

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 to
stay up to date with all
things 4-H!**

**4-H Program Fee: \$25
Mini 4-H Program Fee: \$5**



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

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.



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
Amanda Deutsch Designs
Deana & Ron Welte
Dairy Goat Exhibitors
Donut Bank
Driftwood Designs by Tera
Family Notions (Susan and Rachel Johnson)
Holiday Foods - Haubstadt
Indianapolis Colts
Jeff & Becky Kachanuk
JT Welte

Mark & Jennifer Deutsch
Mary Brenner
NAPA Auto Parts, Darmstadt
Pat Arnold
Pygmy Goat Exhibitors
Sara Petrig
Sheep Department
St. Louis Cardinals
Vanderburgh County Fair Association
West Side Honda Kawasaki CFMoto
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
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

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



INDIANA
4-H
FOUNDATION



Beyond
Ready

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!

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



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!



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

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 are committees, then learned how to play pickle ball.



FOOD *drive*

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.

Jr. Achievement Winners



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

Sr. Achievement Winners



Kylie Weiss & Alyssa Coomes

Special County Award Winners



**Maddie Bedel &
Elise Lousignont**



**Katie Wiederkehr &
Alyssa Coomes**

Farm Bureau Achievement Award Winners



**Sean 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 Groening
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 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



Extension



4-H TRIPS



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 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



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 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>.



Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action university.

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**



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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.



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 10TH 2026

REGISTRATION INFORMATION COMING JANUARY 2026



Purdue is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution



VANDERBURGH COUNTY 4-H

AG DAYS

APRIL 7TH & 8TH @ THE VANDERBURGH 4-H CENTER



January 2026

| | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--------|-------------------------|
| | | | | 1 OFFICE CLOSED | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 6 GERMAN GEMS 6:30 JR. LEADERS | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 5 STAR 6 CENTERRIFIC 6:30 HORSE & PONY | 13 7 SHOOTING SPORTS | 14 | 15 6:30 4-H COUNCIL | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 OFFICE CLOSED | 20 5:30 TECH CLUB | 21 6 ST.WENDEL ALL-STAR CLOVERS | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 4-H SCHOLARSHIPS DUE | 26 | 27 | 28 | 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

