

# 4-H LINK Newsletter

## January 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](http://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](mailto: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



## THANK YOU!!

We would like to thank the following sponsors for their donations to the Livestock online silent auction. With your donations, we were able to raise **\$4,262!** Thank you also to everyone that bid on and purchased items! Your gifts will help fund needed projects for the Livestock Program as we work towards getting new pens!

Ace Hardware, Darmstadt	Mark & Jennifer Deutsch
Amanda Deutsch Designs	Mary Brenner
Deana & Ron Welte	NAPA Auto Parts, Darmstadt
Dairy Goat Exhibitors	Pat Arnold
Donut Bank	Pygmy Goat Exhibitors
Driftwood Designs by Tera	Sara Petrig
Family Notions (Susan and Rachel Johnson)	Sheep Department
Holiday Foods - Haubstadt	St. Louis Cardinals
Indianapolis Colts	Vanderburgh County Fair Association
Jeff & Becky Kachanuk	West Side Honda Kawasaki CFMoto
JT Welte	Wood & Cloth Hobby
	Zach Peters



INDIANA 4-H

# TEEN LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

**Where:** Camp Tecumseh  
**When:** March 27-29, 2026  
**Ages:** Grades 7-12



## CONFERENCE INFO

The Teen Leadership Weekend is an exciting opportunity for 4-H members to build their leadership skills, connect with peers from across the state, and prepare to make a positive impact in their communities. Held annually, this conference is designed for youth in grades 7-12 who are ready to take their leadership journey to the next level. Participants engage in hands-on workshops, interactive team activities, and inspiring sessions led by experienced mentors and fellow 4-H members. 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!



**Register on Vanderburgh 4-H Trip Form**

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL PURDUE EXTENSION OFFICE TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER



Indiana Teaching Scholarship is OPEN!



Are you a senior

- Interested in Teaching?
- Planning to teach in Indiana for at least 5 years?

You may qualify for the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship!

Indiana 4-Hers are



**Beyond Ready**



Apply at [scholartrack.in.gov](http://scholartrack.in.gov) by February 28, 2026

Scholarships are worth \$10,000 per year up to 4 years.



Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity / Equal Access institution.

## 4-H'ers are...

**2x**

more likely to have the goal of being a leader

**3x**

more likely to participate in community service

**2x**

more likely to report living life with intentionality and purpose



## 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 Camp Counselors or Jr. Directors!

LEADERSHIP

MENTORING

FUN!

Be on the lookout for more information on how to register!

**YES GRANTS 2026:  
APPLICATION PORTAL OPENS  
JANUARY 15  
IN4H.ORG/GRANTS**

INDIANA  
4-H  
FOUNDATION

**Beyond  
Ready**

# ***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!



# 4-H & Club News

## Scott Achievers

The Scott Achievers 4-H Club met on Dec. 8th at 3rd Shot Pickle Ball. We had a short business meeting and talked about our committees, then learned how to play pickle ball.



Thank you to everyone who donated to our November Food drive! Because of your incredible generosity, we collected \$550 and 82 pounds of food to support families in need in our community. Your kindness reflects the true spirit of 4-H community service—learning to give back, serve others, and make a meaningful difference. We are grateful for your support in helping us turn caring into action!



Congratulations to 4-H alumni, Isaac Pohl. He was awarded the Indiana 4-H Accomplishment Scholarship for Premiere Leadership for \$2,000! He was recently presented with this scholarship at the Indiana 4-H Foundation Scholarship Luncheon. Way to go Isaac!

Thank you to everyone who helped with a 4-H Clover Carnival! We were able to share the fun of 4-H with lots of new families!



# Achievement Banquet

Congratulations to all the 4-H members and volunteers recognized at the 4-H Achievement Banquet! It was a wonderful evening celebrating the accomplishments of our 4-H family! If you received an award and were unable to attend, please pick up your award at the Extension Office.

## 4-H Achievement Winners



**Josie Keil, Georgia Peters,  
Rogan Curtis, Lydia Keil**

## 5-H Achievement Winners



**Kylie Weiss & Alyssa Coomes**

## Special County Award Winners



**Maddie Bedel &  
Elise Lousignont**



**Katie Wiederkehr &  
Alyssa Coomes**

## Farm Bureau Achievement Award Winners



**Seanan Walker, Isabel Kroft, Ty Jackson,  
Reid Jackson, Heidi Jackson, Savannah  
Goldsberry, Juliet Gibson**  
Not Pictured: Remington Campbell,  
Emma Roemke, Lucas Rudolph, Chloe  
Stock, Elizabeth Temple, Langston  
Wade, Braden Wheeler & Blake Woodard



# Congratulations 4-H Volunteers!

We recognize the following volunteers for their volunteer milestones with the Vanderburgh County 4-H program!



## Bronze Clover - 1 Year of Service



**David Miller, Matthew Wheeler,  
Francesca Harris, Megan Goldsberry**  
Not Pictured: Kylie Bedel, Cassy Gobin,  
Allyson Johnson, Isaac Pohl, Matt Potter  
& Ruthy Whitledge

## Silver Clover - 5 Years of Service



**Rachel Hollis, Kim Nesbitt, Lois Curtis**  
Not Pictured: Matthew Eickhoff,  
Amanda Herrmann, Emily Orth, Lisa  
Orth, Abbey Riggs, Richard Wallis

## Gold Clover - 10 Years of Service



**Audrey Peters**  
Not Pictured: Randy Brown, Michael  
Herke, Amanda Hirsch &  
Gregory Lantaff

## Pearl Clover - 15 Years of Service



**Evelyn Zwahlen & Phillip Salomon**  
Not Pictured: Collin Jackson, Lisa  
Koester, Dru Moreland, Nancy Pritchett  
& Missy Rexing

# Congratulations 4-H Volunteers!

We recognize the following volunteers for their volunteer milestones with the Vanderburgh County 4-H program!

## Diamond Clover 20 Years of Service



**Sharon Krohn, Jack Krohn, Elizabeth  
Guetling & Mary Biever**  
**Not Pictured: Sarah Dalp, Debra Herke &  
Marcia Lynn**

## Emerald Clover 25 Years of Service



**Marva Meeks, Jeff Kachanuk, Becky  
Kachanuk & Kendra Groeninger**  
**Not Pictured: Michelle Campbell &  
Wayne Jackson**

## Ruby Clover 30 Years of Service



**Steve Anderson**  
**Not Pictured: Dale Koester**



# 2026 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## Senior Year Scholarship

Available to 4-H members in their senior year of high school

## Club Scholarship

Available to 4-H members entering Purdue University majoring in the College of Agriculture or select majors in the College of Health and Human Sciences

## Purdue Horticulture & Landscape Architecture Scholarship

Available to a 4-H member majoring in horticulture or landscape architecture at Purdue University and studied plant science in 4-H.

## Accomplishment Scholarship

Available to 4-H members in grades 10-12 of high school and the year immediately following high school graduation. The purpose of the 4-H Accomplishment Scholarship is to recognize youth who have excelled in life skills development through their 4-H activities and involvement.

**Categories:** Animal Science—Meat and Milk Production; Animal Science—Companion and Small Animal Production; Citizenship; Communications; Engineering and Technological Science; Healthy Living, Food and Nutrition Science; Leadership Development; and Plant and Environmental Science. Three additional categories are reserved for applicants demonstrating life skills development in more than one of the previously listed categories. Those are Premier Achievement, Premier Citizenship, and Premier Leadership.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be in grade 10, 11, 12, or their first year immediately following 4-H enrollment eligibility at the time applications are due. While an applicant does not have to be a current 4-H member, they must demonstrate multiple years of involvement in Indiana's 4-H Youth Development Program.

Youth who have previously been awarded a \$1,000 accomplishment scholarship are only eligible to compete in the Premier Achievement, Premier Citizenship, and Premier Leadership categories. Youth who have previously been awarded a \$2,000 scholarship are no longer eligible to compete in any category.

**Awards:** A minimum of thirty \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to youth based on their demonstration of life skills development in these eight categories: Animal Science—Meat and Milk Production; Animal Science—Companion and Small Animal Production; Citizenship; Communications; Engineering and Technological Science; Healthy Living, Food, and Nutrition Science; Leadership Development; and Plant and Environmental Science.

A minimum of one \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded in each of these categories: Premier Achievement; Premier Citizenship; and Premier Leadership.

Visit [bit.ly/4hscholarship](https://bit.ly/4hscholarship) to download applications.

Applications due to County 4-H Educator January 25.

Contact your county's Purdue Extension Office to learn more.

**\$174,250 AWARDED IN 2025**





# 4-H TRIPS



## STATE 4-H BAND

**Transportation:** The 4-H member must provide For **Grades:** 9 - 12

**Description:** This trip is for youth who want to learn more about instrumental performance, techniques, meet new friends, and perform in Loeb Playhouse on Purdue campus. Youth will improve their instrumental skills as they prepare for a concert band performance during 4-H Round-Up. An additional state application form must be completed by the 4-H member in April.

**Sponsored by:** Vanderburgh County 4-H Council

## 4-H ROUND UP

**Transportation:** Included

**Grades:** 7th - 8th

**Description:** This 3-day conference of 4-H members from around the state is held at Purdue University. The program is developed for members in grades 7-9 to inspire them to continue in 4-H and to provide valuable career information. Participants have the opportunity to experience a large university campus and learn about career opportunities.

**Sponsored by:** Vanderburgh County 4-H Council



## STATE 4-H CHORUS

**Transportation:** The 4-H member must provide For **Grades:** 9 - 12

**Description:** Open to any student entering high school or currently in high school who wants to participate in an intensive, dynamic, challenging, and fun-filled singing, dancing and performance-orientated workshop. You will make new friends and work with some of the best music and performance teachers and staff in Indiana. An additional state application form must be completed by the 4-H member in April.

**Sponsored by:** Vanderburgh County 4-H Council



## 4-H ACADEMY

**Transportation:** Included

For **Grades:** 9 - 12

**Description:** 4-H Academy @ Purdue is a program held at Purdue University designed to offer hands-on, exciting opportunities to learn about a diverse selection of subjects and careers. You will choose a specific track to learn more about and may include animal science, civic engagement, food and nutrition, healthy living, natural resources, plant science, STEM, financial management, journalism, and health careers.

**Sponsored by:** Vanderburgh County 4-H Council, Extension Homemakers, Evansville Young Dairymen



## HOW DO I APPLY FOR TRIPS?

To be considered for full sponsorship to attend a 4-H trip, complete the County Trips & Activities Form by January 31. If chosen for the award, you will complete a registration in 4-H Online upon notification. If you'd like to attend at your own cost, contact Megan Hoffherr at [mkron@purdue.edu](mailto:mkron@purdue.edu) for details on registration.

## LOOKING FOR MORE INFO?

Visit the state 4-H website at: <https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/get-involved/state-programs>.



In 2026, 4-H Round-Up and 4-H Academy will be held concurrently on June 10-12. Complete the County Trip form (found [here](#)) by January 31 to be considered for a full scholarship to attend a trip.

# VIRTUAL CLOVER CAFE

Serving Up Knowledge, One Bite at a Time



**Wednesdays in February 2026**

**11 am – 12 PM CT/12 – 1 pm ET**



- **Feb 4: Making Meetings Fun & Meaningful**
- **Feb 11: Communication That Clicks**
- **Feb 18: Growth Mindset in Action**
- **Feb 25: Stress Free Volunteers, Thriving Youth**

**Join us for any or all of these sessions!**

**RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/CloverCafe26>  
by January 28**



# 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](http://WWW.PURDUE.EDU/HHS/EXTENSION/MHFA)

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### 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](mailto:mkron@purdue.edu); (812) 867-4935  
Carla Kidwell; [kidwellc@purdue.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:short43@purdue.edu) by February 13, 2026.

# 4-H DAY AT THE STATEHOUSE

7th-12th grade youth are invited to join Indiana 4-H Day At The Statehouse. Youth will tour the building, learn about legislative processes, meet with legislators, and experience Indiana history.



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> 2026**

**REGISTRATION  
INFORMATION COMING  
JANUARY 2026**



Purdue is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution

## VANDERBURGH COUNTY 4-H

# AG DAYS

APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> @ THE VANDERBURGH 4-H CENTER



# January 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 OFFICE CLOSED	2	3
4	5	6	7		
11	12 5 STAR 6 CENTERRIFIC 6:30 HORSE & PONY	13 7 SHOOTING SPORTS	14	8 6 GERMAN GEMS 6:30 JR. LEADERS	9
18	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20 5:30 TECH CLUB	21 6 ST. WENDEL ALL-STAR CLOVERS	15 6:30 4-H COUNCIL	16
25 4-H SCHOLARSHIPS DUE	26	27	28	22	23
29				30	31 4-H TRIP FORM DUE

# 2026 4-H DATES

*All dates and locations are subject to change.*

## January

- 1: Holiday, Office Closed
- 8: Jr. Leader Meeting, 7:00 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, 7:00 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, 7:00 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, 7:00 pm, location TBD
- 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, 7:00 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, 7:00 pm, Expo 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, 7:00 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, 7:00 pm
- 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, 7:00 pm, Banquet Hall
- 16: Mini 4-H, 6:00 pm
- 24, 25, 31 - Holidays, Office Closed

