

4-H LINK Newsletter

February 2026

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



4-H Enrollment is now open!

Enroll at v2.4honline.com to Stay up to date with all things 4-H!

4-H Program Fee: \$25

Mini 4-H Program Fee: \$5



Cancellation Policy

It is the policy of the 4-H program that if school has been cancelled or released early, all 4-H events are also cancelled. Please note – virtual meetings/events can still be held. County-wide activity cancellations will be posted on the Vanderburgh County 4-H Program Facebook page.



NOW HIRING

SUMMER INTERNS

WE ARE LOOKING FOR CURRENT COLLEGE STUDENTS TO APPLY TO BE A 2026 SUMMER INTERN WITH PURDUE EXTENSION-VANDERBURGH COUNTY!

Contact Taylor at tvanmet@purdue.edu for an application or with any questions!

Purdue University is an equal access/equal opportunity institution. If you have any special needs, please call us prior to the event at (812)-867-4935

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.

4-H CAMP *Counselors*

Camp will be held June 1-3



New for 2026! 4-H members in grades 7 & 8 can be Jr. Camp Counselors and join us for a day or two at camp! 4-H members in grades 9-12 can serve as overnight Camp Counselors or Jr. Directors!

LEADERSHIP

MENTORING

FUN!

Find out more at: <https://tinyurl.com/SW4HCamp>

Register at: <https://4hcamp26.4honline.com>

VANDERBURGH COUNTY 4-H PRESENTS

4-H NEW MEMBER NIGHT

Register at
<https://tinyurl.com/26NewMember>
by Feb 18



Join us for a fun and informative evening for new 4-H members! Youth will enjoy activities with other Vanderburgh County 4-H members and a pizza party, while parents attend a Q&A session with 4-H leader and parent, Amy Woodard. Designed for new members in grades 3-12. Pizza provided for youth.

ALL NEW 4-H MEMBERS & THEIR PARENTS ARE INVITED!

**Monday, February 23
6:00 - 7:00 pm**

Vanderburgh 4-H Center Activities Center

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 Feb 5

LIGHTS, CAMERA, LEADERSHIP!

4-H OFFICER TRAINING

Inviting all current and aspiring 4-H officers to take the stage for a fun, hands-on officer training to develop leadership skills

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

VANDERBURGH 4-H CENTER EXPO HALL

6:00 - 7:30 PM

Starring the roles of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Recreation and Health & Safety

Clubs with representatives for President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary will earn a cash prize!

RSVP by February 18 at
<https://tinyurl.com/OfficerTraining26>

Pizza will be provided!



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!



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?

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.

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!

Project Changes

The following changes were made to the 4-H handbook for 2026. Please review the 2026 handbook to ensure you are meeting all project guidelines. Please reach out to the project superintendent or the Extension Office with questions.

Non-Animal Projects:

- Addition to state poster projects: "The poster must be mounted on a firm backing to add stiffness to the exhibit, for example: a foam core board."
- Updates were made to the Computer Science project and the Shooting Sports Contest - see handbook for more details

Animal Projects:

- Animal Identification: In 2026, Rabbits will be identified in 4-H Online and Poultry must complete an online Google Form by May 15 (more details will be sent out in March)
- Update to grooming policy: "At the Vanderburgh County Fair, anyone can assist with grooming as long as the 4-H member is involved in the process"
- Updates were made to Dairy Goat project - see handbook for more details.
- Horse & Pony addition: "For the safety of all participants, Junior members in grades 3-7 must have a parent, guardian, or approved caregiver present on the Vanderburgh 4-H Center grounds during participation in all 4-H Horse and Pony activities."

Animal News

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.

Tagging Day

Beef, Meat Goat, and Sheep exhibitors will be required to attend a Tagging Day on **Saturday, May 2** at the 4-H Center from 9 – 11 am to receive tags for their animals. If you cannot attend, work with your species superintendent for options. More details will be sent closer to the date.

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.



VANDERBURGH COUNTY 4-H

AG DAYS

APRIL 7 & 8 AT THE
VANDERBURGH
4-H CENTER



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!



Purdue University is an equal access/equal opportunity institution. If you have special needs, please call us prior to the event at (812) 867-4935.



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!



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.

YES GRANTS 2026:
APPLICATION PORTAL
NOW OPEN!



7-12 graders, do you have a community service project you would like to implement in your hometown? Apply for a YES Grant through the Indiana 4-H Foundation to help fund your idea at in4h.org/grants.

**JR.
PORK
DAY**

Mark your calendars! Jr. Pork Day at Purdue is Saturday March 7th. It is a fun day for 4-Hers and their parents to come to campus get a chance to see live pigs, go into the meats lab to judge pork products, and have hands-on swine focused activities. The program runs from 9-3 ET, with sign-in starting at 8:30 am ET in the lobby of the Purina Pavilion attached to the Creighton Hall of Animal Sciences.

More details to come!



4-H & Club News

Centerrific Meeting

Jan's meeting went over the following items:

- Reminding everyone to sign up for the 4-H projects
- Our Azzip fundraiser that will be held in March
- 4-H trip forms are due Jan 31st at the latest
- Scholarship forms due Jan 25th
- Feb 23rd is the officer meeting
- Still looking for a Health and Safety leader, and song leader
- Our next meeting is the annual Upside down meeting, and they will be making blankets for chemo buddies
- The activity they did this meeting was the Snowman Jar that included Oatmeal and the instructions on how to make oatmeal
- The game they played was Wax Museum

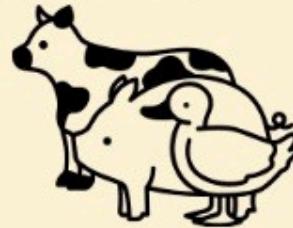
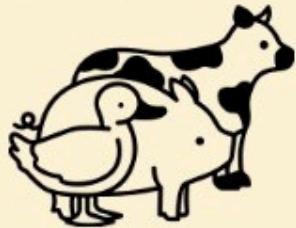
- Kayla Sapp, Reporter



All 4-H volunteers are invited to join us for the next Adult Leader Meeting on Monday, February 23 at 7:00 pm at the 4-H Center Conference Room (in conjunction with Officer Training).

Vice President nominations will be voted on at this meeting. See you there!

Livestock Club Lock-In



Livestock Club Members ONLY!

Members can bring a friend for \$5 cover charge.

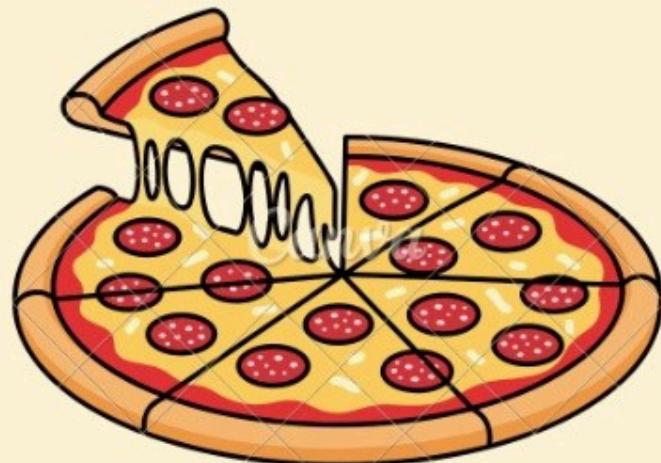
When: Friday, February 20th
6-11:30pm

Where: 4-H Banquet Hall

Girls bring a snack.

Boys bring a drink.

Games Pizza Fun





Mental Health **FIRST AID**

from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID - FOR ADULTS WHO WORK WITH YOUTH

WHERE:

VU AGRICULTURAL CENTER
ROOM 102
4207 N. PURDUE RD.
VINCENNES, IN 47591

WHEN:

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026
10 AM - 4 PM ET
9 AM - 3 PM CT



Extension

WWW.PURDUE.EDU/HHS/EXTENSION/MHFA

Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran.

WHAT IS YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID?

Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) is a skills-based training that teaches adults who work with youth how to identify, understand, and respond to signs and symptoms of mental health or substance use challenges.

This program builds health literacy and offers participants a practical action plan for how to identify and address youth with a mental health or substance use challenge safely and responsibly.

COURSE COST: \$50

The registration fee for this course is offered at a discounted rate as a service to our community by Purdue Extension and funded by Glick Philanthropies.

REGISTER BY:

Friday, February 13, 2026
Advance sign-up and online pre-work required.

FOR COURSE QUESTIONS CONTACT:

Megan Hoffherr; mkron@purdue.edu; (812) 867-4935
Carla Kidwell; kidwellc@purdue.edu; (812) 897-6100

TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER:

<https://YMHFA.4honline.com>

If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program, please contact Megan Hoffherr at (812) 867-4935 or mkron@purdue.edu by February 13, 2026.

If you need an interpreter or translator, please contact Megan Hoffherr at (812) 867-4935 or mkron@purdue.edu by February 13, 2026.

For special dietary needs or questions about the course location, contact Tonya Short at (812) 882-3509 or short43@purdue.edu by February 13, 2026.

Celebrate the Center

The 4-H Center Celebrate the Center committee has asked that 4-H clubs donate gift baskets for their silent auction. Celebrate the Center will be on Saturday, March 7. They've asked that baskets are dropped off to the 4-H Center Office between February 14-21, Monday-Friday from 10 am - 4 pm. They are also asking for help from 4-H leaders, members, and family to help with serving drinks, clearing tables, and rinsing dishes to go back to the supplier. Those who help are asked to wear black pants and white shirts. Doors will open at 4:00 pm (this is a new time so they'd like everyone to be there at 3:45 pm). All who help will get a steak dinner. Please call or text Jennifer Deutsch with list of who can help from your club to 812-431-1706.

Community Service Opportunity

The Dream Center shared ways 4-H clubs can help:

- Love Your Neighbor days of service in the Spring and Fall - helping with service projects around the Jacobsburg neighborhood
- Enrichment Clubs on Thursdays for K-6 students from 4:00pm-5:30pm. They run in 6 week rotations. The idea is for the volunteer to teach the students about a skill or topic that they may not be regularly exposed to. This is a one day per week (for 6 weeks) commitment.
- Clubs could organize a Meal Team. They serve a hot meal to our students Monday-Thursday. Clubs would plan, purchase, prepare, serve, and clean-up after the meal

If interested in learning more about how you or your 4-H club can help the Dream Center, contact Megan Hoffherr to be connected.



FEBRUARY

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 6:00 Armstrong Hi-Lighters	4	5 6:30 Jr. Leaders	6	7
8	9 5:00 Star 6:00 Centerrific 6:30 Horse & Pony	10	11 7:00 Shooting Sports	12	13	14 
15 6:00 Scott Achievers Camp Counselor Apps Due	16 OFFICE CLOSED 	17 6:00 Livestock	18 6:00 Mini 4-H	19	20	21
22	23 6:00 Officer Training & New Member Night 7:00 Adult Leaders	24	25 5:30 Tech Club	26 6:00 St. Wendel	27	28

**“Alone, we can do so little.
Together, we can do so much.”**
-Helen Keller



2026 4-H DATES

All dates and locations are subject to change.

January

- 1: Holiday, Office Closed
- 8: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 15: 4-H Council Meeting, 6:30 pm, Extension Office
- 19: Holiday, Office Closed
- 25: 4-H Scholarships Due in 4-H Online
- 31: 4-H Trip Applications Due

February

- 5: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm, Banquet Hall
- 15: 4-H Camp Counselor Applications Due
- 16: Holiday, Office Closed
- 18: Mini 4-H, 6:00 pm, Expo Hall
- 19: Livestock Committee, 6:30 pm, Extension Office
- 23: 4-H Officer Training/Adult Leader Meeting, 6:00 pm, Expo Hall

March

- 5: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm, Banquet Hall
- 17: Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training (After Livestock Club Meeting), 6:15 pm
- 18: Mini 4-H, 6:00 pm
- 19: 4-H Council Meeting, 6:30 pm, Extension Office
- 23-27: EVSC Spring Break

April

- 2: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm, Banquet Hall
- 3: Holiday, Office Closed
- 7-8: Ag Days, 4-H Center
- 15: 4-H Camp Applications Due
- 15: Mini 4-H, 6:00 pm
- 23: Livestock Committee, 6:30 pm, Extension Office
- 29: 4-H Performing Arts, 6:30 pm, Auditorium

May

- 2: Tagging Day for Beef, Meat Goats, Sheep, Small Animal Barns
- 5: Holiday, Office Closed
- 7: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm, Banquet Hall
- 15: ANIMAL ID DEADLINE
- 20: Mini 4-H, 6:00 pm
- 22: EVSC - School's out for summer
- 25: Holiday, Office Closed
- 28: Quality Livestock Care Training, 3:00 pm, Extension Office

June

- 1-3: 4-H Camp, Santa Claus, IN
- 4: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm, Banquet Hall
- 7: County Tractor Contest, 4-H Center
- 10-12: 4-H Academy at Purdue AND 4-H Round-Up at Purdue
- 17: Quality Livestock Care Training, 3:00 pm, Extension Office
- 17: Mini 4-H, 6:00 pm

June cont.

- 18: 4-H Council, 6:30 pm, Extension Office
- 19: Holiday, Office Closed
- 25: Livestock Committee, 6:30 pm, Extension Office
- 29: Quality Livestock Care Training, 6:00 pm, Conference Room

July

- 1: Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Deadline & Fair Entry Deadline
- 2: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm, Banquet Hall
- 3: Holiday, Office Closed
- 8: 4-H Speech & Demo Contest, 6:00 pm, Banquet Hall
- 8-9: Mini 4-H Day Camp, 4-H Center
- 9: 4-H Council, 6:30 pm, Extension Office
- 13: Fashion Revue (Judging in Expo Hall - AM, Show in Auditorium, PM)
- 15-16: Fair Set-up
- 18-19: Enter 4-H Projects
- 20-25: Vanderburgh County Fair
- 26: Projects Released

August

- 6: Jr. Leader Banquet, 6:00 pm, Banquet Hall
- 7-23: Indiana State Fair (closed Mondays)
- 20: Livestock Committee, 6:30 pm, Extension Office

September

- 3: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm, Banquet Hall
- 7: Holiday, Office Closed
- 15: Achievement Records, 4-H Club Secretary & Treasurer Books, Club Scrapbooks, & Honor Club Apps Due
- 16: Mini 4-H, 6:00 pm
- 17: 4-H Council, 6:30 pm, Extension Office
- 26-27: Extension Homemaker Craft Show

October

- 1: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm, Banquet Hall
- 21: Mini 4-H, 6:00 pm
- 22: Livestock Committee, 6:30 pm, Extension Office

November

- 3: Holiday, Office Closed
- 5: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm, Banquet Hall
- 11: 4-H Achievement Banquet, Auditorium
- 18: Mini 4-H, 6:00 pm
- 19: 4-H Council, 6:30 pm, Extension Office
- 26-27: Holiday, Office Closed

December

- 2: 4-H Adult Leaders Holiday Party
- 3: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm, Banquet Hall
- 16: Mini 4-H, 6:00 pm
- 24, 25, 31 - Holidays, Office Closed

