

4-H LINK Newsletter

April 2026



Purdue Extension - Vanderburgh County, 13301 Darmstadt Rd. Suite A Evansville IN 47725
(812) 867-4935 <http://extension.purdue.edu/vanderburgh>

4-H CAMP

We know many of you are eagerly awaiting registration for 4-H Camp—thank you for your patience! We anticipate opening registration within the next week and will share details via email, so please keep an eye out.

As we work to secure additional chaperones to ensure a safe and well-supervised experience for all youth, the registration timeline has been slightly delayed. Camp will be held June 1-3 at the Historic Santa Claus Campground in Santa Claus, Indiana, and is open to youth in grades 3-6. Space is limited, so we encourage you to register as soon as enrollment opens!



4-H Ambassadors



Are you looking for new ways to improve your leadership skills? The Indiana 4-H Ambassador Program is for youth in grades 9-11 that have been a 4-H member for at least 2 years. Don't miss out on the chance to mentor younger 4-H'ers and help conduct statewide 4-H events. Learn more at purdue.ag/ambassadors4h, and apply at purdue.ag/4HAmbassador26 by April 15.

HANDBOOK

The 4-H Handbook is now available online! Click to access it. All 4-H families will receive a hard copy of the 4-H Handbook from their primary club leader.



17

18
Check out our new 4-H shared calendar that has ALL 4-H events and club meetings on it! Click [here](#) to access!

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for caring adults that can serve as Assistant Superintendents for Arts & Crafts - Help organize during project check-in and check-out

Contact Megan Hoffherr at mkron@purdue.edu if you're interested in learning more





PAPER CLOVER

**APRIL 17
THRU
MAY 3, 2026**

Funds support 4-H camp, scholarships & leadership activities.



TRACTOR SUPPLY CO.

Volunteer Opportunity

The Indiana Association of Fairs is hosting a **FREE "You Make the Difference" Tour with Ian Hill** this April. This opportunity is designed to inspire and support fair leaders, volunteers, and youth leaders. **April 8 6:00 - 9:30 pm, Vanderburgh 4-H Center**
Register [here](#).

Project Supplies

- Poster Backing: \$1.00
- Poster and Salon Print Sleeves: \$1.00
- Electric Circuit Board Kit: \$18.75
- Electric Shake Light Kit: \$20.50
- Electric Trouble Light Kit: \$31.50
- Electric Extension Cord Kit: \$21.50
- Fluorescent Trouble Light Head Only: \$22
- Electric Complete Lamp Kit: \$27
- Entomology Pins: \$6
- Insect Boxes \$40
- How to Study, Collect, Preserve and Identify Insects: \$5

Purchase items at the Purdue Extension Office.



New 4-H Projects!

4-H My Way

Show how you live the pledge in any activity! Bring a notebook, poster, display or video showing what you like to do outside of 4-H. Ideas include video gaming, welding, sports, academic super bowl, etc. How has 4-H helped you succeed in other areas? We'd love to see!



4-H Pass It On

Do you have a parent, grandparent, or other mentor that has helped you learn a new skill? Bring a notebook, poster, display, or video showing what they taught you that isn't already another 4-H project. Topics could include cooking, garage skills, etc.

Why 4-H?

Show us why you love 4-H! Create a video showing a 4-H activity/project you participate in. Ideas could include showing an animal, being a club officer, going to State Fair, going on a 4-H trip, participating in a contest. Why do you love 4-H?

Want to add one of these projects? Add it to your project list in 4-H Online or contact the Extension Office to add it. We can't wait to see the new projects!

Vanderburgh County 4-H

Performing Arts Contest

An Evening of Talent, Creativity & 4-H Spirit!

April 29 | 6:00 PM

4-H Center Auditorium

Register by April 15!

Participate in the musical, non musical, or group division

Register using the QR code or by visiting:

<https://tinyurl.com/4hperformingarts2026>

There will be no area contest in 2026 and if you're interested in performing at the state level, see the flyer below.



Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access University. If you are in need of accommodations or an interpreter or translator to attend this program, please contact Megan Hoffherr prior to the meeting at (812) 867-4935 or mkron@purdue.edu by April 15

STATE 4-H PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE



SEND IN YOUR VIDEO TODAY!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Curtain Acts: Musical and Non-Musical

- 1-4 performers
- 3-5 minutes
- Instrumental, vocal, bands, skits, magic, dance, lip sync, 4-H cheerleading

Group Acts

- 5 or more performers
- 5-8 minutes
- Skits, dance, choral, lip sync

Send a link to your unlisted YouTube video to Jennifer Abrell at jlabrell@purdue.edu BEFORE April 29. Winners will be notified by May 20.

Winners will be invited to perform at Round Up and Academy on the evening of June 10.

Deadline for video: April 29, 2026

send link of UNLISTED YouTube video to:

jlabrell@purdue.edu



Email Megan at mkron@purdue.edu for the application

Beyond Ready

Graduating Senior Survey



2026 4-H grads, Indiana 4-H wants to hear about your 4-H experience! Please complete a survey to capture the culmination and impact of your 4-H activities. Information from your survey will be used to feature you as a 4-H graduating member for the county via newsletters, bulletin boards, social media posts, etc. Those who complete the survey will receive a 4-H graduation tassel."

puext.in/2026_4H_Graduating_Member_Survey

Animal News

TAGGING DAY

Saturday, May 2
9:00 - 11:00 am

Vanderburgh 4-H Center Animal Barns

Beef, Meat Goat, and Sheep exhibitors are required to attend a Tagging Day to receive tags for your animals.



Please complete the survey at <https://tinyurl.com/26> Tagging to help us plan for Tagging Day



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Animal Identification

Plan ahead to complete your animal ID information before the deadline below:

May 15, 2026

Beef, Dairy, Dairy Goats, Horse & Pony, Llamas, Meat Goats, Pygmy Goats, Rabbits Sheep, and Swine via 4-H Online

Poultry via Google Form

Animals not enrolled by these deadlines cannot be exhibited at the County or State Fair.



Extension - Vanderburgh County

INDIANA 4-H QUALITY LIVESTOCK CARE

To exhibit BEEF CATTLE, DAIRY CATTLE, SWINE, SHEEP, MEAT GOATS, DAIRY GOATS, PYGMY GOATS, POULTRY, and RABBITS, 4-H members must be certified through the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care training OR the online Youth for the Quality Care of Animals program (YQCA) by **July 1, 2026**.

This certification must be done an annual basis. Members must be registered BEFORE attending a training. Members may attend any training dates listed on this flyer OR a training in another county OR complete the online YQCA training

Tues, Mar 17
6:15 pm (After Livestock Club)
Salem Church

Thurs, May 28
3:00 pm
Purdue Extension Office

Wed, June 17
3:00 pm
Purdue Extension Office

Mon, June 29
6:00 pm
4-H Center Conference Room

Visit <https://qlc26.4honline.com> to register. The cost is \$3.

To be certified through YQCA, register at www.yqcaprogram.org and present completion certificate to 4-H Educator.



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Vanderburgh Co. 4-H presents

DISCOVER THE FUN OF RABBITS!

**Saturday, April 25
9:00 - 10:30 am
4-H Center Small
Animal Barn**

Curious about rabbits or just want to grow in your project? Learn about rabbit breeds, care and handling of your rabbit, and showmanship. Bring your rabbit if you have one, or we will have some available for handling to give you experience. Rabbit tattooing will be available.

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Vanderburgh County 4-H



Poultry Workshop

Join us to learn helpful tips and tricks for the poultry project and parents will receive guidance and support with completing the necessary paperwork.

**Thursday, April 30
6:00 pm
Vanderburgh 4-H Center
Conference Room**



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Animal ID Letters

Animal ID letters were mailed and emailed to everyone enrolled in 4-H and signed up for a livestock species. If you didn't receive one, let our office know so we can make sure you are enrolled in 4-H. You can find the letters [here](#) under Livestock Resources, Shows, Judging Opportunities, and Workshops.

Livestock 101 Series

Are you new to the 4-H livestock program, or just want a better understanding of how everything works? Check out the Indiana 4-H Livestock 101 series:

- April 9-Session 1: Livestock Tagging Requirements
- April 16-Session 2: Talk with a Veterinarian
- April 23-Session 3: 4-H Online & May 15 Deadline
- April 30-Session 4: Navigating Fair Entry

Register here: <https://2026livestock101.4honline.com>

If you have any questions about the series or the livestock program, feel free to reach out to Julie Wilson jelsbury@purdue.edu



Swine Pen Fundraiser



We are raising money for new swine and goat pens to ensure members and animals have a safe and functional environment at fair. We have secured enough funding to purchase goat pens and are raising money for new swine pens. If you know of any businesses or families willing to donate, please share this with them.

Sponsorship Levels:

- Sweepstakes Sponsor: \$5,000+
- Grand Champion Sponsor: \$2500 - \$4999
- Reserve Grand Champion Sponsor: \$1,000 - \$2499
- Honorable Mention Sponsor: \$300 - \$999
- Honorable Mention Sponsor: Up to \$299

Find out more details with the fundraising letter found [here](#). Your donation, no matter the size, will have a significant impact on our 4-H community. Thank you for your consideration!

Swine Tags



The USDA's APHIS is offering no-cost RFID tags to swine exhibitors to enhance disease response. We have these free tags available based on our swine exhibition number from last year. 4-H members can pick up a tag for each of their 4-H swine while supplies last.

VANDERBURGH COUNTY 4-H

AG DAYS

APRIL 7 & 8 AT THE
VANDERBURGH
4-H CENTER



We are looking for older 4-H members (7th - 12th grade) willing to speak and/or bring animals to Ag Days! At this event, nearly 500 4th graders come to learn about agriculture by rotating through 15 minute hands-on stations about animals, crops, tractors, beekeeping, plant science, and more. This is a great opportunity to practice your public speaking skills and share your passion and knowledge of agriculture with 4th grade students!

Sign up for one or both days at <https://tinyurl.com/AgDays26>. Presenters need to be there from 8:30 am - 3:00 pm. Help is also needed with set-up at 1:00 pm on April 6 and clean-up.

Questions? Contact Taylor at tvanmet@purdue.edu or Megan at mkron@purdue.edu.

Vanderburgh County 4-H

AG DAYS



Join our Vanderburgh County 4-H members for an informative and exciting afternoon of all things ag!

Vanderburgh County 4-H is hosting Ag Days for homeschool students and the community!

Participants will have the opportunity to see, touch, hear, smell and taste the wonders of our local agriculture!



Tuesday April 7th or
Wednesday April 8th



Vanderburgh 4-H Center
201 Boonville New Harmony Rd.
Evansville IN 47725



1-3pm both days

SIGN UP HERE!



Your support on Purdue Day Of Giving can make "Xtra Special" victories possible for Vanderburgh County 4-H! Be a Boilermaker hero by joining us April 29! Counties can win additional monetary prizes based on the number of gifts. Get the details at <https://dayofgiving.purdue.edu>.

CHECK OUT VANDERBURGH CO. 4-H



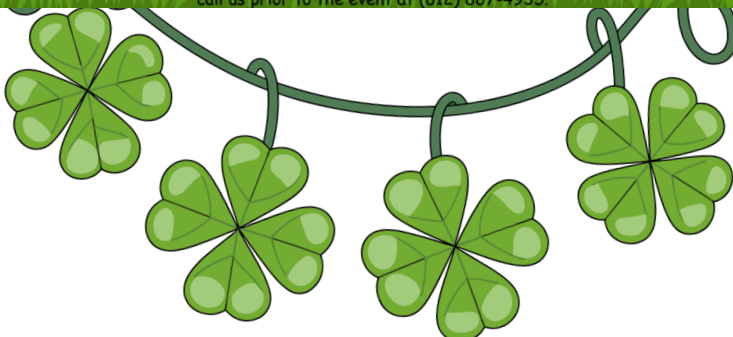
@4HVanderburghCo



@4HVanderburgh



Purdue Extension -
Vanderburgh County



4-H & Club News

Armstrong Hi-Lighters

The Armstrong Hi-Lighters met on March 3. The program "Everything Soybeans" by Dave Brenner followed the business of the meeting. As we learned about the Soybean Life Cycle we made keychains. We also made Soy Plastic from soybean oil. We donated to the Tri-State Food Bank as our March Community Service Project.



Centerrific: March Meeting Notes

- Got our 4-H project books, please double check your project and requirements since they have changed. Add/delete until June but don't wait that long.
- Azzip April 14th NorthPark Only
 - June 1-3 4-H Camp
- Chemo Buddies gave us a Thank You note for the hand made blankets
- use Spring Break as opportunity to start on your projects if you can.
- next meeting April 13th should be helping with community service and spreading mulch.
- welcomed new member Leo Adler
- today was Pizza and Game Board Night (pictures below)



Ignite by 4-H

Maddie Bedel & Austin Groening traveled to Washington DC for the Ignite by 4-H, a national teen summit designed for high schoolers to explore careers, build leadership skills, and connect with peers nationwide.



Teen Leadership Weekend

We had a great group of youth that attended the Teen Leadership Weekend. Held annually, this conference is designed for youth in grades 7-12 who are ready to take their leadership journey to the next level. With a focus on personal growth, teamwork, and service, the weekend empowers youth to step into leadership roles, develop practical skills, and create lasting memories!



Volunteer Appreciation

PICNIC



FOOD - GAMES - MOVIE

JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT OF
CELEBRATING OUR 4-H VOLUNTEERS!

THURSDAY

4

JUNE

VANDEBURGH 4-H CENTER

6-10 PM

BRING A LAWN CHAIR

SPONSORED BY JR. LEADERS

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO GRANT WRITING

The **two-day Beginner's Guide to Grant Writing** program is a great skill builder for the beginner or intermediate grant writer. Whatever your skill level, come with an idea and be ready to write. At the end of Day One, you will have a proposal outline and all of the resources you need to expand your outline into a full proposal.

Return on Day Two with your full proposal, and we will put you into the role of a reviewer, teach you strategies for finding funding, and provide you with an opportunity to polish your proposal and send it in for a strong professional review.

When: Wednesday, **June 3**, and Wednesday, **June 24**, 2026, from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm Central

Where: Purdue Extension Vanderburgh County, 13301 Darmstadt Road, Suite A,
Evansville, IN 47725

Cost: The workshop is \$225.00, which includes all materials and lunch on both days.

Registration: Registration is available by visiting <https://event.me/z0PAkV>.

Please register by Wednesday, May 27, 2026.



Whether your project is big or small, this workshop will give you the information you need to submit proposals confidently.

If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program, please contact Meagan Salomon prior to the event at 812-435-5287 or brotherm@purdue.edu by May 20, 2026.

For special dietary needs, contact Meagan Salomon at 812-435-5287 or brotherm@purdue.edu by May 27, 2026.

If you need an interpreter or translator, please contact Meagan Salomon prior to the event at 812-435-5287 or brotherm@purdue.edu by May 20, 2026.

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Vanderburgh County Fair Pageants

The following Pageants will be held during the Vanderburgh County Fair 2026. Find out more at www.vanderburghcountyfair.com (Events, Contests, Pageants).

1. Miss Vanderburgh County Queen Pageant

The deadline for entering the Vanderburgh County Pageant is June 26, 2026.

For rules and to enter, go to vanderburghcountyfair.com (Events, Contests, Pageants, Queen Pageant)

Contestants chosen as Queen and First Runner Up must be at least 18 years of age and cannot have reached their 22nd birthday on or before June 1, 2027. Younger contestants and other members of the Queens Court must be 16 years of age by July 20, 2026.

The 2026 Queen will compete in January 2027 at the Indiana State Fair Queen Program competition.

The 2026 1st Runner Up will have the opportunity to compete at the Indiana State Festivals Association Scholarship Queen Pageant on November 7, 2026.

For information, contact: Beth Schmitt (812) 550-3487, baschmitt53@gmail.com; Rhonda Klueg-Slater at (812) 459-4662, rjkslater@gmail.com; or Alyssa Welte (812) 483-1389, alyssa.l.welte@gmail.com

2. NEW for 2026: Miss Vanderburgh County Teen Pageant

The deadline for entering the Miss Vanderburgh County Teen Pageant is June 26, 2026.

For rules and to enter, go to vanderburghcountyfair.com (Events, Contests, Pageants, Teen Pageant)

Contestants must be at least 13 years old by July 20, 2026 and not had her 16th birthday as of November 7, 2026.

The Miss Vanderburgh County Teen 2026, will have the opportunity to compete at the Indiana State Festivals Association Scholarship Princess Pageant on November 7, 2026.

For information, contact: Chairperson - Laura Duncan (812) 449-3709, mlchdunc@gmail.com or Assistant Chairperson - Rachel Pohl (812) 664-9572, rachelelizabethpohl@icloud.com

3. Vanderburgh County Young Miss Pageant

The deadline for entering the Miss Vanderburgh County Young Miss Pageant is June 26, 2026.

To enter, go to vanderburghcountyfair.com (Events, Contests, Pageants, Young Miss Pageant)

Each contestant must be at least 10 years old and not had her 13th birthday as of July 20, 2026.

For information, contact: Abbey Riggs, Chairperson (812) 306-1744, abbey.j.duvall@gmail.com or Audrey Creel, Assistant Chairperson (812) 205-5454, audlcreele@gmail.com

4. Miss Golden Pageant (Pageant for Females with Special Needs)

All contestants must be at least 10 years old and cannot have reached their 35th birthday on or before June 1, 2026.

The deadline for the Miss Golden Pageant is July 3, 2026.

To enter or for questions, contact Lauren Durchholz at (812) 664-8152, laurenziliak@gmail.com or Robin Lax at (812) 459-8971, rclax67@gmail.com

5. Little Miss and Mister Contest

Contestants must be at least 5 years old and cannot have reached his/her 8th birthday as of July 21, 2026

The deadline for entering the Little Miss and Mister Contest is June 26, 2026.

For information to enter, go to vanderburghcountyfair.com (Events, Contests, Pageants, Little Miss and Mister)

For more information, contact Sara Coomes, (812)455-8363 saracoomes@gmail.com or Katie Barnes, Assistant (812)480-0936 katierhs63@hotmail.com

**MISS
VANDERBURGH
COUNTY TEEN
PAGEANT**

Sign Up Deadline: June 26, 2026
 First Meeting: July 1, 2026 at 6:00 pm
 Ages: at least 13 years old by July 20, 2026
 and not had her 16th birthday as of
 November 7, 2026

For more information and entry form visit
<https://www.vanderburghcountyfair.com/pageants>

VANDERBURGH COUNTY FAIR
Celebrate AMERICA'S 250th

Create an entry that exemplifies the VCF theme:
 Celebrating 250th AMERICA. Indoor and outdoor
 entries accepted. Handmade items including but not
 limited to apparel, quilts, artwork, craft projects,
 florals, photos and baked items.

INDOOR EXHIBIT **OUTDOOR DISPLAY**

- Attach any info about your entry you would like to share.
- No entry fee. Multiple entries accepted.
- Exhibits entered inside or outside Auditorium.
- Monetary awards will be given for five Judges Choices in each category-Indoor and Outdoor.
- Fair projects previously entered will be accepted.
- Outdoor items are limited to 4' x 6' and should be suitable for yard or porch display, resistant to weather conditions. MUST contain red/white/blue and a flag(s).

Indoor Entry Time: Sat, 7/18 1-3pm
Outdoor Entry Time: Sat, 7/18 3-5pm
Release Time: Sun, 7/26 11am-1pm

CENTURY EVENTS COMMITTEE

TOGETHER WE CELEBRATE THE 250th ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICA

2026
April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Dog Club 7pm	2 Jr Leaders 6:30	3 Good Friday Holiday Office Closed	4 Dog Club Bunker Day 10am
5 Horse & Pony Adv Mtg 3pm	6	7 AG DAYS @ Armstrong Hi-Lighters 5:30 pm	8 4-H Center	9 German Gems 6pm	10	11
12	13 Star 5pm Centerrific 6pm Horse & Pony 6:30pm	14 Shooting Sports 7pm	15 Mini 4-H 6 pm St Wendel 6pm Trator Club 6pm	16	17	18
19 Shooting Sports Firearm Tr 2pm Color Guard Tryouts 3pm Scott Achievers 6pm	20	21 Camp Counselor Training 4:30 pm Livestock Club 6:00 pm	22	23 Happy Hoosiers 6:30 Livestock Committee Mtg 6:30	24	25 Horse & Pony Clinic 8am
26 Green River Clover Crew 4pm Color Guard Tryouts 3pm	27	28 Clover Connectors 7 pm	29 4-H Performing Arts 6:00 pm	30		