

Clover Close-Up

October 2025

Welcome to a New 4-H Program Year!

We're excited to kick off another year of learning, growing, and making memories in 4-H! While we await the arrival of our new 4-H Educator in November, it's business as usual here at the Extension office—which means **enrollment is now open** for Mini 4-H, regular 4-H, and adult volunteers.

The sooner you enroll, the more you'll get out of the program! Early enrollment ensures you're added to club and project email lists right away so you won't miss important updates, workshops, or deadlines. Don't wait—get connected now and take full advantage of all the opportunities 4-H has to offer this year.

Click [HERE](#) for the 4HOnline website.

Quick Tips for Enrollment:

- **Check Your Club:** Make sure you're signed up for the right club.
- **Project Planning:** Start thinking about which projects you want to tackle this year.
- **Check Your Contact Info:** Verify that your address and phone numbers are correct in 4HOnline.
- **Payments:** If paying by check, please mail or drop it off at the Extension Office.
- **Ask Questions:** Not sure about something? Reach out to your 4-H Educator or club leader.
- **Have Fun:** Remember, 4-H is all about learning, growing, and enjoying the journey!

Let's Stay Connected!

As we begin a new 4-H program year, now is the perfect time to decide how you'd like to receive your monthly newsletter and other important 4-H updates—by **mail** or by **email**.

Our goal is to provide you with the most current and up-to-date information as soon as we have it. From deadlines and workshops to events and reminders, staying connected ensures you don't miss out on valuable opportunities.

Of course, communication is a two-way street. We'll do our best to keep you informed, and we ask that you take a few minutes to read the information when it comes your way. Together, we can make sure you and your family have the best 4-H experience possible!

📞 To update your communication preference, please call the Extension Office at 574-372-2340 or email graff8@purdue.edu.

Have You Sent Your Thank You Cards?

A simple "thank you" goes a long way! Whether someone helped you with a project, volunteered their time, sponsored an award, or supported you during the fair, sending a thank you card shows your appreciation and respect.

Taking the time to write a personal note not only acknowledges the support you received but also helps build lasting relationships with the people who make our 4-H program possible. A handwritten card is a small gesture that leaves a big impact.

If you haven't done so yet, take a few minutes this week to send out your thank you cards—it's an important part of the 4-H experience!

Tips for Writing a Great Thank You Card 📝

- **Be specific:** Mention what the person did to help you.
- **Share the impact:** Explain how their support made a difference for you.
- **Add a personal touch:** Handwrite your note if possible.
- **Keep it timely:** Send your card soon after the event or gift.
- **Close with gratitude:** End with a warm and sincere thank you.

Junior Leaders: Grades 7-12

Are you ready to grow your leadership skills and make a difference in your 4-H community? Join **Junior Leaders**! As a Junior Leader, you'll have opportunities to:

- **Help others succeed:** Support fellow 4-H members as they develop their leadership abilities.
- **Build leadership skills:** Learn what it truly means to lead and practice qualities of effective leaders.
- **Work as a team:** Participate in team-building activities and collaborative projects.
- **Grow personally:** Develop responsibility, follow-through, self-confidence, and self-respect.

- **Communicate effectively:** Improve your written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills.
- **Think critically:** Practice problem-solving and decision-making.
- **Develop empathy:** Understand and connect with others in your club and community.
- **Strengthen your future:** Enhance your resume for college and career opportunities.

📅 Junior Leaders Call-Out Meeting:

Monday, October 20th

Details on location and time will be shared on the **Band App** and **Instagram**.

Auction Committee News Blast

📢 Attention 4-H Families!

If your 4-H'er received a check from the **4-H Auction**, please remember to **deposit it as soon as possible!** 💰✅



💡 Why it matters:

Timely deposits help us **close out auction books**, **balance records**, and ensure that our generous buyers' donations are properly accounted for. Uncashed checks can cause delays and confusion for everyone involved!

✅ Action Step:

Check those envelopes and make that deposit today if you haven't already. 📬

🚫 No Check Received

Please be sure to reach out to the Auction Committee so we can come up with a solution! 🗨️

Treasurer: Amanda Tom: 574-253-1616

Superintendent: Devin Lursen - 574-268-8533

Thanks for helping us wrap up the auction season smoothly—and congrats again to all of our amazing 4-H'ers! 🐾🐷🐔🐑

Mini 4-H

What is Mini 4-H?

Mini 4-H is a **noncompetitive program** for youth in **grades K–2** designed to introduce children and their families to all the fun and learning that 4-H has to offer. It's a great way for kids to **learn by doing**, explore new interests, and even exhibit simple projects at the fair.

Mini 4-H members can also attend **club meetings** and **workshops**, giving them a chance to meet new friends and be part of the 4-H community from the very beginning.



The goals of Mini 4-H include helping children:

- Build self-confidence
- Develop curiosity and an inquiring mind
- Set goals and make decisions
- Learn how to work and play with others
- Grow a sense of community and caring

Through hands-on activities, fun projects, and positive interaction with 4-H youth and adult volunteers, Mini 4-H helps children develop valuable life skills in a supportive environment.

Mini 4-H Meetings (4 per year):

Each meeting includes parent information and hands-on activities for the Mini 4-H'ers.

- January 15, 2025
 - February 19, 2026
 - March 19, 2026
 - April 16, 2026
-  6:30–7:30 PM
-  Extension Office

Enrollment for Mini 4-H opens October 1st

 **Cost:** \$5 per Mini 4-H member

Take Aim with 4-H Shooting Sports!

Are you ready to try something exciting, hands-on, and a little different? 4-H **Shooting Sports** is one of the fastest-growing programs in the nation, and for good reason—it's fun, educational, and a great way to build lifelong skills.

In Shooting Sports, youth learn how to safely and responsibly use equipment such as rifles, handguns, shotguns, muzzleloaders, and archery. Along the way, they'll also complete the **Indiana Hunter Education course**, building both confidence and knowledge in a supportive setting.

This isn't just for kids—Shooting Sports is a **family-friendly program**, so parents are encouraged to take part too. It's a great way to share an activity together, whether or not hunting is your goal. Many families discover that shooting becomes a hobby they can enjoy for years to come.

Beginner Class Reminder:

All first-time participants are required to attend the beginner class (unless they already hold a valid Indiana Hunter Education Card). This class covers the essentials of safety and includes **two meetings per discipline**. *No exceptions will be made to this requirement.*

The next beginner class will be offered in **February 2026**—watch upcoming newsletters for specific dates and details!

Youth with a Hunter Education Card may be able to enter at a higher level after demonstrating basic proficiency during a pre-season test session.

\$ Please note: Each discipline has an additional fee due at the first meeting.

📞 Questions? Contact **Tammy Wise at 574-527-2208**.

Now's the time to give it a try—discover a new skill, gain confidence, and share an experience your whole family will remember. Join **4-H Shooting Sports** this year!

Curious about Blacksmithing?

Step into the forge and experience the age-old craft of shaping metal with fire, hammer, and anvil. In these workshops, you'll learn how to create practical and decorative pieces while working hands-on in the Blacksmith Shop at the Kosciusko County Fairgrounds.

Important safety reminder:

To participate, you must come dressed in proper attire:

- Long pants and a long-sleeved shirt (cotton denim preferred)
- Closed-toe leather shoes or boots (no tennis shoes)
- No frayed edges or synthetic fabrics

Workshops are offered the last Saturday of every month (except November and December)

Pre-registration is required—contact Jackie Clase at 574-527.2271 to reserve your time slot. A \$10 material fee applies.

Available time slots each month:

- 8:00–10:00 AM
- 10:00 AM–12:00 PM
- 1:00–3:00 PM

Forge your creativity and discover a skill that's been around for centuries!

Club Leaders & Committees

Club & Committee Organizational Forms

If you have not yet turned in your paperwork, please do so ASAP.

For your convenience, please see the below attachments for the following:

- **Club Organizational Form**
- **Committee Organizational Form**

Thanks for helping us start the new 4-H year on the right foot!



Fillable Club Organizational Form.pdf

[Download](#)

128.9 KB



Fillable Committee Organizational Form.pdf

[Download](#)

196.7 KB

Annual Financial Statements and Audits

Most clubs and committees are required to submit **annual financial statements**. Here's what you need to know for this year:

- **Audit Period:** October 31, 2024 – September 30, 2025
- **Who Should Complete the Audit:** The 2024–25 treasurers or officers
- **Audit Paperwork:** Be on the lookout for your audit forms, which will be sent via **mail and/or email** sometime in October

More details and instructions will be shared soon to help make the process smooth and straightforward.

Share Your Skills!

We're Always Looking for Great Volunteers!

4-H thrives because of people like you! We are always looking for passionate, skilled, and creative individuals to step up and make a difference. Whether it's serving as a **club leader**, joining a **committee**, leading a **workshop**, helping with a **project**, or sharing your talents in any way you feel called to contribute, there's a place for you in 4-H.

Your life experience and skills can have a lasting impact on youth in our community. If you've ever thought about volunteering, now is the perfect time to get involved and help shape the next generation of 4-H members!

📞 For more information or to get started, contact the Extension Office at 574.372.2340 today.



October Calendar

Thursday, October 2, 2025

4-H Council Meeting

- 6:00 PM
- Extension Office Main Hall

Monday, October 6, 2025

Mentone United 4-H Club Meeting

- 7:00 PM
- Mentone Baptist Church, 206 S Oak St, Mentone

October 7, 2025

Kosciusko County Goat Club Call Out Meeting

- 6:30 PM
- Extension Office Main Hall

Horse & Pony Club Mini 4-H Meeting

- 6:30 PM
- Home & Family Arts Building, Fairgrounds

Horse & Pony Club Regular 4-H Meeting

- 7:00 PM
- Home & Family Arts Building, Fairgrounds

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Poultry Committee Meeting

- 6:30 PM
- Johnson's Residence

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Goat Committee Meeting

- 6:30 PM
- Extension Office Main Hall

Thursday, October 16, 2025

Shooting Sports Committee Meeting

- 7:00 PM
- Extension Office Main Hall

Sunday, October 19, 2025

Syracuse Community Hands 4-H Club Meeting

- 3:00 PM
- Location TBD

Saturday, October 25, 2025

Blacksmith Workshop

- 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- Blacksmith Shop, Fairgrounds
- Call Jackie at 574.527.2271 to reserve your spot

Monday, October 27, 2025

Silver Lake Rambling Farmers Club Meeting

- 6:30 PM
- Silver Lake Lions Club Building, 108 N Harrison St, Silver Lake

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Leesburg Mighty Farmers Club Meeting

- 7:00 PM
- Leesburg Methodist Church, 111 W Prairie St, Leesburg

Upcoming Events & Activities

Club Leader Contact Information

Beaver Dam Better 4-H'ers

- Jason Rich 574.265.4837 heatmisers@yahoo.com
- Anna Rich 574.265.4838 annarichrn@yahoo.com

Claypool Classics

- Kayla Leininger 574.253.1302 kaylajleininger@gmail.com

Goat Club

- Christina Nieto 574.377.1497 christinanieto006@gmail.com

Horse & Pony Club

- Charity Trump 574.551.5113 crtrump21@yahoo.com
- Randy Shepherd 574.551.4817 warsawshep@yahoo.com

Leesburg Mighty Farmers

- Valerie Sausaman 574.551.9917 leesburgmightyfarmers@gmail.com

Mentone United

- Tory Samardzic 574.453.8125 torysamardzic@gmail.com

Milford Helping Hands

- Karena Wilkinson 574.529.1022 karenawilkinson40@gmail.com

Pierceton Hayseeds

- Kaitlyn Imhoff 574.453.7316 kaitlynimhoff@gmail.com

Sidney Triple S

- Jeff Brubaker 574-551-5487
- Rhonda Wood 260.578.7497 brkwood@live.com

Silver Lake Rambling Farmers

- Lexis Montel 574.527.5809 farmgirlfitness95@gmail.com

Syracuse Community Hands

- Mariah Roberts 574.328.0108 1robertsfamily2007@gmail.com

Committee Superintendents Contact Information

Subject to change after officer elections for Committees.

Alpaca Committee

- Scott Shelhart 574.453.8423 scottfz450@gmail.com

Auction Committee

- Devin Lursen 574.268.8533 dehay1216@gmail.com

Beef Committee

- Jake Templin 574.527.4699 jake@clunettelevator.com

Blacksmith Committee

- Jackie Clase 574.527.2271 clasejackie1@gmail.com

Cat Committee

- Jenny Spicher 574.320.7258 jennyspicher@gmail.com

Dairy Committee

- Laura Lozier 574.551.3535 lauralee.1979@hotmail.com

DCFS/Dairy Steer Committee

- Joel Goon 574.453.8694 goonboy_1@hotmail.com

General Projects Committee

- Kaitlyn Imhoff 574.453.7316 kaitlynimhoff@gmail.com

Goat Committee

- Andrew Jennings 260.823.1068 pizzaman926813@gmail.com

Horse & Pony Committee

- Claudia Keirn 574.551.0317 ckeirn@wildmanbg.com

Llama Committee

- Laura Oyer 574.903.3985 laura.oyer@gmail.com

Mini 4-H Committee

- Janelle Deatsman 574.527.9360 jdeatsman@yahoo.com

Poss-ABILITIES Committee

- Amy Seewald 574.551.1681 aswweald1@gmail.com

Poultry Committee

- Patricia Johnson 574.377.2786 damonpatricia04@yahoo.com

Rabbit Committee

- Josh LaRue 423.441.0574 joshua.lee.larue@gmail.com

Sheep Committee

- Conner Sausaman 574.529.5916 connersausaman@gmail.com

Shooting Sports Committee

- Justin McBroom 574.377.9964 mcbroom.justin@yahoo.com

Supreme Showman Committee

- Karen Templin 574.527.7880 ktemplin5@gmail.com

Swine Committee

- Missy Bouse 317.385.4447 mtbouse@gmail.com

Purdue Extension-Kosciusko County

County Extension Staff:

Emily Kresca

- Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Educator
- eluc@purdue.edu

Shannon Shepherd

- Health & Human Science Extension Educator
- Interim 4-H Youth Development Educator
- Interim County Extension Director
- shephe52@purdue.edu

Tami Graff

- 4-H Administrative Assistant
- Extension Office Manager
- graff8@purdue.edu



Extension

Contact Us:

Office Hours:

- Monday - Friday
- 8:00am - 4:30pm

Office Location:

- 202 W Main St, Warsaw, In 46580

Office Phone Number:

- 574.372.2340

Website:

- extension.purdue.edu/county/kosciusko

Follow Us:

- Facebook: Kosciusko County 4-H
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Tami Graff

Tami is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters