

Photo: Laura Allen

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ANNUAL
Purdue Extension
REPORT

2020-2021

Purdue Extension is Indiana's Educational Partner for Life.

Results of programming efforts by Tami Mosier, 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator;
Crystal Van Pelt, Agriculture and Natural Resources/Community Development Extension Educator;
our amazing community partners; and our dedicated volunteers.

A PLACE WE CALL HOME

Sending them out of the nest, spreading their wings, and calling them back home

Hometowns mean something, and it's a curious thing that in the 4-H Youth Development Program we push kids out of the "nest," so to speak, as early as 3rd grade. It is our hope to show them the world beyond their hometown. Some naturally end up homesick, and some enthusiastically say, "Let's do it again!" While we strive for youth to "spread their wings," we ironically always encourage them to return home after seeing the world for a few years in college to serve as local contributing citizens and community leaders. We have succeeded. We have helped kids go to college near and far. Some end up states away, and some buy their first home in Steuben

County. Through the years we have celebrated their graduations; helped them gain employment; and celebrated weddings and new babies. This thing that we do, 4-H, it goes beyond our hometown, and it goes beyond 10 years. We are grateful to be a part of your family!

2021 included:

- 5 National Trip Applications
- 1 National STEM Summit Attendee
- 1 Indiana 4-H State Ambassador Selected
- 8 Northeast Indiana 4-H Camp Counselors
- 18 Northeast Indiana 4-H Campers

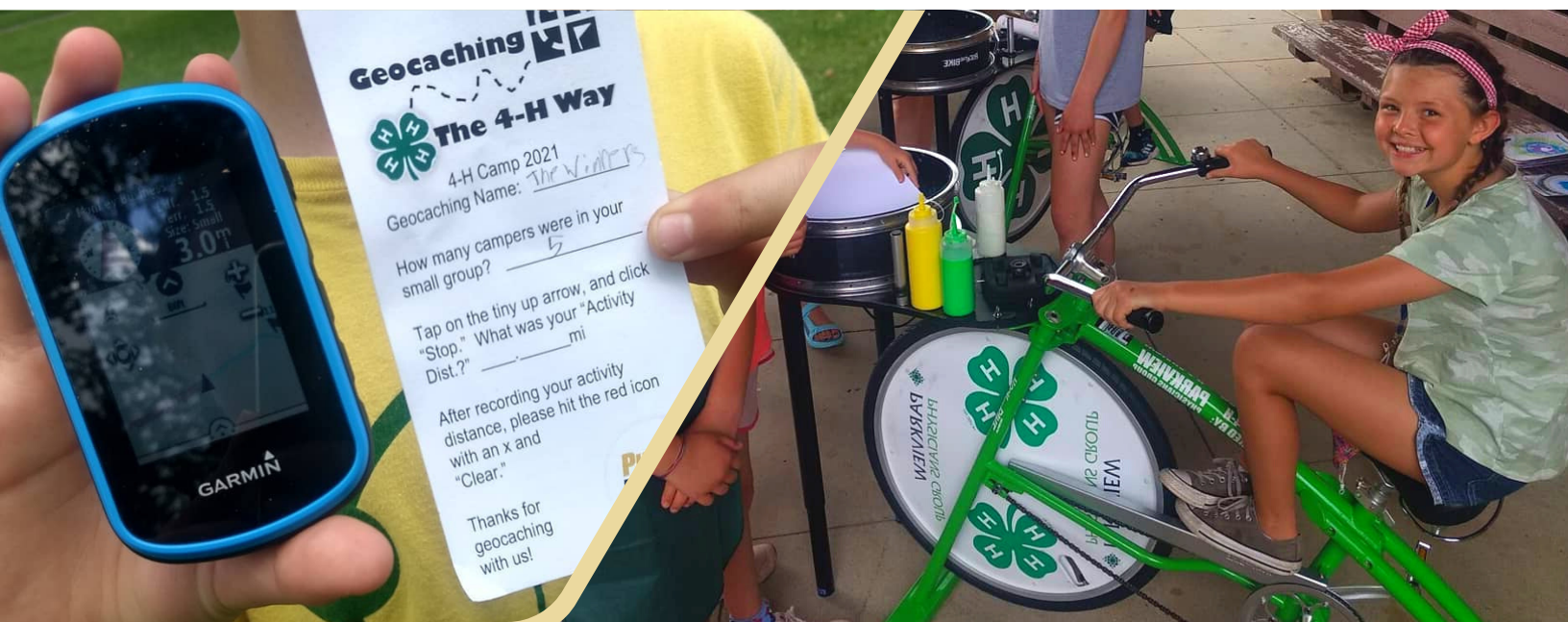


HEALTHY HABITS IN DISGUISE

Using tech science to get kids moving and learning

We can instruct youth on healthy habits, but choosing vegetables, going for a voluntary run, being mindful of mental health, and attaining adequate sleep are admittedly not super exciting to kids these days. So, in 4-H, we have schemed innovative approaches to health that also incorporate STEM strategies, and better yet, we have equipped teenagers to be the teachers and ultimately the change agents. Teens instructing the Geocaching class at 4-H Camp identified and set 13 waypoints and geocaches in which youth navigated using GPS technology with handheld Garmin devices. On average, cache logs showed geocaches were visited 19 times by small

self-named geocaching groups, similar to geocaching culture in non-camp settings. A total of 126 campers and counselors traveled a cumulative total of 70.69 miles in search of geocaches while at 4-H Camp, a healthy low-impact activity that involved critical thinking and problem solving. Not only did campers walk, but after learning about principles of physics such as force and inertia from teen counselors, they watched simple machines at work by pedaling 4-H branded stationary bicycles to create spin art. Although we did not track their cycling mileage in 2021, odometers have been purchased to discover how far 150+ campers will travel by bicycle in 2022!

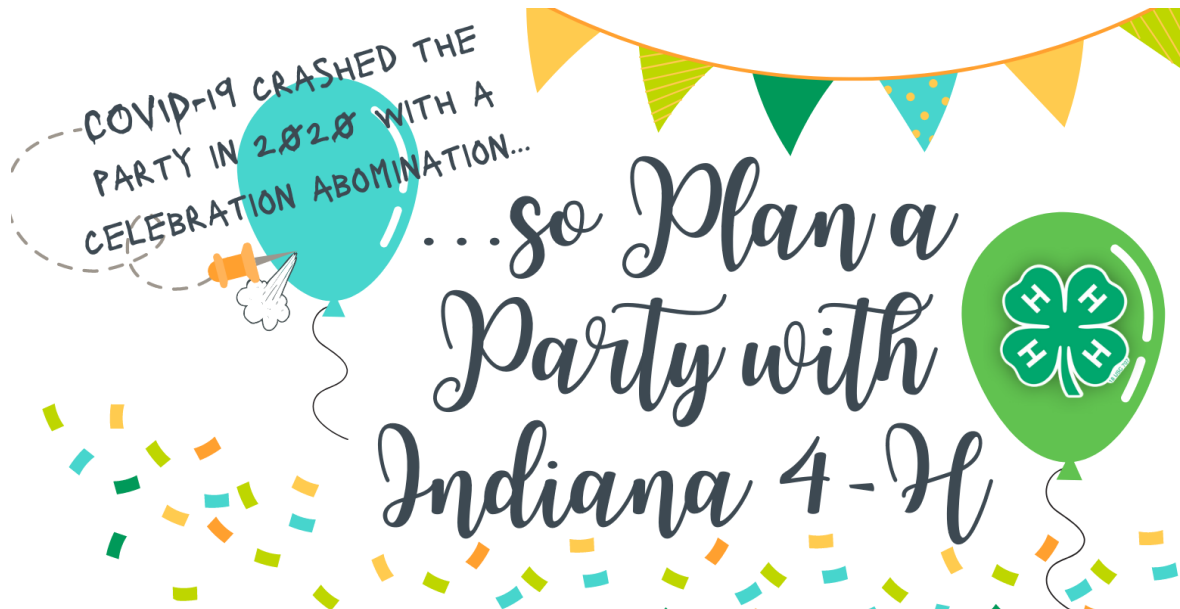


CELEBRATING WITH PURPOSE

Another disguise...party planning was code for financial management

The worldwide pandemic nixed birthday parties, baby showers, graduation celebrations, neighborhood get-togethers, and family gatherings, and as a result, it seemed there was less to celebrate. After all, lives were being lost, fear of the coronavirus was rampant, and many homes experienced a sense of chaos. Party Planning with Indiana 4-H was developed in Steuben County in partnership with 4-H and HHS Educators from nine Indiana counties to help youth reignite their reason to celebrate and to instill financial management and social science skills.

The series focused on budgeting, social sciences, health and safety, mathematics, current events, and leadership. Delivered virtually via five live Zoom meetings and self-directed Google Classroom assignments, 16 youth representing 12 Indiana counties participated in the program, and results indicated 73% set goals for themselves, and 80% keep trying until they reach their goals. Party planning requires leadership and organization, and all displayed such, but only 50% currently feel comfortable being a leader.



DRONE DISCOVERY

Equipping future pilots and providing hands-on experiences for teens

The 16-hour UAV course delivered in June 2021 reached 7 individuals, equipping them for the FAA Part 107 Exam. Topics included: Sectional Charts, Meteorology, Crew Resource Management, Flight Instructions, Camera Settings, Data Management, Image Quality, and Sensors & Artificial Intelligence. The training also covered uses in agriculture, provided local networking for UAV operators, and allowed the participants to practice flying UAVs. Participants reported they will use their acquired knowledge for crop evaluation, crop observations, photography, videography, and graduate research. For more on Purdue's UAV training program, visit <https://extension.purdue.edu/uav>

As the school year winds down and teachers affirm they have met the expected standards, there is more time for creative education. Purdue Extension led an interactive discussion and provided the opportunity for a hands-on drone flight experience with 80 Angola Middle School 6th graders. Obstacles representing phone towers, birds, center pivots, homes, and similar hazards one might actually encounter in the field were managed by students in the gymnasium while their peers demonstrated success in flying drones with iPads. Over a dozen youth actually flew for the first time and the excitement in the room was buzzing louder than the 16 sets of propellers.



THE BUZZ ABOUT BEES

Community learning is bee-utiful!

The buzz in agricultural news is that bee populations are on the decline, and pollinators such as honeybees are beneficial insects responsible for feeding the world, so to speak, due to their vital role in pollinating fruits, vegetables, and some grains. Conservation of these little black and yellow buzzers, in addition to purposeful management in home apiaries has the potential to build up or at least maintain pollinator populations. In addition to working toward a more sustainable food supply, honeybee hives provide the opportunity for youth and adults to learn about science subjects such as biology, ecology, horticulture, and agriculture. The fourth annual "Beekeeping for Beginners" was offered February-March 2021 with a condensed format due to COVID-19. Twenty-four individuals managing hives spread across at least six counties in northeast Indiana and southern Michigan attended the 10.5 hour series. 66% of the attendees reported having limited or no beekeeping experience or knowledge while 25%

identified themselves as tinkerers who have bees but do not know what they are doing. When asked what they learned, as one put it, "Too much to put on paper!" 94% feel confident in their ability to begin managing beehives for honey production, pollination, or as a hobby. Only 33% of those who responded to the evaluation are currently managing hives with a total of 16 hives among them, producing honey for nearly 300 consumers. However, 100% have plans to manage them in the next year or two. In fact, the sum total of their plans is management of 42-58 hives. The current hives and future hives are/will be located across at least 14 sites in five counties in two states.



GOING BANANAS

Potential results of misinformed mass media

Individuals in the livestock industry are accustomed to using related tools and equipment on a regular basis; however, the public does not always understand the purpose and intent behind the use of the tools and may perceive those instruments and processes poorly as they may appear cruel or abusive. Youth livestock exhibitors spend a great deal of time with their animals, especially during public displays such as county fairs, open shows, demonstrations, and judging contests. “Proactive Approaches to Public Perceptions” aimed to preemptively resolve potential conflict by informing youth of appropriate livestock care and practices. A cumulative total of 53

Steuben and DeKalb County youth livestock exhibitors took part in hands-on experiences such as tattooing and ear tagging bananas to simulate animal flesh. Educators presented animal welfare practices including: housing, show tools, restraints, hygiene and safety, and show ring safety. 100% have a better understanding of public perceptions, more confidence in themselves to handle animal welfare questions, and feel equipped to have a ready-response to questions. Respondents shared they are in the public eye with their livestock a cumulative total of 520 days during the year which equates to an average of 13 days per year per exhibitor.



GIVING BACK

Time is precious, but they give it freely because they care about our community.

946 X \$28.54 = \$27K

Hours donated by
Steuben County Extension
Master Gardeners

Value of volunteer time per hour
according to the Independent Sector

Value added to the Steuben
County Community



While they certainly love their own garden beauty and bountiful harvests of produce, the Steuben County Extension Master Gardeners are most often found helping others such as weeding areas like the new Bird Song Park in Angola, teaching Prairie Heights students after school during "Young Sprouts," planting flowers in Hamilton, or providing expert advice to home horticulturalist at the Steuben County Farmer's Market. Not only have they donated a total value of \$27,000 in volunteer time to Steuben County, but they have helped educate over 1,900 youth and adult residents in 2021, empowering them to make wise decisions with their land, food, and resources. To take the regional Master Gardener course and become a Master Gardener, call the Extension Office to be placed on a contact list.



DIGITAL MEDIA

Going beyond county lines with agriculture and environmental science video education

Does chocolate milk come from brown cows? Some kids and perhaps adults do not know. Harvest of the Month videos were created in partnership with the Northeast Indiana Farm to School Team as a means to help youth, our future leaders, understand food systems. Targeted for elementary school youth, an apple video and a strawberry video were filmed, edited, narrated, and published by Purdue Extension. The two videos filmed on Hoosier farms have reached over 5,600 people on Facebook and received over 400 YouTube views.

In collaboration with community partners, an inventory of educational conservation videos to virtually

expose school age youth to natural resources and environmental science are being developed. Reaching youth in various grade levels and meeting multiple state standards, these videos include interactive questions to engage youth and have the flexibility to be used in a classroom setting or assigned as independent learning, perfect for e-learning days. Videos published to date include "Earth as an Apple" and "Aquatic Macroinvertebrates. Filming is currently underway for "Invasive Species." Watch the videos and answer the questions, just like local students: <https://sites.google.com/view/steubenenvironmentalscience/>



ANNIE'S PROJECT

Reaching and empowering women in agriculture

Annie's Project courses have successfully reached more than 9,000 farm and ranch women in 33 states. The 6-session course focuses on the five areas of farm risk management; legal, financial, production, human resources, and marketing. 10 local farm women participated in the Annie's Project series at Stoy Farms in February and March. Local professionals in the field met with the cohort to discuss the areas of risk management. Thanks to the generous support of several local businesses that contributed \$1,750 to cover program expenses, reducing the cost for local residents. For more info go to www.anniesproject.org.



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Mission: We transform lives and livelihoods through research-based education.

From Main Street to the farm gate, Purdue Extension connects all 92 Indiana counties to world-renowned research from Purdue University.

