

LAKE COUNTY 4-H CLOVER CONNECTIONS

January - March 2026

LAKE COUNTY
PURDUE EXTENSION

A Note from the Extension Office

Hello, Lake County 4-H Families!

Welcome to the first Clover Connections of 2026! As we step into a new year, we're excited to continue building momentum in Lake County 4-H. The winter months are a wonderful time to explore new projects, reconnect with your clubs, and start laying the groundwork for everything you hope to accomplish this 4-H season.

Between workshops, project opportunities, enrollment reminders, and early spring events, there's plenty happening from January through March. This edition of Clover Connections will guide you through the start of the year with important dates, helpful updates, and ways to stay engaged as we move closer to fair season.

We're grateful for the energy and enthusiasm our members, families, and volunteers bring to every meeting, project, and event. We can't wait to see all the amazing things you'll achieve in 2026.

Let's make this a year full of growth, curiosity, and new possibilities!

JOIN 4-H TODAY

The Lake County 4-H Program welcomes all youth in grades K-12. Scan the QR code to sign up:



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Scan the QR code below and follow us:



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

Scan the QR code below to follow us:





NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

79th Annual 4-H Recognition Banquet and Annual Meeting

- Save the date for our 79th Annual 4-H Recognition Banquet and annual meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 6:30pm at the 4-H Building in the Lake County Fairgrounds. Adults Volunteers, completed Junior Leaders, and 4-H Ambassadors may attend at \$5.00 per person. Spouses, parents, children and other guests may attend at \$10.00 per person. Please be sure to register in 4-H Online by Jan 12th at <https://annualbanquetandmeeting01-22-26.4honline.com>. Make your check payable to Purdue University and return it to the Extension Office by Monday, January 12, 2026 . If you are bringing any non-4-H guest, please list them when you register.in 4-H Online.
- We're also looking for delicious desserts for the Annual Banquet. If you love to bake—or just enjoy sharing something sweet—we'd love your contribution! All desserts donated will also be entered into our Dessert Baking Contest for a chance to be recognized. Whether it's cookies, cakes, pies, or your secret family recipe—we want to see (and taste!) it! Help us make this year's banquet sweeter than ever.

4-H Dog Call Out

- Save the date for our 4-H Dog Call-Out on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the 4-H Building at the Lake County Fairgrounds. Meet new and experienced 4-H'ers, see what the Dog Project is all about, and watch demonstrations from members and trainers. One parent shared, "I think it is a hidden gem no one realizes exists!" Trainers may even bring their dogs to showcase show-level skills. Chat with members, ask questions, and explore how fun dog training can be in 4-H! Note: Dogs may attend by invitation only.





SAVE THE DATES: 4-H OPPORTUNITIES

Presidential AI Challenge

- The Presidential AI Challenge is a competition for K-12 students and educators! 4-H'ers, educators, and mentors are invited to design AI-based solutions to real-world challenges—with the chance to showcase their work on a national stage. Submissions are due January 20, 2026. The State Champions will be announced March 2026, followed by a summer 2026 National Championship. To learn more & get involved: purdue.ag/PresidentialAIChallenge4H.

Indiana 4-H Affiliate Summit

- Volunteers are invited to attend the Indiana 4-H Affiliate Summits held across the state! 4-H Council Members, 4-H Fair Board Members, and members of other 4-H affiliate groups will find it especially beneficial to attend alongside their county 4-H Educator for a time of learning and networking. Learn more at bit.ly/AffiliateSummit4H. Registration closes one week before the event date.

Teen Leadership Weekend

- We are happy to announce an exciting opportunity: Teen Leadership Weekend! March 27-29, 4-H'ers in grades 7-12 will gather at YMCA Camp Tecumseh to build their leadership skills, connect with peers from across the state, and prepare to make a positive impact in their communities. Contact the Extension office to register.

SAVE THE DATES: 4-H OPPORTUNITIES

Indiana 4-H Day at the Statehouse

- Save the date! Indiana 4-H Day at the Statehouse is Tuesday February 10th. 4-H Day at the Statehouse is a civic engagement opportunity during which 7th-12th grade 4Hers learn about our state government. Participants will tour the state house, meet representatives, and have the opportunity to serve as student pages. This is \$25 per participant, or \$50 with overnight accommodations. Visit purdue.ag/4hstatehouse to learn more and contact the Extension office to register.

Indiana 4-H Scholarship

- Have you started on your Indiana 4-H scholarship application? Applications are available now and are due to the Extension office on January 25. Visit bit.ly/4hscholarship to learn more about these opportunities, made possible by the Indiana 4-H Foundation!

2026 4-H Camp

- Do you know a youth in grades 7-12 who loves helping others, enjoys the outdoors, and wants to build leadership skills? Encourage them to apply to be a 4-H Camp Counselor for the 2026 camp at Camp Tannadoonah in Vandalia, Michigan! Camp dates are June 8-11, 2026. Apply now through January 25 at https://4hllpscamp26.4honline.com/#/public/ins_o/evt_348!





SAVE THE DATES: 4-H OPPORTUNITIES

4-H Drill Team Call Out Meeting

- Interested in joining the Lake County 4-H Color Guard & Drill Team? Remember to attend the call-out meeting on February 9 at 6:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the 4-H Building, 889 S. Court Street, Crown Point Gate 2. Youth will learn more about team expectations, performances, and how to get involved. All interested riders are encouraged to attend.

4-H Mini Cabin Fever

- The Lake County 4-H Mini Cabin Fever Event is coming into view, and Mini 4-H members in grades K-2 are invited to join a fun, flight-themed morning designed to beat the winter blues. This tropical-style program will feature hands-on activities, games, and opportunities for youth to make new friends while learning more about 4-H. The event will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the St. John VFW, 10400 W 93rd Ave, St. John, Indiana. Register at <https://cabinfever2-21-2026.4honline.com>.

4-H Horse & Pony Tack Swap & Chili Supper

- The Lake County 4-H Horse & Pony Tack Swap will be on Saturday February 28th at the Lake County 4-H Building located at 889 S. Court Street, Crown Point. There will also be a chili supper served from 4-7 pm, adults are \$10 and kids ages 10 and under will be \$5. The tack swap starts at 5 pm, with something for everyone! Whether it is horse tack, supplies, riding gear, and much more. Tickets are available from any Horse & Pony member or at the door day of the tack swap. There will be concessions as well and will include hot dogs, snacks, and baked goods. If you have any questions, please contact Jen at (260) 385-1987, Nichole at (219) 743-1599, or Mychelle at (219) 746-3688.



UPCOMING UPDATES

4-H Judging Update

- 4-H judging will be changing this year! Judging will be on July 24th, 25th, and 27th. Project drop-off will take place July 20-23 in the 4-H Building. Drop-off hours are Monday and Wednesday from 9:00 am-12:00 pm and Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30-7:00 pm. When dropping off your project, simply bring your tags and place your project on the designated judging table. If you plan to stay and speak with the judge, please highlight your entry number. All projects must be turned in prior to scheduled judging times, except for foods, garden, and construction/architectural replica projects.
- Mini 4-H Exhibit Drop Off and Judging will be on Monday July 27th. Check in will be from 6:00 pm-7:15 pm.

We're Hiring! Juntos 4-H YEA Coordinator

- Purdue Extension Lake County is looking for a dynamic, youth-focused leader to serve as our Juntos 4-H YEA Coordinator! This part-time role supports Juntos 4-H Clubs, Family Nights, and activities that help students succeed in school and explore career pathways—especially in agriculture. We're seeking someone organized, energetic, and passionate about working with youth and families. Bilingual (Spanish/English) candidates strongly encouraged!
 - Start Date: Dec. 15, 2025
 - \$20/hr | 25 hrs/week
 - River Forest High School
- To apply, send a cover letter, resume, and three references to jgovan@purdue.edu. Help us spread the word!



SURVEY

If you have a few moments to spare, we would appreciate and value your feedback on a few items. Thank you for your time and perspective.

https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cVkc9SWfHMz2Ars

Prepare to book your flight...

The Lake County 4-H Mini Cabin Fever Event is coming into view!

February 21, 2026
9-12

St John VFW
10400 W 93rd Ave
St. John

Grades:
K-2



It is the policy of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran.



AUCTION & CHILI SUPPER

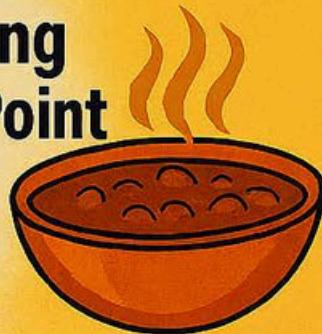
TO BENEFIT THE
LAKE COUNTY 4-H
HORSE & PONY
PROGRAM



Saturday

February 28, 2026

**Lake County 4-H building
889 S. Court St. Crown Point**



GENERAL AUCTION kicks off at 5 p.m.
with something for everyone. Horse tack,
supplies, riding gear, and hide items to follow.

CHILI SUPPER served from 4 - 7 p.m.

Adults \$10 Kids 10 & under \$5

Tickets available from any Horse & Pony Member or at the door
Concessions including hot dogs, snacks & baked goods also
available

EVENT CONTACTS: Jen 260-385-1987 Nichole 219-743-1599
Mychelle 219-746-3688



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, 1/8 - 4-H Horse & Pony Meeting, Virtual, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Thursday, 1/22 - 4-H Volunteer Recognition Banquet & Annual Meeting, 4-H Building, 889 S. Court St. Crown Point, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Saturday, 1/31 - Club Annual Reports and Materials for Audit Due, Extension Office

Thursday, 2/5 - 4-H Horse & Pony Meeting, Extension Office, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Monday, 2/9 4-H Drill Team Call Out Meeting, 4-H Building, 889 S. Court St. Crown Point, 6:00pm

Saturday, 2/28 - Horse & Pony Tack Swap, 4-H Building, 889 S. Court St. Crown Point, 4:30pm-6:30pm

Thursday, 3/5 - 4-H Horse & Pony Meeting, Virtual, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Saturday, 3/14 - Lake County Horse & Pony Demo, Clark Middle School, 8915 W. 93rd Ave, Saint John, TBA

Thursday, 3/26 - 4-H County Committee Meeting, Extension Office, 6:00pm-7:30pm

PLEASE NOTE!

Make sure you have the dates above are on your calendar! The Extension Office will be closed on the following dates:

January 1st-New Year's Day

January 19th-Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 16th-President's Day



UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

Monday, 1/5 Hobart Hurricanes 4-H Club Meeting,
301 E 10th St, Hobart, 6:00pm

Tuesday, 1/6 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm

Tuesday, 1/6 Shelby Ag Club Meeting, 3606 Belshaw Rd, Lowell, 6:00pm

Thursday, 1/8 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm

Thursday, 1/8 Brunswick Beavers 4-H Club Meeting, 14804 West 113th Ave,
Dyer, 7:00pm

Friday, 1/9 The Seekers 4-H Club Meeting,
6729 W 133rd Ave Ave, Cedar Lake, 4:00pm

Sunday, 1/11 Prime Beefmakers 4-H Club, 24002 Parrish Ave,
Schneider, 2:00pm

Sunday, 1/11 Eagle Creek Up & At'Em 4-H Club Meeting, 18095 Clay Street,
Hebron, 4:00pm

Sunday, 1/11 RPFF 4-H Club Meeting, 183 S West Street, Crown Point, 5:00pm

Monday, 1/12 The Lone Ranger 4-H Club Meeting, 4613 E 109th Ave,
Crown Point, 7:00pm

Tuesday, 1/13 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm

Tuesday, 1/13 Happy Wranglers 4-H Club Meeting, 304 S 725 W, Hebron, 6:00pm



UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

Tuesday, 1/13 Tails and Trails 4-H Club Meeting, 1505 E Commercial Ave, Lowell, 6:00pm

Friday, 1/16 Rockin' Clovers 4-H Club Meeting, 8651 W 93rd Ave, Saint John, 6:00pm

Tuesday, 1/20 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm

Thursday, 1/22 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm

Sunday, 1/25 Griffith Grinners 4-H Club Meeting, Bowling Activity, 3:00pm

Tuesday, 1/27 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm

Thursday, 1/29 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm

Monday, 2/2 Hobart Hurricanes 4-H Club Meeting, 301 E 10th St, Hobart, 6:00pm

Tuesday, 2/3 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm

Tuesday, 2/3 Shelby Ag Club Meeting, 3606 Belshaw Rd, Lowell, 6:00pm

Wednesday, 2/4 Saddle & Spurs 4-H Club Meeting, 122 N. Main St, Crown Point, 6:00pm

Thursday, 2/5 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm

Thursday, 2/5 Brunswick Beavers 4-H Club Meeting, 14804 West 113th Ave, Dyer, 7:00pm



UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

Friday, 2/6 The Seekers 4-H Club Meeting,
6729 W 133rd Ave Ave, Cedar Lake, 4:00pm

Sunday, 2/8 Prime Beefmakers 4-H Club, 24002 Parrish Ave,
Schneider, 2:00pm

Sunday, 2/8 Eagle Creek Up & At'Em 4-H Club Meeting, 18095 Clay Street,
Hebron, 4:00pm

Monday, 2/9 The Lone Ranger 4-H Club Meeting, 4613 E 109th Ave,
Crown Point, 7:00pm

Tuesday, 2/10 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm

Tuesday, 2/10 Happy Wranglers 4-H Club Meeting, 304 S 725 W, Hebron, 6:00pm

Tuesday, 2/10 Tails and Trails 4-H Club Meeting, 1505 E Commercial Ave,
Lowell, 6:00pm

Thursday, 2/12 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm

Sunday, 2/15 RPFF 4-H Club Meeting, 183 S West Street, Crown Point, 5:00pm

Sunday, 2/15 St. John Spitfires 4-H Club Meeting,
Crown Point, 5:00pm

Tuesday, 2/17 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm

Thursday, 2/19 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm



UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

Friday, 2/20 Rockin' Clovers 4-H Club Meeting, 8651 W 93rd Ave, St. John, 6:00pm

Sunday, 2/22 Griffith Grinners 4-H Club Meeting, 202 W Pine St, Griffith, 3:00pm

Tuesday, 2/24 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm

Thursday, 2/26 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm

Monday, 3/2 Hobart Hurricanes 4-H Club Meeting,
301 E 10th St, Hobart, 6:00pm

Tuesday, 3/3 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm

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Schneider, 2:00pm

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Hebron, 4:00pm

Sunday, 3/8 RPFF 4-H Club Meeting, 183 S West Street, Crown Point, 5:00pm

Monday, 3/9 The Lone Ranger 4-H Club Meeting, 4613 E 109th Ave,
Crown Point, 7:00pm

Tuesday, 3/10 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm

Tuesday, 3/10 Happy Wranglers 4-H Club Meeting, 304 S 725 W, Hebron, 6:00pm

Tuesday, 3/10 Tails and Trails 4-H Club Meeting, 1505 E Commercial Ave,
Lowell, 6:00pm

Thursday, 3/12 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm

Sunday, 3/15 St. John Spitfires 4-H Club Meeting,
Crown Point, 5:00pm

Tuesday, 3/17 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm

Thursday, 3/19 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm

Friday, 3/20 Rockin' Clovers 4-H Club Meeting, 8651 W 93rd Ave, St. John, 6:00pm



UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

Sunday, 3/22 Griffith Grinners 4-H Club Meeting, 202 W Pine St, Griffith, 3:00pm

Tuesday, 3/24 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm

Thursday, 3/26 4-H Drone Club Meeting, 900 Gerry St, Gary, 3:45pm

If you have any club or project information that you'd like to share in the weekly email, please let 4-H Secretary Roz Adams rdcoleman@purdue.edu know by the 15th day of each month. See the online [Lake County 4-H Calendar](#) at for more upcoming events.

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If you are in need of accommodations to attend a program, please contact or Jennifer Haynes or Kasey Wilhoit at least 2 weeks before the event at (219) 755-3240 and jhaynes7@purdue.edu or kwilhoi@purdue.edu.

For special dietary needs please contact Jennifer Haynes or Kasey Wilhoit at least 2 weeks before the event at (219) 755-3240 and jhaynes7@purdue.edu or kwilhoi@purdue.edu.

If you need an interpreter or translator, please please contact Jennifer Haynes or Kasey Wilhoit at least 2 weeks before the event at (219) 755-3240 and jhaynes7@purdue.edu or kwilhoi@purdue.edu.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

See the complete Lake County 4-H Calendar and more at bit.ly/48sNJfj. If you are in need of accommodations to attend a program, please contact the Extension Educators at least 14 days prior to the meeting at 219-755-3240.