



Clover Close-Up

December 2025

The Spirit of Giving in 4-H

December has a way of reminding us what truly matters: kindness, connection, and the willingness to make a difference. In 4-H, we don't have to look far to see that the spirit of giving is already woven into everything we do. It's part of our pledge, our projects, our service, and the way our members show up for their communities all year long.

"I pledge my *Head* to clearer thinking."

Giving with our head means using good judgment, thoughtful planning, and creative problem-solving. Our members give through leadership—identifying needs in their schools, neighborhoods, and clubs, then developing meaningful service projects. Whether they're organizing a drive, helping younger members, or presenting ideas at meetings, they show that giving starts with awareness and intention.

"My *Heart* to greater loyalty."

This is the season when hearts are especially open, but 4-H youth demonstrate compassion all year. They give by showing empathy, checking in on one another, supporting their peers, and caring deeply about the people and causes around them. The donation boxes, handmade cards, care baskets, and simple acts of kindness are all reflections of generous hearts in action.

"My *Hands* to larger service."

Service is at the core of 4-H, and December brings countless opportunities to put hands to work. Carrying boxes at a food pantry, helping set up community events, volunteering with clubs, or completing service-learning projects—our members prove that giving doesn't always require money. Sometimes, the most meaningful gifts come from time, effort, and willingness to help.

"And my *Health* to better living."

Giving through health means taking care of ourselves so we can serve others well—and helping our communities stay strong, too. Whether it's promoting wellness, sharing knowledge, or simply contributing to a positive, supportive environment, 4-H youth show that healthy living is one of the most valuable gifts we can offer.

As we close out the year, we're grateful for the countless ways our 4-H families embody the spirit of giving. Your dedication, your example, and your generosity make a lasting impact. Thank you for helping shape a community where kindness is taught, practiced, and celebrated. Here's to a season filled with service, gratitude, and heart—and to another year of growing true leaders.

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A Word From Our 4-H Educator

Amy Rumschlag

As we settle into this season of cooler air, holiday gatherings, and those much-needed moments to pause, I've been reflecting on my first months here in Kosciusko County. Like any transition, it's taken some adjustment, but I'm truly appreciative of those who have extended a kind word, shared helpful insight, or simply taken a moment to connect. Those small gestures have meant a lot as I get settled into this new community.

The holidays naturally bring moments of looking back—remembering the laughter, the lessons, the challenges that shaped us, and the memories that still make us smile. I hope your family finds time to relive a few of those favorite 4-H moments from the past year, whether it was a late-night project crunch, a fair week adventure, or a camp story that still gets everyone laughing.

As you plan ahead for the new year, it's also the perfect time to complete your 2025-26 4-H enrollment. Taking care of enrollment now ensures you stay connected and don't miss out on exciting opportunities at the county, area, state, and national levels. Enrolling by **January 15** helps us communicate effectively and keeps your family fully included as we begin another exciting year.

Looking forward to all we can build together in the year ahead.

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Extension Office Holiday Closures

Our office will be closed for the following dates:

- Wednesday, December 24, 2025 Christmas Eve
- Thursday, December 25, 2025 Christmas Day
- Friday, December 26, 2025 Day after Christmas
- Thursday, January 1, 2026 New Years Day
- Friday, January 2, 2026 Day after New Years

We wish you and your family a joyful and safe holiday season!

Junior Leaders



Spreading Holiday Cheer!

Our Junior Leaders are embracing the spirit of giving this season!

On **Monday, December 15th at 6:00 PM**, the group will meet at

Walmart to shop for their Adopt-A-Families. After shopping,

everyone will head back to the **Extension Office** to wrap gifts together.

This annual service project is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to make a meaningful difference for families in our community—while having fun and building teamwork along the way. We're proud of their commitment to giving back!

Auction Committee News Blast

Auction Committee Update

The Auction Committee is enjoying a quieter season as we prepare for the new year. If you have not yet cashed your 2025 4-H Auction check, now is a great time to take care of it. Doing so helps the committee close out the books smoothly for year-end.



Thank you for your attention and for supporting the 4-H Auction program!

Scholarship Opportunities

Indiana 4-H Foundation Scholarships

4-H 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.

4-H Accomplishment Scholarships: 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.

Applications are due January 25. Youth may complete their application through their 4-H Online account.

[4-H Scholarship web page](#)

Kosciusko County Scholarships

2026 Kosciusko County Scholarship applications available in the Extension Office and will need to be submitted to the Extension Office no later than **March 15, 2026**.

ANGLIN-BISHOP AWARD: This award was created in memory of two Jr. Leaders, Mike Bishop and Jeremiah Anglin, who passed away during their 4-H careers. It is meant to recognize a Jr. Leader who exemplifies what it means to be a Jr. Leader, 4-H member and for outstanding achievement, service, leadership, and citizenship in our Jr. Leader program.

BOB STIFFLER 4-H BEEF SCHOLARSHIP: The Bob Stiffler 4-H Beef Scholarship was established by the Kosciusko County Cattlemen's Association in honor of Bob's outstanding contribution to the beef industry in the county. The goal of the scholarship is to reward an active Kosciusko County 4-H member in the Beef project for outstanding achievement, service, leadership, and citizenship in our

4-H Beef and Dairy Steer projects by awarding a scholarship for further agricultural study at an accredited college, university, or trade/technical school.

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY SHEEP COMMITTEE AWARD: \$100.00 to one or more individuals.

GENE MILNER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Gene Milner was the first pistol instructor in the Kosciusko County 4-H Shooting Sports Program. The Kosciusko County 4-H Shooting Sports Committee created the scholarship after Gene passed away very unexpectedly. The goal is to reward an active Kosciusko County 4-H member in the Shooting Sports project for outstanding achievement, service, leadership, and citizenship in our 4-H shooting sports project by awarding a scholarship for further agricultural study at an accredited college, university, or trade/technical school.

SHAYLEEN CRITES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: A \$250 scholarship is given in memory of Shayleen Crites, a Kosciusko County 4-H member. Applicants must be a 10-year 4-H member or in their last year of 4-H eligibility with a minimum of 3 years of participation in the 4-H Swine Project.

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP: The Kosciusko County 4-H Scholarship program is to reward active 4-H members for outstanding achievement, service, leadership, and citizenship in the 4-H by awarding scholarship to them for a further study at an accredited college, university, trade or technical school.

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY 4-H POULTRY COMMITTEE SCHOLARSHIP: Two (2) \$200.00 scholarships will be given each year by the Kosciusko County 4-H Poultry Committee. This scholarship was established to recognize those students who have contributed to the success of the Poultry project at the county fair. You must also exhibit a willingness to assist other Poultry exhibitors by helping them care for, learn about, and present the Poultry projects in a positive manner. Applicants must be a 10-year 4-H member or in the last year of 4-H eligibility with a minimum of 5 years of participation in the 4-H Poultry project. Payment will be made directly to the school of your choice and credited to your account. This award may be used for tuition, room/board, books, or other school academic fees only.

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY 4-H RABBIT COMMITTEE SCHOLARSHIP: Four (4) \$100.00 Scholarship Awards per year. Members must fill out, and turn in the 4-H Kosciusko County Council General Scholarship Application.

Applications are available at the Purdue Extension Kosciusko County office or online at our website, click [here](#).

IEHA Homemakers Scholarships

There are 17 scholarship opportunities available through the Kosciusko County Homemakers Association and the Indiana Extension Homemakers Association. They are as follows:

The Kosciusko County Homemakers Association: Two (2) \$1000 scholarships will be awarded each

year to college/university students including those seeking a two year associates program. And one (1) \$1000. scholarship will be awarded each year to a Career & Technical Program earning certification/license in their chosen field. Applications are due **March 16, 2026**.

Career Advancement Scholarship (IEHA): Eight (8) \$500 scholarships. Two (2) scholarships will be given to IEHA members, one (1) is given to pursue career in the medical field, and five (5) random scholarships. This is a financial need scholarship. Applications are due **March 15, 2026**.

Steps to Success Scholarship (IEHA): Five (5) \$500 scholarships are awarded. Four (4) to applicants

admitted to or enrolled in a state accredited college or university and one (1) to a state accredited vocational and technical program through a public school. Applications are due **May 1, 2026**.

Ruth B Sayre Scholarship is from the Country Women's Council and is offering a \$500 scholarship to foster the educational development of women. Applications must be an Indiana Resident. Applications are due **March 1, 2026**.

Kosciusko County Homemakers Association Scholarship Applications are available at he Purdue Extension Kosciusko County office or online at our website, click [here](#).

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December Calendar

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

Dairy Committee Meeting

- 6:00 PM
- Extension Office Main Hall

Sheep Committee Meeting

- 6:00 PM
- Martin's Supermarket-Upstairs

CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER

- Horse & Pony Club Christmas Party

Monday, December 8, 2025

Beaver Dam Better 4-H'ers Club Meeting

- 7:00 PM
- Beaver Dam Community Church, 9798 W 1000 S, Akron

Mentone United 4-H Club Meeting

- Miracle Tree Family Shopping
- 6:00 PM
- Warsaw Meijer - Inside the Home entrance

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Goat Club Meeting

- 6:30 PM
- Extension Office Main Hall

Thursday, December 11, 2025

4-H Council Meeting

- 6:00 PM
- Extension Office Main Hall

Saturday, December 13, 2025

Leesburg Mighty Farmers - Leesburg Candelaria

- Help set out the bags & light the candles
- 4:30 PM
- Meet at 102 Pearl St, Leesburg
- Cookies & Hot Cocoa after

Monday, December 15 2025

Jr Leaders Adopt-A-Families Shopping Trip

- 6:00 PM
- Warsaw Wal-Mart

Milford Helping Hands Service Project

- 6:00 PM
- Warsaw Wal-Mart

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Syracuse Community Hands 4-H Club Meeting

- 3:00 PM
- North Webster Community Center, Enter Door I, Meet in Room I02

Monday, December 22, 2025

Silver Lake Rambling Farmers Club Meeting

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

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

CHRISTMAS BREAK

- Extension Office Closed

Thursday, December 25, 2025

CHRISTMAS BREAK

- Extension Office Closed

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Friday, December 26, 2025

CHRISTMAS BREAK

- Extension Office Closed

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

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Extension

Contact Us:

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

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Office Phone Number:

- 574.372.2340

Website:

- extension.purdue.edu/county/kosciusko

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Tami Graff

Tami is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters