

ATTENTION EXTENSION - STEUBEN COUNTY

Winter 2026 Newsletter



Health & Human Sciences

Dana Stanley, dlstanle@purdue.edu

4-H Jr. Leaders

shopping for teens
around Steuben County!

4-H Youth Development

Kirby Douglass, douglakj@purdue.edu

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Emily Evers, everse@purdue.edu

Elysia Rodgers, eberry@purdue.edu

Located at

317 South Wayne St. Suite 1A

Angola, IN 46703

260-668-1000 ext. 1400

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Monday thru Friday



Purdue Extension
Steuben County

NEW AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATORS



Emily Evers serves as an Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator with Purdue Extension. She earned her degree in Agribusiness from Purdue University and recently completed her MBA. Emily grew up on a farm in Noble County, which helped shape her passion for agriculture. Her favorite programs include the Master Gardener and Junior Master Gardener programs, which help expand access to horticulture and local food system education within school systems and communities. She is excited to build strong relationships in Steuben County and support residents through practical, research-based programming.

*Welcome to
Steuben Co. Team!*



Elysia Rodgers is excited to help serve the residents of Steuben County through Purdue Extension. She lives just outside of Fremont and has worked with Purdue Extension for the past 16 years in DeKalb County, supporting farmers, families, and communities through education rooted in practical, research-based solutions. Elysia has been married to her husband, Guy, for 13 years, and together have one son, along with three "bonus" children from Guy's former marriage. Agriculture can be found in both Elysia's career and lifestyle. Her family raises and shows dairy goats and also raises dairy beef animals, poultry, hogs, and sheep, which keeps her closely connected to the realities of livestock production. Elysia's professional passions include livestock management and sustainable farming practices, with a strong focus on forage production as the foundation for healthy animals and resilient farms. "I look forward to building relationships, listening to local needs, and working together to support agriculture and community vitality in Steuben County."

New Year's Resolutions for Gardeners

By Karen Zaworski for Chicago Botanic Garden

Happy New Year, everyone! While January is the month to plan and dream about your yard and garden, smart gardeners know that a wish list drawn up in winter can feel overwhelming by spring. Instead, grow your garden a few steps at a time each year: pick five of these resolutions and plan accordingly. Next year, five more, and so on... until you've built the garden of your dreams.

- ~ Hang a bird feeder.
- ~ Build a compost bin.
- ~ Invest in an excellent pruner.
- ~ Order Seeds for heirloom tomatoes so you can grow your own.
- ~ Try a new plant combo that pleases you.
- ~ Prune a crabapple or pear tree into an espalier.
- ~ Ask your grandparents what they grew in their gardens.
- ~ Swap seeds with fellow gardeners at our Seed Swap
- ~ Build a raised bed.
- ~ Plant a fruit tree... or two.
- ~ Start a compost pile.
- ~ Test your soil.
- ~ Plant flowers in Pantone's color of the year: Cloud Dancer
- ~ Switch to organic fertilizers for your lawn.
- ~ Weave a native plants into your flower beds.
- ~ Save on grocery bills by planting your own herbs.
- ~ Take a vegetable gardening class in April.
- ~ Order a mushroom log and grow your own fungi.
- ~ Sign up for a community garden plot.
- ~ Add window boxes to your home, Fence, or balcony.
- ~ Install a rain barrel.
- ~ Plant more flowers for bees and pollinators.
- ~ Start a rain garden under your downspouts.
- ~ Invite your kids into the garden.

- ~ Plant milkweed from monarch butterflies.
- ~ Leave your grass clippings as natural mulch on your lawn.
- ~ Eat outside as often as possible.
- ~ Show a child how to plant sunflowers.
- ~ Support your local growers at farmers' markets.
- ~ Learn to recognize and appreciate a "good" bug.
- ~ Plant a climbing rose.
- ~ Plant turmeric in honor of the 2026 herb of the year.
- ~ Provide a water source for bees and butterflies.
- ~ Experiment with edible landscaping: mix vegetables and flowers together in beds and borders.
- ~ Transform a balcony or patio into a container garden.
- ~ Grow three new varieties of lettuce.
- ~ Rethink all that lawn.
- ~ Plant a berry-bearing tree or shrubs to feed the birds.
- ~ Share your veggie and flower harvest with the neighbors.
- ~ Preserve your vegetable harvest by learning how to can.
- ~ Rake and save fallen leaves for winter mulch for your garden beds.
- ~ Add a dwarf conifer to your yard.
- ~ Grow your own garlic.
- ~ Add allium balls in fall to deter deer
- ~ Save seeds from flowers and vegetables to plant next year.
- ~ Give plants as gifts all year long.

Happy gardening in the new year!



Master Gardeners

Do you love gardening? Are you interested in connecting with others who share your passion? Do you enjoy learning new skills and giving back through volunteering?

If you would like more information about Master Gardeners please contact our office!

AgrAbility National Training Workshop

This year's (NTW) will take place March 16-19, 2026, in Traverse City, Michigan. It's sure to be an exciting conference! Full information is available on the AgrAbility website at www.agrability.org/ntw. And again, the National AgrAbility Project is pleased to announce that we have some funding available for a limited number of travel stipends for farmers and ranchers impacted by disability and their caregivers. If you or someone you know fits that description and would be interested in receiving a stipend to attend the NTW, please read and follow the instructions below carefully.

Any farmer/rancher impacted by disability and interested in having a stipend to attend this year's NTW will need to click on the link in the paragraph above and then click on "STIPENDS" under the picture at the top of the page. As they scroll down, the details are there in the bullet points, and at the bottom of the page is the link to the Stipend Application. They must fill out the online application and, if for any reason they can't fill out the form online themselves, they can call me, Chuck Baldwin, at (574) 306-7329 and I will be happy to fill the form out for them as they respond to questions over the phone. Following an established priority protocol, stipends will be given first-come, first-served. So please don't wait until the January 5 deadline to get those stipend application forms filled out. Priority will be given to first-time applicants.

For questions or concerns, please contact me using my email address/phone in the signature below or, if you can't reach me, contact Tess McKeel at: tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org or by phone at 585-447-9015 (Office) or 585-953-8430 (Cell).



ServSafe Food Manager 1- Day Class and Examination

April 20th, 2026

ServSafe educates food service workers about food safety. ServSafe Food Protection Manager is their highest certification. It satisfies Indiana requirements to become a Certified Food Protection manager and focuses on five aspects:

- Foodborne microorganisms and allergens
- Personal hygiene
- Purchasing, receiving, and storage
- Preparing, cooking, and serving
- Facilities, cleaning/sanitation, and managing pests

The full 1-day training includes a manual and proctored exam. You must score 70 percent or greater to earn the certificate. The certification is valid for five years. A photo ID with signature is required to take the exam (driver license, state ID, student ID, military ID, employee ID, U.S. green card, or valid passport).

For more information go to:
www.purdue.edu/servsafe/workshops
Register at Cvent online: <https://cevent.me/Xa3k3Z>



Registration Deadline: 4/13/2026

Street Address: 317 S. Wayne St.

City: Angola

State: IN Zip: 46703

Training, Manual & Proctored Exam: \$165

Manual & Proctored Exam: \$115

Proctored Exam: \$65

Registration Time: 8:45am

Training Time: 9am to 4pm

Exam Time: 4pm EST

**Questions? Call Dana Stanley
Purdue Extension 260-668-1000x1400**

Parents Forever

Join us to explore practical strategies and valuable insights on how to communicate more effectively with your ex - whether your goal is to rebuild trust, maintain a healthy co-parenting relationship, or simply find closure. You'll learn helpful tips for managing emotions, setting boundaries, and having productive conversations that lead to mutual understanding.

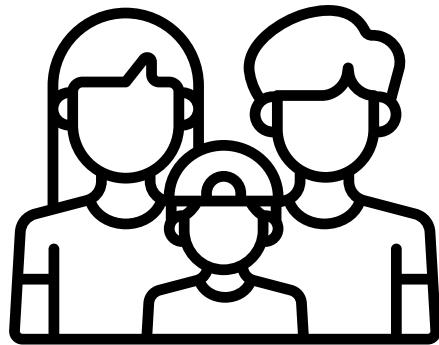
Date of Classes:

Jan. 20, 2025

Feb. 17, 2026

Mar. 17, 2026

Apr. 21, 2026



As the colder months approach, join our program to discover effective ways to prevent falls and protect your well-being. From simple exercises to safety strategies for your home, this program equips you with tools to stay active, independent, and confident all winter long.

Finding your Balance

**The 4 class series
Wednesday**

**January 14, 21, 28,
and February 4
2:00pm - 4:00pm**

**Cost is \$25 limited to
12 participants**

Steps to a Healthy You

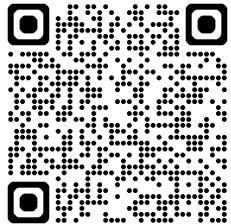


\$40

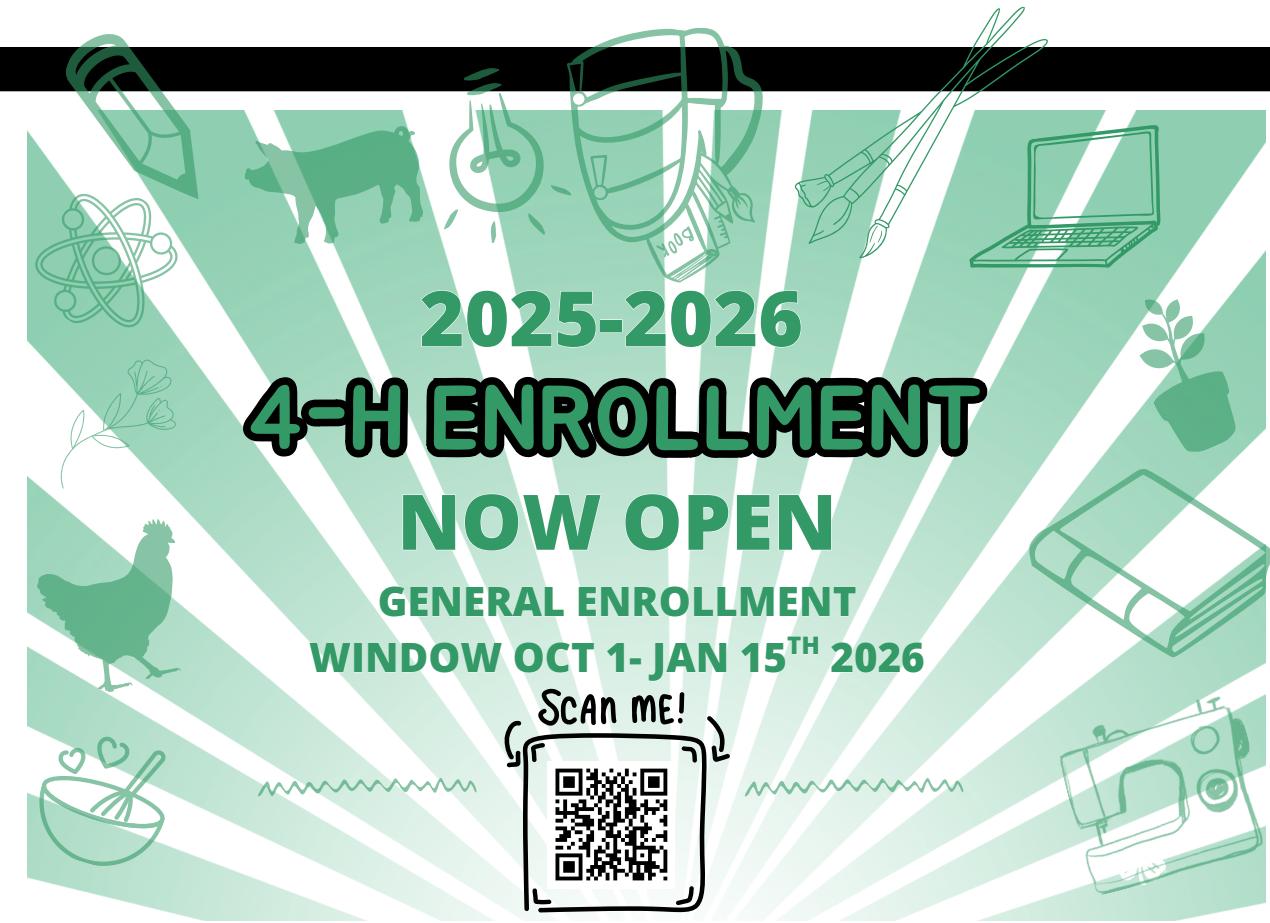
Location: Purdue Extension

4 Class Series
Thursday Date:
Jan. 15, 2026
Feb. 19, 2026
Mar. 19, 2026
Apr. 16, 2026
5-7 pm

Register two ways
At Purdue Extension
or scan qrcode



2025-2026
4-H ENROLLMENT
NOW OPEN
GENERAL ENROLLMENT
WINDOW OCT 1-JAN 15TH 2026



SAVE THE DATE

Steuben Co. 4-H Fair
June 19-25, 2026

100 Lane 101B Crooked Lake,
Angola, IN 46703



*We are so excited for you to be a part of
Steuben County 4-H! Here are some dates for
you to remember for the 2026 fair season.*

ID Days

Beef
March 15, 2026

Horse
April 26, 2026

Feeders, Sheep, & Goats
May 3, 2026

Pre-Fair

Return Worksheets
May 29, 2026

Fair Entry
June 3, 2026
@ fairentry.com

Fair

All Fair Clean Up
June 13, 2026
@ 9 AM

Post Fair Clean Up
June 27, 2026
@ 9 AM

ATTENTION FOOD TRUCK VENDORS

2026 Steuben Co. Fair

HAS FLEXIBLE
OPTIONS FOR FOOD
VENDOR TRUCKS,
INCLUDING DAILY
AND WEEKLY SPOTS.



**JUNE
19 - 25**

Please Contact Steuben Co. Purdue
Extension 4-H
at 260-668-1000 ext. 1400



4-H Camp Counselor Applications

SCAN
ME



Applications are due on Feb. 1, 2026

https://extension.purdue.edu/news/county/wells/2025/12/_docs/2026-camp-counselor-application.docx.pdf

Camp

@ Purdue
University



Round up

on June
10-12, 2026

& Academy

Be on the look out for more information!

**DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR HELPING OTHERS?
WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING VOLUNTEER SUPERINTENDENTS
AND INVITE YOU TO APPLY!
HERE ARE SOME OF OUR OPENING'S.**

Mini 4-H
4-H Resume
Communications
Consumer Clothing
Foods Alternative Cooking
Foods, Baked
Foods, Preserved
Genealogy
Model Craft

Needle Craft
Sewing
Sewing Fashion Revue
Shooting Sport
.22 Rifle
Air Rifle
Small Engine
Woodworking

Contact Kirby at douglakj@purdue.edu



4-H VOLUNTEERS

Don't forget to re-enroll at 4Honline. After completing your enrollment please go to the training tab. It will show "complete" when the training(s) are done in your profile.



Extension - 4-H Youth
Development



BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNER

Experience beekeeping,
and learn how to get
started with this
condensed 3-part series
held at:

Angola's Commons Hall,
501 S John St.
Angola, IN 46703

Register at Purdue Extension office
Cost of the entire series:
\$10 Per Adult
Free to ALL Youth



Class Dates:



February 14,
HISTORY OF BEEKEEPING
WHY KEEP BEES?
BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT
HIVE INABITANTS
BEEKEEPING OVERVIEW



February 21,
HIVE INSTALLATION
SPRING MANAGEMENT
HIVE CHECKS
WHAT IS NORMAL?
PESTS AND DISEASES
SUMMER MANAGEMENT
SWARMS & SUPERS



February 28,
LATE SUMMER,
FALL AND WINTER
MANAGEMENT
HONEY HARVESTING
HONEY AND BEE PRODUCTS
MARKETING
QUESTIONS AND
REVIEWS

9 AM - 12 PM

Scholarship Opportunity

2026



Extension - 4-H Youth
Development



4-H Accomplishment Scholarships

4-H Club Scholarship

4-H Senior Scholarship

10-12
Grade

Laurenz Greene Memorial Excellence in 4-H Horticulture Scholarship

Farmhouse Fraternity Achievement Scholarship

Farm Credit Scholarships

Michael McKinney "Hoosier Pride" Scholarship for Ag Studies

Apply at:

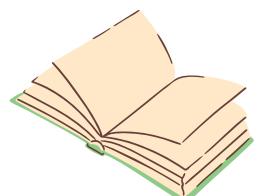
<https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/get-involved/scholarships.html>

Due by January 25th 2026



Community Foundation
Steuben County

Here are some to look for:



Greg Shively Memorial Scholarship

Kermit and Doris Rensch 4-H Scholarship

Leon Huss Memorial Scholarship

Steven "Chad" Shively Memorial Scholarship 2025



Apply at:

<https://www.steubenfoundation.org/students>

November 1, 2025 - January 15, 2026

Goal Setting

There are goals, and stretch goals—and then there are New Years resolutions, which are often extremely unrealistic. Resolutions are probably the most well-known and enduring of all New Years traditions (after raising a glass). Here in the U.S. making New Year's resolutions is more popular among young people than older adults. A Pew Research Center survey found that of those who made resolutions last year, 49% fell between the ages of 18 and 29.

Perhaps we oldsters have had so many bitter experiences with failed expectations, we've simply given up.

James Clear, the author of *Atomic Habits**, has good advice for making changes in our lives: The Goldilocks Rule. "...humans experience peak levels of motivation when working on tasks of just manageable difficulty. Not too hard, not too easy, just right." For example, if your goal is "getting organized," you are more likely to succeed in clearing your desk every day, than in doing

everything it will take to be organized. Clear lists the steps it takes to establish the new habit, as well as the time needed, usually six to eight weeks.

Once you are routinely getting up in the morning to a clean desk you can tackle another goal, maybe emptying the "to be filed" folder as part of "getting organized." Or maybe it will be incorporating a second vegetable in your menus as part of "eating better."

The most important thing is do not quit! Change is hard enough. Don't beat yourself up if it takes longer than you hoped.

Did you know there is a special day for people who give up on their New Year's resolutions? The second Friday in January is informally known as Quitters Day. Which seems awfully close to January first—not at all near the six weeks needed.

**Atomic Habits* and *The Atomic Habits Workbook* are available from Carnegie Library as e-books.

Happy
New Year



If you would like more information, please reach out to one of the ladies.
President - Margaret Burrell - 260-243-6551
Vice President - Vicki Foster - 1toryfoster@gmail.com
Secretary/Treasurer - Phyllis Tilbury - phyllis.tilbury@hotmail.com

Steuben County - Purdue Extension

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Angola, IN 46703

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Happy New Year!

From your Purdue Extension Team

