promoting recovery for people living with serious mental illness (SMI) or serious emotional disturbance (SED) and their families.

Week 4: Explores how deeply connected mental and physical health are.

Week 5: Focuses on the role of community, support networks, and recovery in promoting well-being.



Reading Made Fun

THANK YOU

We are heading into our last month of reading in all Kindergarten classes for the 2024-2025 school year! We would like to take a moment to thank our book sponsors that helped our young readers build their home libraries.

Jennings County Community Foundation
Psi Iota Xi Sorority
Indiana Farm Bureau-Jennings

And an extra thanks to our monthly reading volunteers that help make this a great learning experience for our youth! Thank you!

Mock Grocery Store

Students in Ms. Norton, Mr. Harrell, and Mrs. Poore classrooms at JCHS and Mrs. Boggs classrooms at JCMS experienced the Mock Grocery Store program with Purdue Extension and volunteers with the Jennings County Food Security Coalition last week.

Each group was provided a life scenario to follow with a designated weekly budget for groceries. Their goal was to shop the grocery store for weekly breakfast, lunch and dinners for their household scenario while incorporating MyPlate food group choices into their selections all while staying within their budget. We had some great discussions with them about their choices.



Upcoming Events:



Safe Sitter Program 2025

The goal of the Safe Sitter program is to teach safe babysitting and life skills to children entering grades 6-8. Instructors provide tips to make sitters more confident caregivers. They teach safety and security precautions, such as what to do if a stranger comes to the door, and when and how to call for help. They give information on child development and suggest age-appropriate activities to entertain children and keep them safe. The program gives students hands-on practice in basic life-saving techniques so sitters are prepared to act in a crisis. This course also teaches life and business skills including screening jobs, setting fees, and greeting future employers.

Topics instructed include:

- Safety Skills
 - indoor safety
 - outdoor safety
 - online safety
 - personal safety
- First Aid Skills
 - injury prevention
 - injury management
 - choking rescue
- Child Care Skills
 - child development
 - child care routines
 - behavior management

This program is instructed by Schneck healthcare professionals specially trained for this program.

If you have any questions, please call 812-523-4773 or 812-524-4244.

Safe Sitter Program

- One-day training program
- 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Who can attend?

Children entering grades 6-8

When is it?

Offered in 4 locations

Jackson County:

May 31

June 6, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28

July 12

Scott County: July 19

Jennings County: May 30

Washington County: June 7, July 11

Class size is limited.

Register online at

SchneckMed.org/events



DINNER TONIGHT
Half-Veggie Burgers

FUN
Pick a word. Everyone sings as many song lyrics as they can think of that use that word.

CONVERSATION
How would your day change if you didn't have internet?



AGES 1-5



AGES 6-12

BENEFITS OF FAMILY DINNERS

Conversation at the dinner table is even better than reading to children in boosting their vocabulary, and helping them to read.

Kids who start eating dinners now are less likely to be overweight later.

New parents who develop a dinnertime ritual feel more satisfied with marriages.

BENEFITS OF FAMILY DINNERS

Strong link between family dinners and academic performance, even stronger than doing homework, sports, or art.

Increased intake of fruits, vegetables and micronutrients, and fewer fried foods, trans fats and sodas.

Children feel more connected to siblings and parents.

Visit thefamilydinnerproject.org to sign up for Dinner Tonight and get a daily helping of food, fun and conversation!
Leanne Brown provided this recipe for cheaper, healthier burgers, from her cookbook Good and Cheap.
She notes that you can substitute almost any vegetable for the bell pepper in these burgers.



Half-Veggie Burgers

INGREDIENTS

Serves 8

- 3 cups cooked lentils or beans
- 1 cup finely chopped bell pepper or other vegetable
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 egg (optional)
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 8 buns

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Roughly mash the lentils with the back of a large spoon.
2. Mix the lentils, bell pepper, and ground beef in a large bowl. Season with salt and pepper and form into 8 patties.
3. Place a large skillet over medium-high heat and add the patties. Cook until they're dark brown, about 5 minutes, then flip them and cook for another 5 minutes.
4. Serve on toasted buns with your favorite condiments and fresh vegetables.

Nutrition Education Programs

May
2025

Nutrition Education Program Advisor

Hi everyone!

I am excited to announce that I will be partnering with the **Boys and Girls Club of Jennings County** again this summer! I will be teaching CATCH, a Coordinated Approach to Child Health, in addition to a brand new series of lessons, called Learn, Grow, Eat, and Go (LGEG, for short)! The CATCH lessons will be taught at both **North Vernon Elementary School** and **Country Squire Lakes** locations, while the LGEG series will only be taught at Country Squire Lakes.

The CATCH lessons consist of teaching 3rd grade students about **the importance of all five food groups**: dairy, fruits, proteins, vegetables, and grains, which physical activities are best, and why we should try new foods. Each lesson comes packed with food, fun, and exercise!

The Learn, Grow, Eat, and Go lessons are similar to the CATCH lessons, but offer a more hands-on approach. Emily Peterson and I will be teaming up to teach the students about **gardening and nutrition**. We will cover topics like what plants need in order to grow, portion sizing, and what people need in order to grow!

I will also be teaming up with Deidre Wagster this month to teach some of the students of **Jennings County Middle School** about healthy snacking. We will host a one-day class on which snacks are best and which ingredients to watch out for.

If you or your family would like to learn more about how to **make the healthy choice the easy choice**, send me an email!



Purdue Extension Nutrition Education Program

@PurdueNEP

Emily Dunn: egeorgi@purdue.edu

