



Purdue Extension launches Transformation

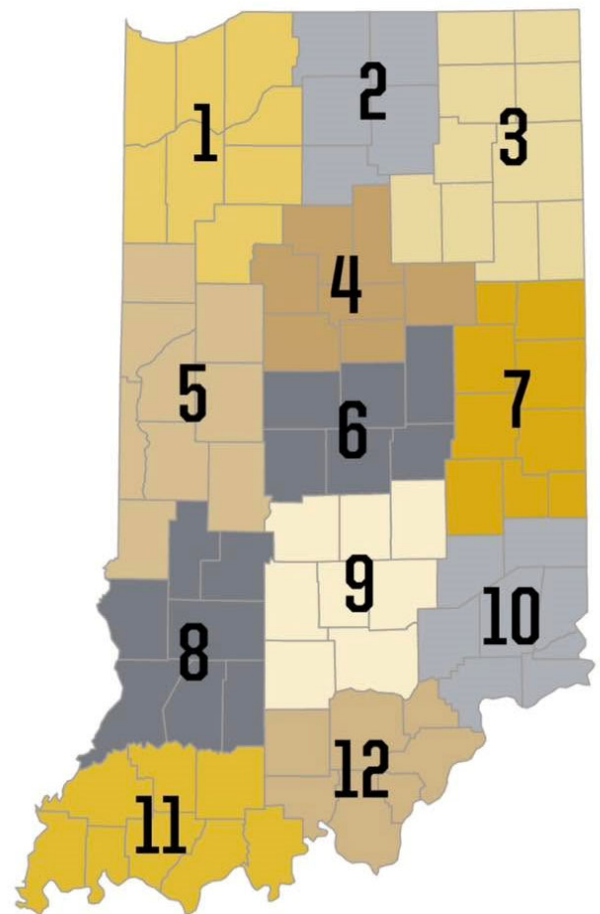
For over a century, Purdue Extension has combined the research and expertise of Purdue University with the skills of its educators and specialists to meet the needs of Indiana's ever-changing landscape. This year, Purdue Extension is taking these efforts to the next level by undergoing a transformation that is both adaptable and sustainable.

Purdue Extension began to prepare for the reorganization by introducing the transformation to west-central and east-central Indiana in summer 2025. Extension employees, volunteers and others have been included in discussions and provided feedback about the change.

"What we are learning is that this change has multiple potential benefits for our stakeholders and Extension employees," said Bernie Engel, the Glenn W. Sample Dean of Agriculture. "Extension staff members are being given the chance to deepen and focus on their areas of expertise and regions are being offered new learning opportunities."

Purdue Extension will transform to a statewide organizational structure with 12 regions with a county level 4-H presence. Extension field staff and campus-based specialists will continue to partner with communities, provide needed services and capitalize on the connection to Purdue. Sullivan County is in Region 8 with six other counties: Clay, Daviess, Greene, Knox, Martin, and Owen.

For more information, feel free to contact the Sullivan County Extension office at 812-268-4332 or by emailing sullivan@purdue.edu.



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Growing Through 4-H: From Member to Summer Assistant

By: Kaycee Gofourth, Sullivan County Purdue Extension Summer Assistant 2026

When I set foot on the fairgrounds as the summer intern this May, I was hit with a wave of nostalgia. Suddenly, I could see over 10 years of unforgettable memories flashing before my eyes. They consisted of everything from long, hard hours working on my projects to late



nights with my friends during fair week. If you told 9-year-old me that 20-year-old me would be part of creating the very experiences that shaped who I am, I would not have believed you. I have always known that 4-H goes far beyond turning in a project or showing an animal, but this summer has made me appreciate it in an immeasurable way.

Growing up, 4-H was big in my household. I started with Mini 4-H when I was in kindergarten, then jumped right in once I finally hit third grade. My favorite projects were scrapbooking and goats. Scrapbooking taught me time management, budgeting, organization, and creativity. Having goats taught me how to care for something other than myself, quick problem solving, and discipline. I put a lot of time into my projects, but I was also very involved with my club, Grand Champion Sycamores. Over my 10 years, I served as the Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Combining all those aspects, I learned responsibility, communication, leadership, and goal setting. These are valuable life skills that I have continued to carry with me through college and into my professional experiences.

(Continued on page 3)

Purdue Extension Mission

We deliver practical, research-based information that enhances lives and livelihoods.

Purdue Extension Vision

We will be a leader in providing relevant, high-impact educational programs that transform the lives and livelihoods of individuals and communities in Indiana and the world.



Extension - Sullivan County

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This summer, I had the opportunity to serve as the Sullivan County Purdue Extension Summer Assistant. My role shifted from participating in events, to working alongside the staff and volunteers who invested in my own 4-H experience. I spent my time preparing materials for judges and superintendents, organizing events, assisting families, and supporting 4-H members.

Although my responsibilities had changed, the foundation for my success had not. The lessons I learned as a member were evident in many aspects of my work, whether I was answering questions from parents, communicating with volunteers, or adapting when plans unexpectedly changed. Years of 4-H participation made success attainable because I had found confidence and consistency in my work ethic. Seeing 4-H from behind-the-scenes gave me an entirely new appreciation for the volunteers that dedicate their time to making this organization a meaningful part of our community.

From member to intern, the impact this organization has had on my life has continued to grow. Through 4-H, serving others has become one of my greatest passions, and I now feel prepared for future career opportunities. My hope is that every young person who participates in our community discovers the same meaningful friendships, confidence, and lifelong skills as I did. 4-H is more than a project, it is an opportunity to change the trajectory of a child's life.



Indiana Extension Homemakers Association

Sullivan County President's Message

Thank you to everyone who ate at the Homemakers Food Stand during the fair. In addition to providing great meals and desserts, it a great time for us do some visiting.

Thanks for all the donations with an extra special thanks to those who donated eggs. Amazing fact - we used over 20 dozen eggs to make noodles.

We are planning some workshops for late fall and winter. As always we will be hosting the Christmas Bazaar on Tuesday November 17. More information will follow.



— Becky Cole, Sullivan County Extension Homemakers President



Sullivan County Master Naturalist Fall Class 2026

Purdue Extension Sullivan County, in partnership with the Sullivan County Soil and Water Conservation District, is excited to offer the upcoming Sullivan County Master Naturalist Program!

This evening course will meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00–8:00 p.m., October 5 through November 11, and will provide participants with the opportunity to learn more about Indiana's natural resources, wildlife, ecology, and conservation.

Throughout the course, participants will take part in engaging educational sessions led by local experts and explore a variety of topics related to the natural world. Whether you're looking to expand your knowledge, connect with other nature enthusiasts, or become more involved as a volunteer in your community, the Master Naturalist Program has something for you!

Registration is open now, and space is limited. We encourage anyone with an interest in Indiana's natural resources and environment to consider joining us for this exciting program.

For more information or questions, contact Bailey Draper at bldraper@purdue.edu or 812-268-4332, or Kennedy Sater at sullivan-swcd@iaswcd.org or 812-268-5157 ext. 3.

JOIN US FOR THE SULLIVAN COUNTY

INDIANA MASTER NATURALIST CLASS



FALL 2026

- learn from the areas most knowledgeable conservationists
- Graduate as an IMN
- Join the Sullivan Co. IMN Alumni Club
- Gain a community of nature minded people
- Make a difference in your community!

Dates: Monday and Wednesday each week, October 5th through November 11th

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Sullivan County 4-H Fairgrounds or field trip location

Registration Fee: \$25

Register Here: <https://forms.gle/MYmuaXuwFNFACiSs7>



sullivan-swcd@iaswcd.org 812-268-5157x3



bldraper@purdue.edu 812-268-4332

Tools for Effective Facilitation

This three-day class, presented by a team of Purdue Extension Community Development Educators, focuses on creating an inclusive culture of collaborative learning in teams, communities, and organizations.



It is suitable for both new and experienced leaders, managers, facilitators, and graduate students who wish to develop or enhance their facilitation skills.

Place: MADE@Plainfield
1610 Reeves Road, Plainfield, IN.

Schedule

Day 1: Tuesday, Nov. 10 (9:30 am-6 pm ET)

Day 2: Wednesday, Nov. 11 (8 am-6 pm ET)

Day 3: Thursday, Nov. 12 (8 am-3:30 pm ET)

Class size is limited. This allows each participant time to practice facilitating and receive coaching and feedback in small groups. Due to the focused nature of the workshop, participants are asked to participate fully for the three days without engaging in phone calls, meetings, and other interruptions that diminish the learning experience for all.

The cost of this workshop includes lunch on all three days and all materials for \$725. (The registration fee does not include lodging or dinners.)

If not commuting, please make your hotel reservations separately with the Staybridge Suites Airport-Plainfield, 6296 Cambridge Way, Plainfield, IN 46168, by calling 317-839-2700 and using

group code FAC. Studio Suites with one Queen bed are \$109.00 per night plus taxes and fees. One-bedroom King/Double suites are \$112.00 per night plus taxes and fees. Reservations should be made by Oct. 25,

2026, to receive the block rate.

Once capacity is reached, registration for the workshop will be closed, and a waitlist will be started.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/4zPk8dn>

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If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program, please contact Kym Schwinkendorf prior to the meeting at 219-386-5232 or kschwink@purdue.edu by October 26, 2026.

For special dietary needs contact Kym Schwinkendorf at 219-386-5232 or kschwink@purdue.edu by October 26, 2026.

If you need an interpreter or translator, please contact Kym Schwinkendorf prior to the meeting at 219-386-5232 or kschwink@purdue.edu by October 26, 2026.

Cheryl Casselman, Purdue Extension Sullivan County Educator, has participated in this program and highly recommends it. Please contact her if you have questions about this class at 812-268-4332, ccassel@purdue.edu.

SEPTEMBER

2026

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Youth Department

Story Time

Our Story Time meets on Monday & Thursday each week at 10:30 am. It is tailored to younger patrons age 5 and under, although older siblings are always welcome! Our regular schedule includes stories, crafts, games and more!

Arts & Crafts

Elementary aged students will enjoy a creative time with friends each Monday at 4 pm at the Sullivan branch. Projects range from drawing and painting to seasonal crafts.

Story Seekers

Story Seekers meets each Tuesday afternoon at 4 pm. 2nd-6th graders will enjoy a Story Time from a chapter book together, as well as some writing and hands on activities.

Jr. Book Club

Join us for a time of discussion twice a month at our regular Book Club meeting. Students will read the assigned chapters in the current book at home and come together to discuss. Book Club is best suited to children age 3rd grade & up.

Jigsaw Showdown

A puzzle challenge family night. Teams of 4-6 will face off to see who can complete their puzzle first. Best for children age 6 and up. *Must Register Online.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Story Seekers 4 pm	2 Merom Branch Arts & Crafts 3:30-4:30 pm	3 Night Sky Story Time 10:30 am The Great Jigsaw Showdown** 5:30-7 pm	4	5
6	7 Library Closed Labor Day	8 Carlisle Branch Arts & Crafts 3:30-4:30 pm Story Seekers 4 pm	9 Jr. Book Club 4 pm	10 Bears & Berries Story Time 10:30 am	11	12
13	14 Apple Story Time 10:30 am Arts & Crafts 4 pm	15 Story Seekers 4 pm	16	17 Apple Story Time 10:30 am	18	19 Library Closed Corn Festival Parade
20	21 Squirrel Story Time 10:30 am Arts & Crafts 4 pm	22 Story Seekers 4 pm	23 Dugger Branch Arts & Crafts 3:30-4:30 pm Jr. Book Club 4 pm	24 Squirrel Story Time 10:30 am	25	26
27	28 Sweet Honey Story Time 10:30 am Arts & Crafts 4 pm	29 Story Seekers 4 pm	30 Tween/Teen Art Club 4 pm Farmersburg Branch Arts & Crafts 3:30-4:30 pm			

Branch Color Key:

Sullivan
Carlisle
Dugger
Farmersburg
Merom
** Must Register Online

Weed Wrangles

Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District

weed wrangle 2026

CISMA

June 26th

July 24th

August 28th

September 25th

October 30th

November 20th

Location: Shakamak State Park

Time: 9 - 11:30 am

Park Fee: Waived for volunteers who sign up!

Email or call to sign up today! →

sullivan-swcd@jaswcd.org
sullivancountyswcd.org
812-268-5157x3

Clover Monthly September 2026

Sullivan County 4-H monthly communication for 4-H members, families, leaders, fair board, and council.

Important dates

- **Achievement Awards Essay:** Due September 4, at 4:00 p.m to the Extension Office.
 - **Office Closed:** September 7 for Labor Day
 - **Corn Festival Parade:** September 19, arrive 12:45p.m.
 - **Handbook Changes/Updates Due:** October 1
 - **Sullivan County 4-H Council Fish Fry Fundraiser:** October 3
 - **National 4-H Week:** October 4-10
 - **Achievement Program:** November 1, 2 p.m.
-

Project Pick-Up

If the Extension Office delivered and picked up your State Fair project, please stop by the office to pick it up as soon as possible. If you picked up your own State Fair project, please stop in the office to pick up your ribbon, judge comment sheet, and State Fair pin.

Important: All Indiana State Fair and Sullivan County 4-H Fair projects that have not been picked up by November 1 will be disposed of.

Sullivan County 4-H Post-Fair Survey

Unable to attend the post-fair meeting but still have feedback to share? Whether you have suggestions, compliments, concerns, or new ideas, we'd love to hear from you! Your input helps us continue improving the Sullivan County 4-H Fair and make it an even better experience for everyone. Take a few minutes to complete our post-fair survey and let us know what you think!

<https://bit.ly/4wWueaj>



You can represent Sullivan County 4-H in the Corn Festival Parade!

4-H in Corn Festival Parade

We will be walking in the Corn Festival Parade on September 19 starting at 1:00 pm. Meet in the parade line up in the north parking lot at Sullivan High School in front of the Student Activity Building (SAC) by 12:45 pm. Wear your favorite 4-H t-shirt, bring some candy to throw and join us! We will be handing out candy and information on joining 4-H. 4-H members, Mini 4-H members, adult volunteers, and parents are welcome to walk with us. Pick up at Sullivan Dollar General at the end of the parade route.



4-H at Sullivan FFA Fright Night

Come see us at Sullivan AG Barn (red barn behind Sullivan Middle School) on Friday, October 30th for Fright Night for fun activities and to learn more about 4-H. Open to all youth in Sullivan County.

4-H Dairy Goat Exhibitors

Check out the 2026 Accelerate Dairy Goat Convention and hear from many dairy goat professionals!

ADGA

YOUTH WEEKEND

CONNECT | LEARN | LEAD



Join youth from across the nation for a weekend of education, hands on learning, and fun!



NETWORK

Connect with dairy goat youth from across the country. Build friendships that last!



GAIN KNOWLEDGE

- Herd management
- Nutrition
- Reproduction
- Kid rearing
- Industry best practices



DEVELOP SKILLS

- Teamwork
- Leadership
- Problem-solving
- Communication



HANDS-ON LEARNING

- Live ultrasound demonstrations
- Interactive activities
- Practical experiences



FOR EVERY YOUTH

Whether you're new to dairy goats or an experienced exhibitor, there's something for everyone!



SCAN ME!



BE PART OF *Something Bigger!*

The ADGA Youth Program is designed to inspire the next generation of dairy goat enthusiasts while building lifelong skills and connections.



NATIONAL CONVENTION
INDIANAPOLIS, IN



OCTOBER 10-11
FULL CONVENTION DATES
OCTOBER 10-15, 2026

LEARN MORE ~ REGISTER TODAY



<https://convention.adga.org/about-the-adga-convention-youth-program/>



Help us plan our 2026–2027 4-H Workshops!

What workshops would you like to see offered during the upcoming 4-H year?

We'd love to hear your ideas! Drop your suggestions in the Qualtrics form.

https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8J6Lxp0ZjoOkneC



Know someone who has a skill or talent they'd be willing to share with our 4-H members? We'd love to hear from them, too! If you or someone you know is interested in teaching a workshop, please reach out to Bailey at bldraper@purdue.edu or call the Extension Office at 812-268-4332.

YES (Youth Engaged Service) Grants offer funds for youth in grades 7-12 across Indiana to complete a service project in their community. The purpose of these grants is to assess the need, then create and execute a youth-led project. You can even invite your friends to join in!

Adults may advise, but youth need to take ownership of their project by completing their application, filling out their budget sheet, and compiling their final report with minimal adult intervention.

We also encourage group participation in the service projects, including younger children who may want to lead their own project one day! Clubs with members of all ages are encouraged to apply as long as the **YOUTH LEAD** is in grade 7-12.



Sullivan County

Indiana State Fair Static Project Stats

Static Projects Sent to State Fair: 123

State 4-H Leader's Choice Award: 1

Orange Special Merit Ribbons: 18

Blue : 80

Red: 21

White: 3

Machara Smith, a Sullivan County 9th grade member of Curry Nomads, received a State 4-H Leaders Choice Award for her Advanced Computer project Parrot model. Her project will be on display over the next year at Purdue University in the State 4-H Office in the Agricultural Administration Building.

2026 Sullivan County 4-H Achievement Awards

The 2026 Sullivan County 4-H Achievement Award medal and plaque recipients have been selected by 4-H project superintendents, adult club leaders, and 4-H Council members. Beginning two years ago, members no longer apply for these county achievement awards. Instead, recipients are selected by volunteers during the fair based on their accomplishments and involvement.

Applications are still being accepted for the following three awards:

Achievement Award:

The Achievement Award, also known as the Premier Achievement Accomplishment Award, is the highest overall accomplishment awarded in Indiana 4-H. It recognizes members who have demonstrated excellence across multiple 4-H project areas rather than excelling in just one subject area. It celebrates a member's overall 4-H experience, including their growth, involvement, leadership, and accomplishments throughout their 4-H career.

Citizenship Award:

The Indiana 4-H Citizenship Award recognizes 4-H members who have made a meaningful impact through community service, civic engagement, and helping others throughout their 4-H career. This award honors members who have demonstrated outstanding citizenship by volunteering their time, serving their communities, and making a positive difference both within and beyond the 4-H program. It focuses on the member's commitment to service and giving back to others.

National Leadership (I Dare You) Award:

The National Leadership (I Dare You) Award recognizes emerging 4-H leaders who have the character, integrity, and potential to make a positive impact on those around them. This award is designed for members who demonstrate responsibility, strong values, and a willingness to serve and lead, even if they are just beginning to grow into leadership roles. It celebrates young people who show promise as future leaders and encourages them to continue developing their leadership skills both within 4-H and in their communities. 4-Hers can only receive this award once.

Application Requirements:

- Submit an essay of one to three paragraphs explaining why you deserve to be selected for the award(s).
- Members may apply for one, two, or all three awards.
- Essays must be submitted by September 4, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.
- Please do not email applications. Essays should be delivered to the Extension Office or placed in the Extension Office drop box located across the street from the office.

Achievement Awards Program:

The Achievement Awards program will be Sunday, November 1, 2026, in the 4-H Building at 2 p.m. Invitations will be mailed to those who will be receiving an award. For more information, contact the Extension office at 812-268-4332.

Send Thank You Notes

A big part of the 4-H experience is taking the time to show appreciation to the people who help make your projects and experiences possible. Don't forget to send a thank-you note!

Thank those who supported you throughout the year, including your parents/guardians, 4-H club leaders, project superintendents, 4-H Council members, Fair Board members, sponsors and other volunteers or supporters who helped along the way.

A simple, handwritten note can go a long way in letting someone know that their time, encouragement, and support are appreciated. It's also a great way to practice the life skills of gratitude, communication, and good manners; skills that you can carry with you far beyond 4-H!

Need help finding an address or writing your thank-you note? Contact the Sullivan County Purdue Extension Office at 812-268-4332 or sullivances@purdue.edu.

4-H Enrollment for 2026-2027 program year opens in early October!

The 4-H program year runs from October 1 to September 30.

Starting in early October, parents can go into 4HOnline (<https://v2.4honline.com>) to enroll/re-enroll their children in 4-H for 2027 fair.

Grades as of January 1, 2027 for participants in 4-H.

- Mini 4-H is Kindergarten through 2nd grades.
- Regular 4-H is 3rd-12th grade.
- Junior Leaders is for youth in 7th-12th grade.

Cost to participate in 4-H:

- Mini 4-H is free.
- Regular 4-H cost is \$15.
- Thanks to the Mike Sprinkle Memorial Fund, all 4-Hers who complete their first year of 4-H will be reimbursed \$15 with their project premium money after the 2026 Sullivan County 4-H Fair
- Please pay online or cash or check at the Extension Office.

Checks payable to: Purdue University.

If you need assistance, please contact the Extension office.

NEW 4-H FUNDRAISER!

Save the Date

Sullivan County 4-H Council Jonah Fish Fry



OCTOBER 2026

FRI	SAT	SUN
2	3 LOCATION: 4-H BUILDING TIME: 4:00PM-7:00PM	4