

4-H LINK Newsletter

May 2026



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

2026 SUMMER DATES

May 15: Animal ID Deadline

May 28: Quality Livestock Care Training

June 1-3: 4-H Camp

June 7: County Tractor Contest

June 10-12: 4-H Academy & 4-H Round-Up

June 17: Quality Livestock Care Training

June 29: Quality Livestock Care Training

July 1: QLC Deadline & Fair Entry Deadline

July 8: Speech & Demo Contest

July 8: BBQ Contest

July 13: Fashion Revue

July 15-16: Fair Set Up

July 18-19: 4-H Project Entry

July 20-25: Vanderburgh County Fair

July 26: 4-H Project Release



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!



CELEBRATING

4-H VOLUNTEERS

WE THANK YOU!!



Volunteers Needed

We are looking for caring adults that can serve as Assistant Superintendents for Arts & Crafts to help during project check-in and check-out. Contact Megan Hoffherr at mkron@purdue.edu if you're interested in learning more

Driver Needed!

We are looking for someone willing to drive a rented box truck to/from the State Fair on Monday, August 3 and Monday, August 24 to drop off and pick up 4-H projects from our county. If interested, please

let Megan know at mkron@purdue.edu.

Thank you!





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.



Strawberry Judging

It's strawberry season again! Time to have your berries or patches judged. When your berries or patches are ready to be judged, please call or text Judge Pam Wrucke at 812-480-5308 to set up a time for judging. Please contact her before May 31.



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!



Animal News

DAIRY GOAT WORKSHOPS

Join us to learn more about your dairy goat project! Whether you're wanting to learn more, just getting started, or looking to build your skills, all are welcome.

Bring your goat and a chair for parents.

FRIDAY, MAY 15
MONDAY, JUNE 15
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

All workshops: 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the back of the 4-H Center Show Barn

Contact Mary Brenner at (812) 499-7517 with questions



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.



LLAMA WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, May 19

Monday, June 15

Tuesday, July 14

6:00 pm at Spitsville Acres

For questions, please reach out to superintendents, Adam (812-430-6979) or Mallory Bumb (270-860-6749).



Join us to help you prepare for your llama project and the fair! You do not need to bring your llamas to the meetings.

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!



Lease Forms

Leasing an animal? Be sure to fill out a lease form and submit to our office (or in 4-H Online if applicable). You can find a sample lease form [here](#).



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.



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



Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access University. If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program or need a translator or interpreter, please contact Megan Hoffherr at mkron@purdue.edu

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 (**FOUND HERE**)

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.



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 at (812) 867-4935 or mkron@purdue.edu 2 weeks before the program.



4-H members & volunteers taught nearly 600 youth about agriculture at Ag Days!

We are SO proud of the 4-H members that brought animals/tractors and educated youth about agriculture at our annual Ag Day event! We got so many compliments about how well spoken and knowledgeable the presenters were. A huge thank you to presenters and volunteers: Maddie Bedel, Reese Jackson, Owen Potter, Evelyn Potter, Anderson Potter, Jarrett Keil, Lydia Coomes, Kael Winn, Raegan Brenner, Luke Jackson, Taylor Davis, Chloe Stock, Carly Stock, Jessica Stock, Lexi White, Logan Brandt, Emma Brandt, Hunter Stephens, Kylie Weiss, Elise Lousignont, Lillian Donberger, Olivia Donberger, Makayla Schultz, Kade Welte, Clay Welte, Easton Fettes, Fettes family, Stephen Brenner, Carleigh VanMeter, Bonnie Brenner, Pat Brenner, Dave Brenner, Rhonda Klueg-Slater, Kate Potter, Mark Welte, Kelsey Gerhardt, Maggie Gerhardt, Gus Gerhardt, Jackson family, Carol Broerman, Barbara Brown, Diana Kulenkamp, Terry Kulenkamp, Marva Meeks, Mary Jo Seib, Linda Kron, and Carolyn Gilbert. A huge thank you everyone who helped with set-up/clean-up! And thank you to Farm Bureau for providing food and drinks for our volunteers. We appreciate EVERYONE who came together to make this such a successful event! THANK YOU!!

4-H & Club News

Star 4-H Club

Our club meeting was April 13. For the meeting we started our club project recycling thanks to leaders Wayne and Emily Jackson! This year we are making washer board games. We also split into two teams and with Chloe and Aubrey leading the groups to decide on the design of our club t-shirts this year. We then went outside to play Sharks and Minnows led by recreation leader Braden.

-Submitted Reid Muchnick, Secretary



Congratulations to our Indiana 4-H Foundation Scholarship Recipients!

Senior Year Scholarship Winners:

Alyssa Coomes
Ireland Guetling
Kyle Jackson
Caitlin Kramer
Katherine Roemke
Kylie Weiss

Accomplishment Scholarship Winner:

Katherine Roemke

Congrats!



Have you ever wanted to learn how to sew but didn't know where to start? Now is your chance! We are offering a sewing workshop where you can complete your entire first year project in one day! We will also help prepare you for the Fashion Revue too!

WHO: 3RD GRADE 4-HERS AND NEW SEWING ENTHUSIASTS
WHAT: SEWING WORKSHOP TO COMPLETE ELASTIC WAISTBAND SKIRT OR SHORTS

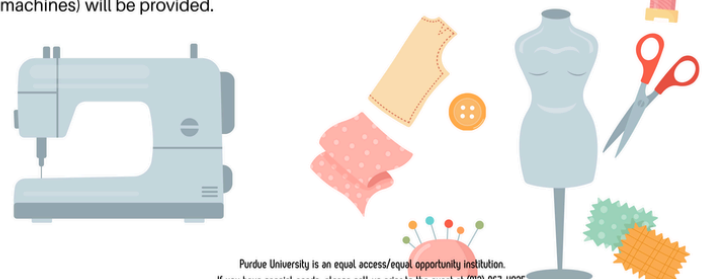
WHERE: SALEM CHURCH, 13134 DARMSTADT RD

WHEN: SATURDAY, MAY 30 - 9 AM - 1 PM

COST: FREE

FAIR ENTRY EXPECTED, FASHION REVUE ENCOURAGED
REGISTER BY CALLING AUDREY PETERS AT 812-598-2007
SPOTS ARE LIMITED

You will need to bring fabric, coordinating thread, and a parent or other adult with you. Please also bring a sack lunch and a drink. All other supplies (including sewing machines) will be provided.



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.

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



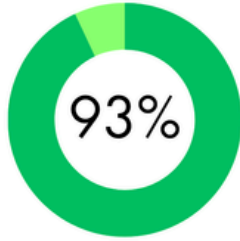
4-H PREPARES YOUTH LEADERS FOR THE FUTURE



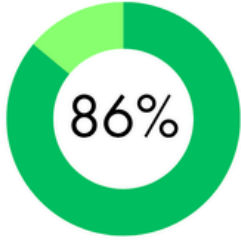
Across Indiana, 2026 graduating 4-H seniors were asked to complete a survey about their 4-H experience. In Vanderburgh County, 14 youth completed the survey and the results are included below.



100% of graduating seniors know that employers expect them to do a job well.



93% of graduating seniors are able to work hard on things that are difficult



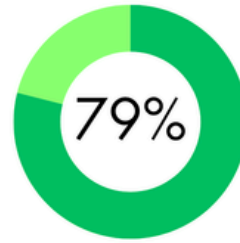
86% of graduating seniors plan to continued to be involved in 4-H in some way, such as being a volunteer, mentor, or donor.



100% of graduating seniors know how to work successful toward a goal.



100% of graduating seniors know how to act professionally.



79% of graduating seniors said participating in 4-H prepared them for what they'll do after high school

"My most significant 4-H success was earning leadership positions and learning how to lead effectively, not just hold a title. Through 4-H, I learned how to communicate clearly, delegate tasks, and keep a group focused on a shared goal. This success mattered to me because it wasn't about winning an award—it was about earning the respect and trust of others."
- Graduating Senior



"The greatest impact 4-H has made on my life is helping shape who I am as a leader and person. 4-H taught me accountability, work ethic, and the value of service. It gave me opportunities to grow outside my comfort zone and helped me realize that leadership is about helping others succeed. These lessons extend far beyond 4-H and continue to influence how I approach school, activities, and future goals."
- Graduating Senior

"4-H has made numerous huge impacts on my life. I have met some of my best friends through the program that I will have for the rest of my life. I have learned resilience and perseverance working on my projects. I have learned teamwork, communication, and other leadership skills that will serve me in life and in my career."
- Graduating Senior



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.

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, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran.



Extension - Community
Development

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Tagging Day for Beef, Meat Goats, Sheep - Small Animal Barns 9am-11am
3 Horse & Pony Advisory Mtg - 3pm Horse & Pony Color Guard Practice - Arena 5-6pm	4	5 HOLIDAY - OFFICE CLOSED Armstrong Hi-Lighters - 6pm 4-H Center Banquet Hall	6	7 Jr Leaders - 4-H Center Banquet Hall 6:30pm	8	9
10 Horse & Pony Color Guard Practice - Arena 5pm	11 Star 4-H Club - Bqt Hall 5pm Centerrific Club Mtg. - Old N UMC 6pm Horse & Pony Club Mtg. 6:30pm	12 Livestock Club - Salem Church of Darmstadt 6pm Shooting Sports Club Mtg - PMA Headquarters 7pm	13	14 German Gems - 4-H Center Banquet Hall 6pm	15 4-H ANIMAL ID DEADLINE TODAY	16
17 Shooting Sports Firearm Training - Daniel Boone 2pm Horse & Pony Color Guard Practice - Arena 5pm Scott Achievers 4-H Club Mtg - Blue Grass Chapel 6pm	18	19 Llama Workshop 6pm	20 St Wendel All-star Clovers - St. Wendel Campus 6pm Tractor Club - SIAM Machinery Bldg. 6pm MINI 4-H 6pm	21 Happy Hoosiers 6:30pm	22 EVSC - Schools Out For The Summer	23
24 Horse & Pony Color Guard Practice - Arena 5pm Clover Crew - Holy Rosary 4pm	25 HOLIDAY - OFFICE CLOSED	26 Tech Club - Willard Library 5:30pm	27	28 QUALITY LIVESTOCK CARE TRAINING - EXTENSION OFFICE 3pm	29	30 Sewing Workshop 9-1
31 Horse & Pony Advisory Mtg 3pm Horse & Pony Color Guard Practice - Arena 5pm						

