### PURDUE EXTENSION - WASHINGTON COUNTY

### N E W S

June/July 2025







### FEATURED TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE:

- · 4-H Fun at the Fair
- Premier Grant Provided Great 4-H Opportunities
- IN Pesticide Clean Sweep Project
- Supporting Tomatoes
- · Preserving Food at Home
- · Social Determinants of Health



WASHINGTON CO. FARMERS-MERCHANTS FAIR
JUNE 15-21







### **Upcoming Dates**

- June 1 Gibson TWP @ 3:00 PM
- June 2 Boston Blazers @ 6:00 PM
- June 3 Jr. Leaders 10-12 @ The Fairgrounds
- June 3 Tractor Club @ 7:00 PM
- June 3 Shooting Sports @ 6:00-8:00 PM
- June 4 Dog Club @ 6:00 PM
- June 5 Dog Club @ 6:00 PM
- June 9 Dog Club @ 6:00 PM
- June 10 Goat Club @ 6:00 PM
- June 10 VFF @ 6:30 PM
- June 24 After Fair Clean up @ 5:30
- June 26 Dog Club @ 6:00 PM
- July 1 Dog Club @ 6:00 PM
- July 8 Dog Club @ 6:00 PM
- July 10 Dog Club @ 6:00 PM
- July 15 Tractor Contest @ 8:00 AM
- July 15 Dog Club @ 6:00 PM
- July 17 Dog Show @ 5:00 PM
- July 20 Horse & Pony Show @ 11:00 AM



Read the 2025
Washington County
4-H Handbook Here!



### Who can join Junior Leaders?

Any Washington County 4-H member in grades 7-12



### **Upcoming Meetings:**

June 3 @ the Fairgrounds 8 AM-Noon

### What Have They Been Up To?

At the April meeting, the Jr. Leaders Club put together Birthday Bags for the local Food Bank. Since the Food Bank often doesn't have all the ingredients needed to make a cake, the members included oiland egg-free cake recipes along with icing, napkins, candles, party hats, and other fun supplies to help make birthdays a little more special for families in need.





At the May meeting, Jr. Leaders enjoyed a fun and creative painting class led by 4-H volunteer Becky Padgett from Lawrence County. Members had a great time learning new techniques and putting their artistic skills to the test. The best part? Everyone walked away with a finished piece they can proudly enter as a project at the fair!



We want to give a heartfelt thank you to Premier Companies for their generous support of Washington County 4-H. Thanks to their grant, we were able to offer some incredible opportunities to our youth through the Livestock 411 SPARK Club, Ag in the Classroom programming, and some much-needed equipment updates.

This year, 23 4-H members dove into hands-on learning through the SPARK Club—dissecting hearts, touring the Feldun Purdue Ag Center, and learning directly from local producers during a special panel featuring some of Washington County's very best. It was an unforgettable experience that brought livestock education to life in a big way.

Premier's support also made it possible to bring agriculture related 4-H projects into the classrooms at West and East Washington Schools. Students in grades 1–3 at West Washington and grades 2, 5, and 7 at East Washington explored everything from bugs and flowers to livestock products and homemade ice cream—all through fun, hands-on lessons.

These experiences are more than just educational—they help spark new interests, build confidence, and make learning fun. We're incredibly grateful to Premier Companies for believing in our youth and helping us continue to "make the best better."



# 2025 Washington County 4—H Fair Schedule

# **Pre-Fair Activities**

### Monday June 2, 2025

- All entries must be in FairEntry
- 5:00pm QLC Training @ the 4-H Building

- 10: 00am-noon Jr. Leader Clean up day @ the Fairgrounds Tuesday June 3, 2025
- sewing Fashion Revue, followed by Communications judging @ the 5:30pm - Consumer Clothing & Thursday June 5, 2025 Fairgrounds
- 5:00pm All grounds clean up & set up. Pizza provided by Washington Tuesday June 10, 2025 County 4-H Council
  - 10:00am-noon early project drop Thursday June 12, 2025
- 3:00pm-7:30pm ALL projects off (no judges on site)
  - Saturday June 14, 2025 check-in
- 4:00pm-7:00pm Rabbit & Poultry 4:00pm - 9:00pm - Sheep & Goat Check-In
  - Check-In
- 5:00pm-7:00pm 4-H Building Open 3:30 pm - 4-H Awards Program **Sunday June 15, 2025**
- 6:00pm-9:00pm Swine & Cattle Check-In



# Fair Week Activities

Post Fair Week Activities

**Fuesday June 24, 2025** 

# Monday June 16, 2025

 9:15am - ALL Livestock exhibitor meeting, followed by hill pass pick up.

 Last day to clean up pens to get deposit back. 5:00 - 7:00pm - Livestock Barn Cleanup/4-H

11:00am - Horse & Pony Completion Show

5:00pm 4-H Dog Show

Sunday July 20, 2025

Fuesday July 15, 2025 **Building Clean Up** 

- 10:30am Poultry Show
  - 6:00pm Sheep Show
- 9:30am Meat Goat Show, followed by Pygmy Goat Tuesday June 17, 2025
- 5:00pm Dairy Beef Show, followed by County Show
  - Born and Raised Beef Show
    - 10: 00am Rabbit Show Wednesday June 18, 2025
- Noon Cards & Cornhole
  - 5:00pm Swine Show Thursday June 19, 2025
- 9:30am Dairy Cattle Show 11:00am - Dairy Goat Show
  - 6:00pm Beef Show
- 8:30am breakfast provided by Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, Friday June 20, 2025 Salem Office
  - 11:00am Pizza provided by First Harrison Bank 9:00am - Jamboree of Fun
- 12:30pm 1:30pm Jamboree Clean Up 11:30 - 12:30 - water games with Taylor
- 4:00pm Small Animal Supreme Showmanship, followed by Large Animal Supreme Showmanship
- TBA Clean up & Set up for the auction
- (animals only, no tack should be loaded out at this time) Saturday June 21, 2025
- Trailers must be off the hill by 8:15 am
- 8:30 am donuts provided by First Savings Bank 9:30am - 4-H Livestock Auction
- No pen cleaning should take place during the auction or animal load-out
- 2:00pm 4:00pm Static Project Pick-Up



### Fun at the Fair



4-H Council Clover Creamery

### 4-H Council Concessions

### Sunday June 15 4 PM - 8 PM

- · Hot Dogs
- Chili Dogs
- Hamburgers
- · Watermelon Cups
- · Banana Split
- · Chips

### Monday June 16 7:30 AM - 11:00 AM

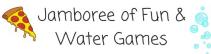
- · Biscuits & Gravy
- Bacon
- · Scrambled Eggs







Wednesday June 18, 2025
Join us in the Show Arena at
Noon for Cards & Cornhole! We
will have card games, snacks & a
Corn Hole Tournament.



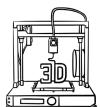
### Friday June 20, 2025

- 9:00am Jamboree of Fun
- 11:00am Pizza provided by First Harrison Bank
- 11:30 12:30 water games with Taylor
- 12:30pm 1:30pm Jamboree Clean Up

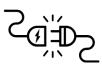
### **Project Resources**

Don't forget! We have various supplies for sale at the Extension Office to help you with your 4-H projects. We're open Monday–Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM. We also have two 3D printers, sewing machines, and Cricut machines available for member use.

Email Taylor at tsabens@purdue.edu to learn more—we're here to help you finish your projects strong!









### Hands to Larger Service

There are many ways to volunteer during the fair! Scan the QR codes below to sign up for a shift at static project check-in or the Clover Creamery!

### **Clover Creamery**



### Project Check-In



### **AG NEWS**





### Open Sheep & Goat Shows, June 7

The Washington County Sheep Association, Washington County Goat Association, and Washington County Fair Board are hosting an Open Sheep Show and Open Goat Show on Saturday, June 7, 2025 at the Washington County Fairgrounds.





For rules and general information visit the associations' Facebook pages at "Washington County Sheep Association" and "Washington Co Goat Association."

### Ag. Hall of Fame Announcement, June 16



Join the SWAG Team at the Ag. Hall of Fame program, dinner, and the presentation of the Ag. Hall of Fame award to a deserving Washington County farmer or agribusiness person

on Monday, June 16, 2025 at 5:00 pm. RSVP to the Purdue Extension -Wash, Co. office at 812-883-4601 and check-in at the SWAG table near the show arena. Participants receive a coupon to the 4-H Clover Creamery. After the program, stay to support 4-H members during the 4-H Sheep Show. Tickets limited to 200.

### **Washington County Fair, June 15-21**

Support Washington County agriculture at the fair by visiting the Livestock Producer Groups' Concession Stand.



\*Washington County Cattlemen's Association Beef BBQ - Monday, June 16 from 5-9 pm and Wednesday, June 18 from 11 am-1 pm and 6-9 pm. \*Washington County Pork Producers Pork BBQ - Thursday, June 19 from 11 am-1 pm and 5-9 pm and Friday, June 20 from 5-9 pm. \*Washington County Sheep Association Lamb BBQ/Fajitas - Tuesday,

June 17 from 11 am-7 pm. (Cinnamon rolls and drinks available at 8 am.)

### Pasture Ecology Workshop, June 18

The Southern Indiana Purdue Ag. Center (11371 E. Purdue Farm Rd., Dubois, IN 47527) is hosting a Pasture Ecology Workshop on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm. Cost is \$40/person and includes lunch. Topics to be covered: dung beetles, root structures, soil science, water infiltration, soil health, bird and grassland interactions, toxic plants, soil microbial life, plant ID. Register online at www.indianabeef.org. For questions contact Jason Tower at towerj@purdue.edu or 812-678-4427.



### Save-The-Date

- Clark Co. Pasture Walk Saturday, July 26, 2025 Clark Co.
- Farmer Appreciation Lunch Date TBD Salem, IN.
- Fall Conservation Field Day Date TBD Washington Co.
- Women's Forum October 2025 Washington Co.
- Area 2 Fall PARP Thursday, November 6, 2025 1:00-3:00 pm
   Washington Co. Government Building, Salem, IN.
- Area 2 All CCH Credit Program Thursday, November 20, 2025
  - Clark Co.

### The Office of The Indiana State Chemist (OISC) Schedules Clean Sweeps to Dispose of Unused Chemicals

The Indiana Pesticide Clean Sweep Project is designed to collect and dispose of suspended, canceled, banned, unusable, opened, unopened or just unwanted pesticides (weed killers, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, miticides, etc.) and is sponsored by the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC). The disposal service is free of charge up to 250 pounds per participant. Over 250 pounds there is a \$3.00 per pound charge. This is a great opportunity for you to legally dispose of unwanted products at little or no cost.

All Indiana Pesticide Clean Sweep events will be from 9:00am - 2:00pm local Time at the following locations.

- ·August 12, 2025: Pinney PAC 11402 S. Co. Line Rd., Wanatah, IN 46390.
- ·August 13, 2025: Keystone Cooperative 2500 S. 13<sup>th</sup> ST., Terre Haute, IN 47802
- ·August 14, 2025: Kova Fertilizer 1330 N. Anderson St., Greensburg, IN 47240
- ·August 19, 2025: Clark Co. Solid Waste District 112 Industrial Way., Charlestown, IN 47111
- ·August 20, 2025: Ag. Plus 5501 S. St. Rd. 9, Columbia City, IN 46725
- ·August 21, 2025: Hendricks Co. Fairgrounds 1900 E. Main St., Danville, IN 46122.

Anyone wishing to dispose of chemicals must complete the Pesticide Clean Sweep Planning Form to the best of their ability and mail, fax or e-mail the completed form to Mitch Trimble at 765-494-4331 or <a href="mailto:cleansweep@groups.purdue.edu">cleansweep@groups.purdue.edu</a> no later than Friday, August 8, 2025. The form can be found at <a href="https://www.oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/clean\_sweep.html">https://www.oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/clean\_sweep.html</a>. Then bring the labeled, leak free, and safe to transport containers to the collection site. DO NOT mix materials.

### The Personal Property Exemption: Not so Minimal Anymore



Sometimes taxes cost more to collect than the revenue they generate. Back in 2015, the Indiana General Assembly recognized one example.

Back then, all businesses were required to file forms establishing the value of personal property for property tax payments. Personal property is mostly business equipment, from office furniture to the turbines in electrical power plants. Back then, almost 300,000 Indiana businesses filed forms.

Many of these businesses were small, with only a few thousand dollars of equipment. But the forms were filed and processed by the county assessor. Values could be so small that they probably cost the assessor more to process than they generated in revenue.

So, in 2015, the General Assembly established a \$20,000 minimum for personal property taxes. If a business had less than \$20,000 in equipment, it would not have to file. According to the Legislative Services Agency, there were 147,300 filers with property valued at less than \$20,000. That was about half of the total.

Those taxpayers saved all of \$13.5 million from the new exemption. On average, they had paid \$92 on their property. And, because eliminating part of the property tax base caused tax rates to tick upward, the total revenue loss to all local governments was \$8 million.

This is called a "de minimis" exemption. That's Latin for "pertaining to minimal things." Tax bills that small are just not worth collecting. The General Assembly liked what they saw, so in 2019, it raised the de minimis exemption from \$20,000 to \$40,000. LSA estimated that 28,300 more taxpayers quit paying, saving them \$4.1 million. That's \$145 per taxpayer. Still a "minimal thing," but not as minimal as before. Local governments lost \$2 million in revenue.

In 2021, legislators raised the exemption to \$80,000. This exempted 34,000 additional taxpayers who had paid \$18 million in taxes, or \$529 per taxpayer. Less minimal still. Local revenue losses were \$9 million.

Then came this year's Senate Bill 1. As signed by the governor, the bill would have increased the personal property exemption from \$80,000 to \$1 million for taxes in 2026, and \$2 million for taxes in 2027 and after.

The number of taxpayers wasn't reported, but we know the tax payment impact of the increase to \$1 million for 2026, because of House Bill 1427. That was a "trailer bill" which amends a bill that has already passed. After the governor signed SB 1 into law, HB 1427 amended that law, eliminating the increased exemption for 2026. It will remain at \$80,000 for taxes that year, then increase to \$2 million in 2027.

LSA's fiscal note estimates that business personal property owners will pay an extra \$130 million, mostly because the exemption was cancelled. The exemption would have saved them that much had it remained on the books. That doesn't sound minimal at all.

I've heard two reasons why the exemption increase was rescinded. One was administrative. Taxes in 2026 are based on assessments in 2025, and the assessment of personal property is already well underway. Starting over under new rules would be confusing to taxpayers and assessors alike.

Another reason is that the exemption is so much bigger. Legislators may want time to study the effect of the increase on local government revenues and other taxpayers before it takes full effect. HB 1427 gives them a year to do that.

There are some advantages to raising the personal property exemption. It's a tax cut for small and medium-size businesses. It may be a step to eventual elimination of personal property taxes. Most states tax business equipment, but among the few states that don't are Ohio and Illinois. Indiana has a lot of advantages in business taxation over our neighbors, but not that one. Exempting more equipment from taxes may help attract new investment.

There are disadvantages, too. When a part of the property tax base is exempted, local governments either give up that revenue or raise the same revenue with higher tax rates. Government services may be scaled back, or taxes may be shifted to homeowners, landlords and other owners of land and buildings.

Senate Bill 1 was the final word on property tax reform — for about two weeks. More reforms in 2026 seem like a definite possibility.

Larry DeBoer, Printed in Capital Comments, May 20, 2025.

### **Indiana Farm Custom Rate Survey**

The 2025 Indiana Farm Custom Rate Survey is now available from the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture and can be found at:

https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag/home/resource/2025/04/2025-indiana- farm-custom-rates/?utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=delivra-AgNews20250418&utm\_campaign=Resource2025FarmCustomRates&utm\_id=47571844

### **HORTICULTURE NEWS**



### Washington County Farmers' Market, Now Open

The Washington County Farmers' Market is open on Saturday mornings from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm in the parking lot of the Wash. Co. Justice Center on Jackson St. When produce is more plentiful, the market will open on Tuesdays from 4:00-6:00 pm. New vendors are invited. If interested, contact the Extension office for a copy of the contract or visit the Extension website for more information.



### **Save the Date**

 Good Earth Master Gardeners' Garden Tour - TBD -Washington Co. - More information coming soon!

### **Updated Indiana Home-Based Vendor Handbook**

As produce bounties are harvested this summer, many growers may explore options to transform excess perishable products into value-added goods such as baked goods, jams and jellies, and more. Current Indiana regulations allow individuals to make certain products in their home kitchen and sell those direct-to-consumer as a home-based vendor (HBV). However, there are several products that carry an inherent food safety risk that cannot be made in someone's home and sold by an HBV.

If HBVs have questions regarding allowable products, they should contact the local health department in the county where they intend to sell the product.

The updated handbook is available at:

https://ag.purdue.edu/department/foodsci/ docs/indiana-home-based-vendor-handbook-updated-5.12.25.pdf

### **Critical Period for Disease Management in Grapes**

The most important time of the year for fruit disease control in grapes is from pre-bloom to 4-5 weeks past fruit set. The potential for fruit infection drops significantly 4-5 weeks post-bloom. Important diseases to control during



this time include black rot, downy mildew and powdery mildew. Fruit of the most commonly planted varieties is resistant to black rot, downy mildew and powdery mildew, but rachises (stems) and leaves remain susceptible. Therefore, protection against these fungal pathogens is required throughout the growing season for these parts of the plant.

A list of recommended products can be found in The Midwest Fruit Pest Management Guide. It is important to get good coverage in the fruit zone. Also, beware that downy and powdery mildew pathogens are especially prone to fungicide resistance, so avoid back-to-back applications of any one systemic fungicide class (i.e. FRAC 3, 7 or 11).

The Midwest Fruit Pest Management Guide is available at: <a href="https://ag.purdue.edu/department/hla/extension/">https://ag.purdue.edu/department/hla/extension/</a> docs/id-465.pdf Published May 16, 2025 in the Facts for Fancy Fruit

### **Supporting Tomatoes**

Tomatoes need support to remain upright, improve air flow and reduce the risk of disease. Support keeps the fruit off the ground which helps reduce contamination from contact with soil. Traditional, store-bought cages can be effective for small, container tomato varieties but are often insufficient for most tomato varieties.

You can build a stronger tomato cage using concrete reinforcing mesh. Multiple cages can be built with a roll 150 feet long and 5 feet tall. The openings between the wires are large enough to fit your hand through for harvesting and allow even large slicing tomatoes to slide through. Cut the wire at the desired length and create a cylinder that will wrap around the tomato plant. If you cut the wire to six-feet long, the diameter of the cage will be

the wire to six-feet long, the diameter of the cage will be almost two feet. Wrap the cut wires around the other end of the panel to make a cylindrical shape. Secure the cage by attaching it to multiple wooden stakes hammered into the soil several inches.

Cynthia Domenghini, Kansas State University Instructor & Horticulture Extension Specialist



### **HHS NEWS**



### **Upcoming Dates**

- June 2 and July 7 "Full Circle" at 5:30pm, meets monthly in the Purdue Extension Conference Room
- June and July, "Here's to Our Health!"

Round 1 - Wednesdays (weeks 8 thru 11)

Round 2 - Tuesdays (weeks 1 thru 9)

Round 3 - Thursdays (weeks 1 thru 8)

All classes filled at the time of this publication

- June 17 and July 8 Community Assistance Providers
   Meetings, Tuesdays from 10am to noon
- July 24 "Preserve it Now... Enjoy it Later" canning class

### Words of Reflection:

"To ensure good health: eat lightly, breathe deeply, live moderately, cultivate cheerfulness, and maintain an interest in life." -William Londen



### PRESERVE IT NOW ... ENJOY IT LATER





### Pressure Canning and Boiling Water Bath Workshop

- Thursday, July 24, 2025
- 8:30 am 3:00 pm Lunch provided
- Salem High School (700 N Harrison St., Salem)
- Free! (Class size limited to 9 participants)
- For questions or to RSVP, contact Sonya Mitchell at 812-883-4601 or shmitche@purdue.edu

Join Purdue Extension Master Home Food Preservation instructors to learn the basics of pressure canning and boiling water bath canning through education and a hands-on workshop. Participants will prepare and process a recipe to take home.

Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access University. If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program, please contact Sonya Mitchell prior to the meeting at 812-883-4601 or shmitche@purdue.edu by July 10. If you need an interpreter or translator, please contact Sonya Mitchell prior to the meeting at 812-883-4601 or shmitche@purdue.edu by July 10.

### Preserve it Now... Enjoy it Later 🐞



If you've considered canning, but felt unsure about doing it safely, or perhaps you were hesitant to invest in canning equipment only to find it wasn't for you, then we have an exciting opportunity for you. You can experience canning, completely free of charge! From start to finish, we provide everything you need — the produce, canners, supplies, even the knife you'll use and the apron you'll wear. It's a full day of learning, but lunch is included with the class. This one-day class is fully funded by a grant from the Downing Family Trust, so you can enjoy the experience at no cost to you!

This class isn't just for beginners - seasoned canners often tell us they've learned something new from our classes, too. Plus, the camaraderie has been a treat for all!

Class size is limited, so be sure to register today! Registration can be completed by contacting Sonya Mitchell at 812-883-4601 or shmitche@purdue.edu.

REMINDER: GET YOUR PRESSURE CANNER AND DIAL GUAGE INSPECTED ANNUALLY. CALL THE WASHINGTON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE at 812-883-4601 TO SCHEDULE YOUR INSPECTION TODAY.



Preserving food at home—whether through canning, drying, fermenting, or freezing—offers numerous advantages. It extends the shelf life of seasonal produce, reduces food waste, saves money, and provides greater control over ingredients, allowing families to minimize additives, preservatives, and excess sodium or sugar. For many, it's also a meaningful way to reconnect with cultural traditions and foster food security by ensuring a steady, affordable supply of nutritious foods year-round.

These benefits can lead to a healthier lifestyle. When individuals have access to preserved fruits, vegetables, and home-prepared meals, they are more likely to consume a balanced diet, rich in essential nutrients. Home food preservation can support efforts to reduce reliance on processed foods and encourage mindful eating habits—two pillars of long-term wellness. Moreover, the act of preparing and preserving food can itself be a form of self-care, offering physical activity, stress relief, and a deeper awareness of one's dietary choices.

However, the ability to maintain such a lifestyle is not evenly distributed. The tools, time, and knowledge needed for home food preservation—and for

healthful living in general—are often shaped by broader social determinants of health. Factors such as income, education, housing stability, neighborhood resources, and access to fresh food all influence whether individuals can adopt and sustain these practices. Understanding these systemic influences is key to promoting health equity. It shifts the conversation from individual responsibility to collective support, recognizing that personal wellness is deeply intertwined with the social and economic conditions in which people live.

### 

Remember the saying "You are what you eat?" While this is certainly a key factor, you are much more than what you eat. Consider the following:

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes. These include the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age, and they play a crucial role in shaping the overall health and quality of life of individuals and communities.

### **Key Determinants**

The World Health Organization (WHO) identifies several core categories of SDOH, including:

- Economic Stability: Access to employment, income level, and financial security
- Education Access and Quality: Literacy, early childhood education, and higher education opportunities
- Healthcare Access and Quality: Availability of services, insurance coverage, and cultural competence of care providers
- Neighborhood and Built Environment: Housing quality, transportation, and exposure to environmental hazards
- Social and Community Context: Social support, community engagement, and experiences with discrimination or violence

### **Impact on Health Outcomes**

Research shows that SDOH accounts for up to 80% of health outcomes, far outweighing the influence of clinical care alone (Hood et al., 2016). For instance, individuals living in poverty may face barriers to accessing nutritious food, safe housing, or consistent healthcare, all of which contribute to poorer health outcomes and reduced life expectancy.

Moreover, systemic inequalities—such as racism, sexism, and economic

disparities—can exacerbate these conditions, creating health inequities among marginalized populations.

### **Addressing the Determinants**

Public health efforts increasingly emphasize the need for policies that address these upstream factors. This includes investing in education, improving housing and urban design, increasing access to mental health services, and promoting fair economic practices. Collaboration between sectors—healthcare, education, housing, and labor—is essential to create environments that support healthy living.

### Social Determinants of Health Stats in Washington County

Washington County, Indiana faces several challenges related to social determinants of health (SDOH), which influence residents' well-being and access to healthcare. Below is a limited overview of key statistics and resources:

### **Health Access & Coverage**

- Health Insurance: Approximately 88.2% of Washington County residents have health coverage, with 44.1% on employer plans, 16.7% on Medicaid, 12.7% on Medicare, 12.3% on non-group plans, and 2.49% on military or veteran plans.
- Primary Care Access: The county has 1 primary care physician per more than 10,000 residents, indicating limited access to primary care services.

### **Income & Poverty**

- Poverty Rates: In 2019-2023, 13.5% of people were in poverty. An estimated 16.8% of children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 9.4% of people 65 years old and over. An estimated 13.4% of people 18 to 64 years were below the poverty level.
- Median Household Income: The median household income is \$47,078, which is lower than the Indiana state average.

### **Housing & Neighborhoods**

- Housing Quality: More than half of the homes in Washington County are 40 years or older, and 42.3% of houses are valued at less than \$100K.
- Homeownership Rate: The county has a 76% homeownership rate.

### **Education & Digital Access**

- Educational Attainment: 84.6% of people have their high school diploma or higher, and 13.2% of the population have a bachelor's degree or higher.
- Broadband Access: Only about 66.4% of county residents have access to broadband internet, compared to 84% of Indiana residents.

### **Physical Health**

• Obesity & Physical Inactivity: 37% of residents are classified as obese, and only 47% report having access to exercise opportunities.



### A Personal Note of Gratitude from your Health and Human Sciences Educator

I want to extend my most sincere gratitude to everyone who played a part in making the "Here's To Our Health!" program a success. A special thank you to all my incredible community partners who worked to bring this program to folks throughout Washington County. A very special thank you to the Downing Family Trust and the Washington County Communication Foundation. Your support, collaboration, and commitment made it all possible.

And to those who participated—a huge, HUGE thank you to each and every one of you!!!!! You brought such energy, openness, and authenticity to this space, and it truly meant the world to me. This program was not just another event—it was something meaningful and important to me, and your presence, engagement, and shared stories made it a wonderful experience for both fellow attendees and your HHS educator!



My hope is that you carry something you learned during our time together with you moving forward. Whether it was a new skill, expanded understanding, or newly acquired information, I hope it empowers you to live your best life and to support your loved ones as they continue their own wellness journeys.



I also hope that the sense of social connectedness you felt in class lingers long after the final session. Perhaps you even formed friendships that will grow beyond the classroom—what a beautiful outcome that would be!

I am already looking forward to the next time we can come together and learn, grow, and share. Until then, please make sure we have your current contact information so we can keep you in the loop about upcoming programs and opportunities.

Thank you again, you made this experience unforgettable.

With my sincere gratitude,

Sonya







**Extension - Washington County** 

806 Martinsburg Rd., Ste. 104 Salem, IN 47167 (812) 883-4601 Office Hours: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED