

Exciting Updates from Chris LaCosse Park & Pun'kin Vine Fairgrounds!

Chris LaCosse Park – Now Open in Morocco!

The brand-new Fitness Zone at Chris LaCosse Park is officially complete and already in action! Located at 614 E. Michigan Avenue, this outdoor fitness space is ready for you to explore. Whether you're a seasoned gym-goer or just starting out, each piece of equipment features easy-to-follow instructions, muscle group visuals, and a QR code linking to a demo video—just scan and go!

Parking is available on the south end of the walking path, or you can park at the Beaver Township Community Center and enjoy a stroll down the walking path. Spring into Wellness continues every Monday at 7:30 a.m. through May 19—join the movement and feel your best this season!

Coming Soon:

- ✓ **Story Walk** – Enjoy a rotating children's story every 6–8 weeks, perfect for a nature walk with your little ones.
- ✓ **Outdoor Classroom** – A space for learning and discovery under the open sky. Weather permitting, both features will be ready by end of May.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony & Donor Recognition

Join us for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Donor Recognition Celebration on Sunday, May 25 at 8:00 a.m., just before the LifeWise 5K. Following the Ceremony make plans to check out the Story Walk where the first 40 families will receive a goody bag. And stop by the Fitness Zone. We're working on bringing in a Blender Bike for FREE smoothies—stay tuned! **THANK YOU to all the donors who made this beautiful new park possible!**



Renovations Underway at the Domestic Arts Building – Pun'kin Vine Fairgrounds

Big changes are happening at the Pun'kin Vine Fairgrounds! The Domestic Arts Building is getting a much-needed refresh with:

- Structural repairs to the cupola
- Brand-new electrical wiring, lighting, and fans
- And (fingers crossed) a fresh coat of paint just in time for the fair!

Mark Your Calendars: Pun'kin Vine Fair – July 7–12, Important Schedule Change!

Due to the Fourth of July weekend, judging for Domestic Arts, Fine Arts, and Photography will happen before the fair begins. Project Entry will be on Tuesday, July 1 from 6–9 p.m. with judging on Wednesday, July 2. Judging for Domestic Arts projects will begin at 11:00 a.m., Fine Arts & Photography judging begins at 1:00 p.m. (Food projects will be judged on Monday, July 7 as usual, and Floral entries on Tuesday, July 8.) We will also be planning a “100th” celebration and donor recognition event during the fair. Watch next month's newsletter for details! Let the countdown to summer fun begin!



Celebrate Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month This June

June marks Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month, a time to honor those affected by Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia—and to take action to keep our own brains healthy. Just like the body, the brain benefits from regular exercise. Here are a few simple, fun activities you can do this month to give your brain a healthy boost:

- Do a Puzzle – Jigsaw puzzles, Sudoku, and crosswords all help improve memory and problem-solving skills.
- Read Something New – A new book, article, or even learning a new word each day can help keep your mind sharp.
- Get Moving – Physical activity increases blood flow to the brain. Try a walk, dance class, or even light yoga.
- Listen to Music or Learn an Instrument – Music stimulates many parts of the brain and can improve mood and memory.
- Try a Brain App – Games on apps like Lumosity or Peak are designed to challenge different areas of the brain.

If you or someone you know is affected by Alzheimer's or is concerned about brain health, there are excellent resources available:

- Alzheimer's Association – www.alz.org – Information, support, and a 24/7 Helpline (1-800-272-3900)
- National Institute on Aging – www.nia.nih.gov – Trusted research and tips for healthy aging
- Brain Health Resource Center – Offers tools for caregivers, families, and individuals at all stages

Let's wear purple, get involved, and commit to taking care of our minds—not just in June, but all year long.

2025 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training

All 4-H youth participating in the beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, meat goats, dairy goats, poultry and rabbit projects must complete the 4-H Quality Livestock Care program **OR** the online Youth for the Quality Care of Animals Program (YQCA).

The cost for the in-person Quality Livestock Care Training is \$3 per participant. Payment will be due at the time of the training.

You must register on 4-H Online to attend!

Dates: April 30, May 22, June 12

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

Premise ID

Don't remember your premise ID? Need to register your livestock premises? Go to www.in.gov/boah and select "Traceability & Premise ID" for more information on how to register a location or who to contact if you have lost your premise ID!

Project Add/Drop Deadline

The **last day to add or drop projects is June 27th!** Please call the Extension Office or email Mercedes to make those changes!!! This version of 4-H Online does not let members make changes on their own, so you will need to contact the Extension Office so we can make the changes for you.

Barn Clean Up Dates

- Horse and Pony Barn- June 22nd, 1:00 pm
- Swine- July 2nd, 6:00 pm
- Beef and Dairy Barn- July 3rd, 5:30 pm
- Sheep and Goat Barn- July 1st, 5:30 pm
- Rabbit- July 3rd, 5:30 pm
- Poultry- TBA

Sheep, Goat, and Dairy ID

Sheep, Goat, Beef and Dairy Feeder Calf ID Day will be held on **May 8th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm** at the Newton County Fairgrounds.



Swing into Spring!

Craft Show and Family Fun Day!

Join in on the fun at the Newton County 4-H Building on May 17th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm! There will be lots of vendors and community groups that will have booths!

Animal Enrollment Process

All animals except poultry will be registered through the Indiana 4HOnline system: <https://v2.4honline.com>. You will need to register your breed class rabbits in 4HOnline as well! Please log in using your family account username and password. **All animals must be added to the system by May 15th!** Please contact the office if you have any questions!



Annual Showmanship 101 Workshop

The Annual Livestock Workshop will be held on Saturday, May 10th from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Jasper County Fair Grounds! The workshop will cover showmanship and animal husbandry topics that provide industry knowledge to 4-H youth! This workshop will be HANDS-ON and INTERACTIVE.

*Following the workshop there will be a Quality Livestock Care Training from 1:00 pm-2:00 pm.

Register at <https://showmanship101.4honline.com>



Fair Entry is Open from June 1-June 27

Beginning June 1-June 27 you must go online to <http://newtoncountyin.fairentry.com> and enter your exhibit for each project in which you are enrolled. This includes **ALL projects, breathing and non-breathing**. No new profile is necessary, as you will use the same email and password that you use for your 4-H Online profile.

Remember, this process is required for us to successfully accept your exhibit for all judging events and the auction. Failure to complete this process by June 27 will result in a delay of entry on judging day.

Barbecue Project Workshop

May 31st, 1:00 pm

Attention to those interested in learning more about the Barbecue Grilling Project. Our project leader, Josh Cowan will be hosting a Barbecue Grilling project workshop on May 31st at the Newton County 4-H Building to provide a hands-on opportunity for youth!

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

Newton County Outstanding 4-H Member

The Newton County Outstanding 4-H Members Award recognizes a youth 4-H member who exemplifies the ideals of clearer thinking, greater loyalty, larger service and better living as expressed in the 4-H pledge. This could be a youth who demonstrates exceptional leadership in their club or project, who is a role model or mentor to younger members, or who is actively engaged and participates fully in their 4-H experience, just to name a few qualities to consider.

Please enter the link

<https://forms.gle/FeB6qsexr7JvBRKr5> to submit a nomination. Physical forms can also be picked up at the extension office. This form needs to be completed by June 1. Paper copies are available at the Extension Office.

Newton County Friend of 4-H Award

Who is the leader, Council member or community 4-H supporter who has had a positive effect on you or your 4-H member? Do you know an adult or business who has made a significant contribution in support of Newton County 4-H? Please take the time to thank this person by nominating them for the "Friend of 4-H Award."

Previous winners include:

2018- Scott & Carol Carlson

2019- Scott & Maureen Deno

2021- Sue Frischie

2022- Newton County Government

2023- Pam Latta

2024- Newton County Soil and Water

Please enter the link

<https://forms.gle/WzJkTPKaMfepeKn9A> to submit a nomination. Physical forms can also be picked up at the extension office. This form needs to be completed by June 1. Paper copies are available at the Extension Office.



As some of you may know, we recently finished our first Extension Master Gardener class in April. Officially, Master Gardeners help to improve the community by disseminating horticultural knowledge, but I'd like to think that we are also building a community of individuals with similar interests. Extension Master Gardeners, or EMG for short, is a broad program that covers so much more than flowers and vegetables; just ask one of our SIX EMG interns! In addition to this program, I'm hoping to offer new programs like FAMACHA (small ruminant parasitology), drone-based activities, and Purdue On The Farm. If you have anything that you'd be particularly interested in, please fill out this survey, or scan the QR code to let me know what programs you would like to see. This can be as broad as 'poultry' or as specific as 'splitting farm inheritances.'

<https://tinyurl.com/ANREval>

Anhydrous Ammonia

By now, most people have seen the anhydrous tanks either on the roads or in the fields and know the risks that can be associated with them. In the event of a release, a 'white vapor fog' sweeps across the landscape and emergency responders are called out to deal with the escaped gas. Firefighters respond to these releases by spraying water on the anhydrous ammonia cloud to mitigate the vapor and reduce its movement. Depending on the direction of the release, roads in and out of the area may be blocked and the people near the release site evacuated. In other situations, local authorities may order people to shut windows and shelter in place until they give the all-clear notice. Many things can cause releases: a leak or discharge from a ruptured hose at the filling riser or during field applications, a release from an overturned anhydrous ammonia tank in a road accident, or discharges from improperly connected hoses. While most anhydrous ammonia releases are safely dealt with, there are documented cases in which people have become permanently disabled or killed when engulfed in the vapor cloud.

As with all heavy equipment or slow-moving vehicles, please give it a wide berth if you encounter these tanks on the road. If you're an applicator, make sure that you are properly trained and that the equipment is well maintained. For more information, read the full article

<https://ag.purdue.edu/departments/extension/ppp/resources/ppp-publications/ppp-140.html>



Featured Animal Problem: Grass Tetany



Description: Also known as hypomagnesemia, this is a metabolic disorder caused by low blood magnesium levels. Mg is an essential mineral for nerve and muscle function. Grass tetany is considered a serious emergency disease because it can escalate within hours of symptom onset, often resulting in animal loss.

Symptoms: Animals will appear nervous or tense with exaggerated responses to loud noises. This progresses into laying on their side with stiff legs. There can be evidence of leg paddling as well.

Contributing Factors: Right now we have rain and warmer temperatures, which means fast growing grass. However, forage in these conditions are often low in Mg but high in N & K, which interfere with Mg absorption. You can think of this as diluted magnesium in the plant tissue.

Prevention and Treatment: Treating is easy with the support of your veterinarian. Intravenous Ca-Mg should be administered slowly. Relapses are common with only IV treatment, so subcutaneous Mg or Mg boluses are also administered. For an unknown reason, animals can become extremely aggressive immediately after treatment. To avoid this, make sure that the animal receives sufficient dietary Mg. This can mean forage testing, top-dressed supplements, or mineral licks.

Link: <https://extension.psu.edu/grass-tetany-a-disease-of-many-challenge>

Featured Insect: Hymenoptera Vespidae (Yellowjacket Wasps)

Description: Yellowjacket wasp is a catch-all name for a variety of yellow colored wasp species. Most are ~1/2", have yellow abdomens with black markings, and can build large nests. These nests can be in the ground, trees, sheds, or in wall cracks.

Life Cycle: Wasps go through complete metamorphosis. Meaning that there are eggs, larvae, pupae, and adults.

Behavior/Damage: Yellowjackets have a reputation for stinging with little provocation. When attacking, they release an alarm pheromone that encourages others to defend the nest, i.e. stinging or biting the thing that caused the disturbance. Vibrations from yard equipment or being too close can trigger a defensive response. It's estimated that 3% of adults are allergic to wasps, but being bitten or stung is not a positive experience even if you aren't allergic.

Control: The best response is to leave the nest alone. Do not mow directly under a nest, strike the nest, or shine a light directly at the nest entrance. Wasps will explore human food if available. Try late flowering plants as a distraction from your family picnics. Pesticides are an option but should be treated as a last resort.

Link: <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/social-wasps-yellowjackets-hornets-and-paper-wasps/>

