

EXTENSION CONNECTION



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HHS



Extension - Whitley County

MAR-APR 2025

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Reminder

As the calendar starts heading towards spring, our 4-H activities really pick up! I receive questions frequently asking **“how important is it that I/we attend our 4-H meeting, 4-H workshop, or board meeting?”** In short, they are **IMPORTANT.**

4-H Club meetings are where up to date 4-H information is shared, questions can be answered, etc.

4-H workshops are the place where youth can learn specific skills, techniques, and knowledge about a specific 4-H project. These workshops are also an opportunity to get hands-on learning and can take the place of a specific project's worksheets.

Adults, if you are a part of 4-H Clubs, Inc., 4-H Council, 4-H Leaders, or a livestock/animal advisory board your meetings are important. These meetings are an opportunity for you to stay informed in your specific volunteer role within our 4-H program, work with others to carry out your duties, brainstorm ideas, and connect with others as we work together to truly make a positive lasting impact on the youth in our Whitley County 4-H program.

Get involved, stay informed, and take the opportunity to learn a new skill or knowledge these next two months!

~ Todd Geiger, 4-H Youth Development Educator ~

2025 Whitley County 4-H Fair July 11 – 17



“Wonder Thru 4-H” Open House




Happening Friday, Feb. 28th from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center. There will be STEM activities for the kids, 4-H projects on display, 4-H Club info. available, and our livestock/animal projects “Can’t Miss dates” will be on hand as well. So, swing on by and have some fun! Invite your friends to come check-out our 4-H program and have some fun!!

**Whitley County
Extension Homemakers
Spring Garage Sale
April 12 ~ 8:00 am – 3:00 pm
4-H Center
50+ Booths - Lunch Served!!**

Todd 🍀 John 🍀 Brittney 🍀 Jacki 🍀 Lisa 🍀 Candy 🍀 Stacy

Whitley County Leadership 2025

4-H LEADERS:

President: Ronda Sroufe
Vice-President: 
Secretary: Jacki Bishop
Asst. Secretary: Lynnette Bridegam
Treasurer: Pam Sherbahn

4-H COUNCIL:

President: Tammy Studebaker
Vice-President: Julie Haire
Secretary: Rachelle Cormany
Asst. Secretary: Julie Haire
Treasurer: Lindsay Barron
Asst. Treasurer: Mark Miller

4-H CLUBS, INC.:

President: Jerred Reiff
Vice-President: Sara Demske
Secretary: Alyssa Fletcher
Treasurer: Lori Heuer
Asst. Treasurer: Alyssa Fletcher
Executive: Tabi Garber,
Gregg Palmer

EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS:

President: Karen Hall
Vice-President: Donna Batchelder
Secretary: Vickie Fleischauer
Treasurer: Janet Hindbaugh

AG MUSEUM:

President: Dale Leedy
Vice-President and
Treasurer: Kent Reese
Secretary: Cindy Rochyby



MASTER GARDENERS:

President: Rindy Schlatter
Vice-President: Bridget Johnson
Secretary: Linda Janssen
Treasurer: Randi Engelhardt

34th Annual Fish/Tenderloin Fry, Silent Auction & Fun Night – May 3

The 34th Annual 4-H Fish/Tenderloin Fry, Silent Auction and Fun Night will be held on Saturday, May 3 at the 4-H Center from 4:00-7:00 pm. Meal is a dine-in and carry-out option. Prices: **adults - \$14.00; children 5-10 yrs. - \$8.00 and under 5 yrs. are free.** Whitley County 4-H Council's Silent Auction will be held at the same time, along with 4-H Fun Night. This event is sponsored by the Whitley County 4-H Clubs, Inc. For questions, please email: whitleycounty4h@gmail.com.

*Thank you for your support and generosity to the
Whitley County 4-H Program.*





WWW.WHITLEYCOUNTY4H.COM

Whitley County 4-H Fairgrounds

WINTER STORAGE REMOVAL

SHORT TERM releases March 8
Swine, beef, dairy, sheep, commercial, and show barns

LONG TERM releases MAY 3
Small animal and goat barns


Questions: call 260-212-2143

Help us raise
\$  \$

roof

The 4-H Center NEEDS a new roof! We have made the down payment and roof replacement will be happening this spring. Would you like to help us fund this project?

Scan here to make an online donation, or mail your donation to
Whitley County 4-H Clubs, Inc. at
524 Branch Court
Columbia City, IN 46725



AG MUSEUM BENEFIT BREAKFAST

There will be an Ag Museum benefit breakfast at the Ag Museum on Saturday, April 5, 2025 from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m. The breakfast will include scrambled eggs, pancakes, whole hog sausage, and drinks. Bring family and friends to enjoy good fellowship and food. A free will donation will be received for the meal and the proceeds will help fund the new projects being planned at the Ag Museum.



4-H Project Supplies

The following supplies/kits are available or can be ordered through the Extension Office. **Please note the price increase for the foam poster board:**

Foam Poster Board.....\$4.00
Poster Sleeve\$1.00
Salon Print Sleeve.....\$0.50
Mini 4-H Poster Sleeve.....\$0.50

Salon Print Kits:

(16" x 20" kit for 11" x 14" picture)

****while supplies last****

Black Mat, Backing, Sleeve...\$3.00
White Mat, Backing, Sleeve...\$3.00

Electric:

Extension Cord Kit
(Limited Supply)..... \$20.00
(Includes wire, male & female ends)

Entomology:

Insect Boxes (Limited Supply)..\$16.00
Insect Kit (Pins & Vials).....\$6.00

MIDWEST AMERICA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION TO DONATE BIG TO 4-H

We would like to say THANK YOU to MidWest America Federal Credit Union for their donation to helping us grow our STEM Connection programs as well as our youth workshop experiences! AND...for partnering with us moving forward through their Affinity Card program at their local branch right here in Columbia City! Would you like to support the Whitley County 4-H program and make an impact with these programs and many more? All you would need to do is ask for one of these debit cards at our local MidWest America Federal Credit Union branch. The cost is free for you and every time you use your "Whitley County 4-H" debit card, MidWest shares a portion of their profit with us! For more details stop by our office or the local MidWest America FCU branch.

National Volunteer Week: April 20 – 26, 2025

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, to the hundreds of adults that volunteer to work with our Extension program. You perform valuable roles for youth and adults; you are a role model, teacher advisor, counselor, mentor and friend. You provide educational opportunities and teach life skills that adults and youth do not receive in other settings.

**YOU are
IMPORTANT
and
APPRECIATED!!**



Easy and Creamy Zucchini Fettuccine

Source: Leanne Brown's cookbook, *Good and Cheap*
Serves about 3 people

Ingredients:

- Salt, to taste
- 8 oz fettuccine
- 4 Tablespoons butter
- 4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- ½ tsp. Chile flakes
- 2 small zucchinis, finely diced
- Zest of 1 lemon
- ¼ cup of heavy cream
- ½ cup grated Romano or Parmesan cheese



Instructions:

1. Bring a pot of water to a boil over high heat. Salt the water liberally. Don't worry, most of the salt won't end up in the pasta!
2. Cook the pasta according to the package directions. I drain the pasta just before it's finished so it doesn't get mushy when I add it to the vegetable pan and it gets cooked a little more.
3. Meanwhile, melt 1 tablespoon of the butter in a pan over medium heat. Add the garlic and chili flakes. Let them sizzle for 30 seconds to 1 minute, then add the zucchini. Stir the vegetables to coat. Cook, stirring occasionally, until some of the water has cooked off and the veggies are tender, 5-7 minutes. Young summer zucchini doesn't need much cooking. Add the lemon zest. Stir!
4. Drain the fettuccine and add it to the pan along with the remaining 3 tablespoons of butter, the cream, and most of the cheese. Toss the fettuccine around the pan, and add salt and lots of freshly ground pepper to taste. Top with a bit more cheese and serve immediately.

Extension Homemakers Happenings



Date	Event	Time	Location
MAR			
4	President Council Meeting.....	9:30 a.m.....	Extension Office
APR			
1	President Council Meeting (Local Club Officer lists & membership list due)..	9:30 a.m.....	Extension Office
12	Spring Garage Sale.....	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	4-H Center
14	Spring District Meeting	Details Coming Soon.....	Steuben County
18	Good Friday – Extension Office is Closed		
22	Spring Fling.....	Invitations Mailed Soon...	4-H Center
24	May/June Newsletter Folding/Mailing (Union Busy Bells and Club 21).....	10:00 a.m.....	Extension Office

**Start thinking
about an entry
for the Adult
Open Show
coming in July.**

Thank you to these Extension Homemakers who folded and labeled the January-February Extension Connection: Double Dozen – Cheryl Wilkinson; Evening Bells – Sally Hull, Karen Bucher and Glenna Johnson.

President's Council Meetings

March 4 and April 1, 9:30 a.m., Extension Office

Extension Homemakers Cookbook

The Whitley County Extension Homemakers cookbooks are at the Extension Office. This cookbook has Whitley County Extension Homemaker and other recipes. The cost to purchase a cookbook is \$10.00 and can be purchased at the Extension Office (please bring the correct payment) and will be available at the Spring Garage on April 20.



Spring Garage Sale

The Spring Garage Sale is on April 12 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center.

Spaces are SOLD OUT. Come and shop at the 54 spaces, as there will be a wide variety of items to choose from. Proceeds support our 4-H scholarships. Food is served by Union Busy Bells Extension Homemaker Club. For questions or more information, call Barb Overdeer at 260-609-5210.



The Extension Homemakers **Spring Fling** is set for Tuesday, April 22 at 1:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center. Invitations will be mailed soon. Those homemakers participating in the cultural art special project, at this year's

Home & Family Conference, bring: a creatively constructed placemat. Maximum size is 14" x 20" (can be smaller though) and whatever shape you choose - rectangle, oval, round, square, etc., just as long as it is not over 14" x 20", and can be made using any medium you like - plastic, canvas, crochet, knit, quilt, whatever you desire. Let's get those creative juices flowing. If there is more than one special placemat project submitted, a vote will be taken. Other cultural arts projects can go to conference, as well - quilts, needlework, upcycling, knitting, crocheting, jewelry, wreaths, diamond dot. Bring these to Spring Fling as well - show off your creative talents.

Annual Home and Family Conference

This year's conference, sponsored by the Indiana Extension Homemaker's Assoc. along with the Health and Human

Sciences Extension of Purdue University, will be held June 2-4 at the Embassy Suites in Noblesville, Indiana. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn new heritage skills, leadership techniques through I-LEAD sessions, attend informative lessons taught by "those in the know" from around the state and get to know your fellow members from around the state. See information: www.ieha-families.org

Whitley County IEHA Lessons

Need another idea for an educational program for your club meeting? Our county Health & Human Sciences (HHS) Educator, Brittney Schori, offers a wide range of lessons, see below. For info. contact the Extension Office at 260-244-7615.

- Being S.M.A.R.T. When You Set Goals
- Budgeting 101
- Chair-Based Exercise (CBE)
- Color Me Stress Free
- Connect & Engage: Essentials for Effective Communication
- Empower Me to be Clutter Free
- How to Read a Food Label
- How to Use Small Kitchen Appliances
- Importance of Sleep
- Living Without a Will
- Meal Plan Magic
- Move Your Body More with Physical Activity
- Staying Scam Safe
- Sodium Shift: Education for Healthier Eating
- Spending Leaks
- Sugar Savvy: Navigating Nutrition Wisely
- Vitamins and Minerals
- Where Does Your Money Go?

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Indiana Extension Homemakers sponsor scholarships annually. For a copy of the applications contact Purdue Extension - Whitley County office at 244-7615, 625-3313, email bishop87@purdue.edu or visit the website: www.ieha-families.org/forms. Scholarships available are:

1. Career Advancement Scholarship due March 15, 2025
2. Ruth B Sayre School due May 1, 2025
3. Steps to Success Scholarship due May 1, 2025

DID YOU KNOW?

INDIANA EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS ASSOCIATION IS THE LARGEST VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION IN INDIANA WORKING FOR FAMILIES.

MISSION STATEMENT:

TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES THROUGH CONTINUING EDUCATION, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY SUPPORT.



NEW & IMPROVED Health & Human Sciences (HHS) Program Website

What is HHS? Who oversees this program in Whitley County? This website has been created specifically to meet the needs of Whitley County. It has recently been revamped and is easier to use! To learn more about what this program looks like in the county, visit <https://extension.purdue.edu/county/whitley/hhs.html>

Community Health Advisory Members Providing Solutions (CHAMPS) will be meeting on Thursday, March 6 at 10 AM. For additional details about the meeting location or about the task force, contact Brittney Schori at bpender@purdue.edu.

CHAMPS Mission Statement: To improve the quality of life for community residents by supporting agency collaboration.

CHAMPS Vision Statement: To create opportunities for all residents to thrive by providing awareness of and access to quality programs and resources.

Whitley County CHAMPS creates and publishes educational factsheets every month. You can find them by visiting <https://extension.purdue.edu/county/whitley/hhs.html>

Ways to Celebrate National Nutrition Month and Teach Kids About Nutrition

Consider celebrating National Nutrition Month during March! This annual observance is a campaign led by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics to help people develop healthy eating and physical activity habits. Here are a few interactive ways you can celebrate this month!

- Introduce your kiddo to the USDA MyPlate Nutrition Guide. This is a visual tool that illustrates the five food groups necessary for a balanced diet. You can use colorful images and interactive activities to help your child understand the importance of incorporating fruits, vegetables, grains, proteins, and dairy into their meals. You can make crafts using colored paper to make a poster or diagram of the MyPlate guide. For a more realistic presentation, you can ask your child to come up with their own MyPlate during mealtime.
- Introduce your child to new fruits and vegetables every day. At every meal, try to encourage them to try these different foods. Talk to them about the nutritional benefits of each fruit and vegetable. You can even talk about how these fruits and vegetables are preserved through different techniques like canning, freezing, and drying! Better yet, find some examples of food in your kitchen showing these preservation techniques!
- Turn grocery shopping into a learning experience by teaching your kid about where their food comes from. Talk about the journey of fruits, vegetables, grains, and proteins from farms to their plates.
- Do you have picky eaters in your family? This Nutrition Month may be the best time to educate them and have them develop some healthier eating habits. As a family, you can cook nutritious meals together and make it a bonding moment with your child. By allowing your child to help you in the kitchen, they can better appreciate the love and care that goes into their meals.



Tax Time Checklist – Make the Most of Your Tax Refund in 2025 Source: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Tax time doesn't have to be stressful. Being organized and prepared can make the process smoother and help you reach your money goals. Are you prepared? Here is a checklist outlining what to bring along to a tax appointment!

1. Tax documents – Avoid multiple trips by bringing your important papers and information when you meet with your tax preparer.



A. Photo ID

B. Social Security card or verification letter, or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) assignment letter, for all family members

C. W-2 forms for all jobs worked in January - December of last year

D. Form W-2G and other 1099 forms for other income in January - December of last year

E. Form 1099-G for unemployment compensation and state or local tax refunds

F. Child care provider name, address, and tax ID number, and amount paid in January - December of last year

G. Copy of last year's state and federal tax returns

H. Other applicable tax-related documents, such as: interest statements, federal loan documents, retirement statements, list of organizations to which you made charitable donations, etc.

I. Any letters, correspondence, or other documents sent to you by the IRS or your state tax administration

J. Forms 1095-A, B or C, Affordable Health Care Statements, or health insurance exemption certificates

2. Account Information – Bring your bank or credit union account information so you can easily deposit your refund and use some of your refund for savings.

A. Bank, credit union, or prepaid card account and routing number

B. Voided check

3. Additional Information – You may need to bring more documents, depending on your situation. If you have questions about what to bring, contact your local tax preparation office. If you are married and filing jointly, you and your spouse should go together, because both of you must sign the tax return!

DID YOU KNOW? – Getting free tax help is one step forward in reaching your money goals. Saving part of your tax refund is another great step. If you qualify, the IRS certified volunteers will prepare your tax return for free. To find out more, visit irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-qualifying-taxpayers. If you receive a tax refund, don't forget to ask your tax preparer to explain all your saving options!

Mark Your Calendar!

- March 6 at 10A – CHAMPS Taskforce Meeting
- April 11, 16, 21, 30 at 10A – Chair-Based Exercise & Education Class at Woodlands Activity Center (no need to register)
- April 18 – Good Friday (Extension office is closed)
- January 31 – Whitley County JDAI Steering Committee Meeting at Government Center

*For more info about workshops open to the public, contact our office.

[See Page 3 for Easy & Creamy Zucchini Fettuccine Recipe](#)

4-H Youth Development

Todd Geiger, Extension Educator



March 4-H Calendar (Events, dates and times are subject to change)

Date	Event	Time	Location
2	Smith Worker Bees Club Meeting.....	2:00 p.m.	Collins Meth. Church
3	Bicycle Club Meeting.....	7:00 p.m.	4-H Ctr. Middle Room
3	Cat Club Meeting.....	6:45 p.m.	4-H Center West Room
5	Tractor Club Meeting	7:00 p.m.	4-H Center West Room
7	Scrapbooking Club Workshop.....	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Washington Com. Bldg.
9	Bowling.....	12:30 p.m.	Main Bowl – Col. City
10	4-H Leaders & 4-H Council Meeting.....	6:30 p.m.	4-H Center
11	4-H Clubs, Inc. Meeting.....	7:00 p.m.	Ag Museum
11	Etna Troy Hustlers Club Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Etna Troy Com. Center
12	Beef Club Meeting/Workshop/WC3 Beef Show Set-Up	5:00 p.m.	4-H Fairgrounds
12	Dairy Steer Feeder Calf Club Meeting/Workshop	6:30 p.m.	4-H Ctr. Middle Room
13	Jr. Leaders Gathering	6:30 p.m.	TBD
13	Sheep Club Meeting	7:00 p.m.	4-H Center East Room
14	Whisking Up Memories Workshop.....	5:00-7:00 p.m.	4-H Center
15	Mini 4-H Workshop.....	1:00 p.m.	4-H Center
15	QLC Training.....	10:00 a.m.	4-H Center
16	Whitley County Cattleman's Classic Open Beef Show	9:00 a.m.	4-H Fairgrounds
17	Beef Club WC3 Beef Show Clean-Up	5:00 p.m.	4-H Fairgrounds
17	Smith Harvesters Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Churubusco Fire Station
17	Union Sodbusters Club Meeting	6:30 p.m.	4-H Center West Room
18	Cleveland Showmen Club Meeting	7:00 p.m.	So. Whitley Town Hall
18	Horse & Pony Club Meeting/Safety Ed & Workshop	7:00 p.m.	4-H Ctr. Middle Room
18	Rabbit Club Meeting.....	6:30 p.m.	4-H Center West Room
19	Poultry Club Meeting	7:00 p.m.	4-H Ctr. Middle Room
19	Tractor Club Meeting	7:00 p.m.	4-H Center West Room
20	Richland Ramblers Meeting.....	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Larwill Fire Station
20	Swine Club Meeting/Workshop	6:30 p.m.	4-H Ctr. Middle Room
20	Thorncreek Northern Stars Meeting.....	7:00 p.m.	4-H Center West Room
22	Scrapbook Club Workshop	9:00-11:30 a.m.	Washington Com. Bldg.
23	Bowling.....	12:30 p.m.	Main Bowl – Col. City
25	Goat Club Meeting/Workshop.....	7:00 p.m.	4-H Ctr. Middle Room
26	Columbia Peaches Club Meeting	7:00 p.m.	4-H Center West Room
27	Thorncreek Sons of the Soil Club Meeting	6:30 p.m.	4-H Center West Room
30	Columbia City Spring Farm Toy Show	8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	4-H Center
31	Jefferson Hustlers Club Meeting	7:00-8:00 p.m.	Jefferson Twp. Fire Station

April 4-H Calendar (Events, date and times are subject to change)

Date	Event	Time	Location
1	4-H TRIPS APPLICATION DUE.....		EXTENSION OFFICE
4	Scrapbooking Club Workshop.....	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Washington Com. Bldg.
7	Cat Club Meeting.....	6:45 p.m.	4-H Center West Room
7	Bicycle Club Meeting.....	7:00 p.m.	4-H Center Middle Room
8	4-H Clubs, Inc. Meeting.....	7:00 p.m.	Ag Museum
9	Dairy Steer Feeder Calf Club Meeting.....	6:30 p.m.	4-H Center Middle Room
13	Smith Worker Bees Club Meeting.....	2:00 p.m.	Collins Meth. Church
14	4-H Leaders & 4-H Council Meeting.....	6:30 p.m.	4-H Center
15	MAY & JUNE NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	4:30 P.M.	Extension Office
15	Rabbit Club Meeting/Workshop	6:30 p.m.	4-H Center West Room
15	Shooting Sports – Archery Meeting.....	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Commercial Bldg.
16	Poultry Club Meeting.....	7:00 p.m.	4-H Center Middle Room
17	Sheep Club Meeting/Workshop	7:00 p.m.	4-H Center Middle Room
18	GOOD FRIDAY	EXTENSION OFFICE CLOSED	
19	Poultry Exhibition Clinic	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	4-H Center
19	Swine Club Fundraiser	10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	TSC Parking Lot
21	Smith Harvesters Meeting.....	6:30 p.m.	Churubusco Fire Station
21	Union Sodbusters Bingo	6:00 p.m.	Autumn Trace-Col. City
22	Goat Club Meeting/Workshop	7:00 p.m.	4-H Center Middle Room
22	Horse & Pony Club Meeting/Safety Ed & Workshop.....	7:00 p.m.	4-H Center East Room
22	Shooting Sports – Archery Meeting.....	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Commercial Bldg.
22	Thorncreek Sons of the Soil Club Meeting.....	6:30 p.m.	4-H Center West Room
23	Tractor Club Meeting	7:00 p.m.	4-H Center West Room
25	Beef Steers and Unregistered Beef Heifers Weigh-In	5:30-7:00 p.m.	4-H Fairgrounds
25	Beef Club Meeting/Workshop	7:00 p.m.	Show Barn

Websites for Bookmark

Whitley County
4-H Hub:
<https://bit.ly/whitleycounty4-Hhub>
Purdue Extension –
Whitley Co. website:
www.extension.purdue.edu/whitley
State 4-H Department:
www.four-h.purdue.edu
Indiana State Fair:
www.state.in.us/statefair
ir
Indiana 4-H
Foundation Home
page: www.4h.org
National 4-H website:
www.4-h.org
National 4-H Source
Book:
www.4-hmall.org
Whitley County 4-H
Clubs, Inc.:
www.whitleycounty4-h.com
Whitley County 4-H
Agricultural Museum:
www.whitleycountyagmuseum.com

2025 FAIR DATES

Whitley Co.
4-H Fair

July 11 – 17
Indiana

State Fair

August 1 - 17
(Closed Mondays)

2025 4-H Fair Theme

Be thinking of a “catchy” theme for the 2025 4-H Fair. One theme per club can be turned in and will be due at the Extension Office by Tuesday, April 1 by 4:30 p.m. Your ideas may be submitted to your 4-H Leader.

April 4-H Calendar Continued (Events, date and times are subject to change)

Date	Event	Time	Location
26	Dairy Steers & Feeder Calf Weigh-In.....	8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	4-H Fairgrounds
26	Scrapbook Club Workshop	9:00-11:30 a.m.	Washington Com. Bldg.
27	Mini 4-H Workshop.....	2:00 p.m.	4-H Center
28	Washington 4-H Busters & Blue Ribbon Clubs Meeting.....	7:00 p.m.	Washington Com. Bldg.
29	Shooting Sports – Archery Meeting.....	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Commercial Building
30	County-Wide 4-H TOWNSHIP CLUBS Meeting	6:30 P.M.	4-H Center
30	QLC Training	5:00 p.m.	4-H Center



> Updates & Reminders <

ATTENTION - Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Program (QLC):

All 4-H youth enrolled in a LIVESTOCK PROJECT (Beef, Dairy Beef, Dairy, Feeder Calf, Goat, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep and Swine) must be QLC certified or have a YQCA online completion certificate.

If you choose to complete the YQCA option, you will register for the online course at <https://yqcprogram.org/>. Cost of the online YQCA course is \$12. After completing the course, you must email the 4-H Educator with your certificate to receive credit.

If you prefer to take the QLC in person (Instructor-Led), the cost is \$3 per child and will be located at the Whitley County 4-H Center (Fairgrounds); Registration will open soon! Quality Care Livestock training sessions for 2025:

- ✓ Saturday, March 15 @ 10:00 a.m.
- ✓ Wednesday, April 30 @ 5:00 p.m.
- ✓ Tuesday, May 13 @ 6:00 p.m.

Activity Worksheets vs Animal Workshops Continuing for 2025

This year we will continue this option for all 4-H animal exhibitors. In the past all of these 4-H members have had to complete their animal species activity sheets and turn them into the Extension Office by July 1. This option is STILL available this year. But we are offering another option: If a 4-H livestock member attends a workshop put on by their specie club this will count in place of those activity sheets. Please be watching in the newsletter, The Extension Connection and the 4-H Hub for more information, dates, and locations of your specie club's workshops that you can attend if you would like to choose this option in 2025.

Mini 4-H Animal Mentor Program

Mini 4-H'ers who are taking the "Farm Animals or Pets" project can sign up for this program in 2025. Mini

4-H'ers will be able to select up to 2 species and then will be partnered with an older 4-H animal member (a mentor). They will have the opportunity to work with their mentor several times before the Fair to learn about their animal, how to care for it, and how to raise it. The Mini 4-Her will participate in Mini 4-H Exhibition Showcase on Wednesday, July 16th in the Show Barn. They will be able to walk with their mentor and their mentor's animal. (This is for all animal species.) If a Mini 4-Her chooses a pet/companion animal (cat, dog or rabbit) they will follow the same procedures with the mentor, but will be able to bring their own animal during the day of their specie 4-H show. More information on this program will be available at the Mini 4-H workshops and at the Extension Office.

To enroll in this program, a Mini 4-H Mentor Program Release Liability Form must be completed and returned to the Extension Office by April 1, 2025.

Bred, Born & Raised Forms

Reminder: These forms are due to the Livestock Club Leader only. Their names and addresses are listed at the top of Bred, Born & Raised forms. Forms are available from the Livestock Leader(s) at Club Meetings or from the Extension Office, but may only be returned or mailed to the Livestock Club leader.

ALL **BEEF, GOAT and SWINE** Bred, Born & Raised forms are due May 15.

***There will be no BBR division in Dairy Beef and Feeder Calf projects in 2025.**

Attention Livestock Club Members!!

Some changes to pay attention to:

1. Besides Ear Notching and 840-RFID tags for Swine, and 840-RFID tag and/or 5-digit county tag for Beef and



Important 2025 Dates:

APRIL 1

4-H Trip Applications Due

MAY 15

All Animal Identification
Deadline in 4-H Online
(Poultry Paper Form ONLY)

JUNE 22

4-H Dog Show

JUNE 28

4-H Cat Show

JULY 1

FairEntry Deadline for 4-H Projects to
Exhibit at 4-H Fair

JULY 1

4-H Project Papers Due to Extension Office
by 7:00 p.m.

JULY 5

Fashion Revue & Consumer Clothing
Judging

JULY 8

Non-Perishable Judging at the
4-H Center

JULY 9

Perishable Judging at the
4-H Center

Dairy Beef Cattle, DNA hair samples are required for all Swine, Beef, Dairy Cattle, Meat Goats and Dairy Beef cattle to be eligible for the Indiana State Fair. Collection envelopes and collection instructions are available at the Extension Office. Deadline to return DNA hair samples to the Extension Office by May 15th by 4:30 p.m. are the same as the Animal Identification deadline in 4-H Online.

2. It is required that all identification information (ear notch, RFID tag number, breed, gender, etc.) must be provided in 4-H Online and on the collection DNA sample envelope for all animals that you want eligible for the Indiana State Fair. Any of this identification information that are missing, incomplete or incorrect will result in ineligibility to show your animal.

3. If you are enrolled in the Swine project, be sure you check the ear notches carefully! When purchasing your pig(s), make sure the ear notches match the papers you receive. Do not assume the notches match the paper! If you put the notches in yourself, be sure you put the notch in the correct location of the ear. After the May 15th animal identification deadline, ear notches cannot be changed, corrected or substituted.

4. ALL Dairy Cattle are required to have an 840-RFID tag in which to be eligible for 4-H shows and at the Indiana State Fair. This tag will need to be entered along with other required information in 4-H Online by May 15th. Any of these IDs that are missing, incomplete or incorrect will result in ineligibility to show your animal.

5. ALSO FOR 2025!

- RABBIT: Animal identification for Rabbits will be completed in 4-H Online. There will be no paper forms available.

- SWINE: 4-H'er may bring 6 animals - YOU MUST HAVE BOTH GENDERS! For example: 3 barrows and 3 gilts, 4 gilts and 2 barrow, or 4 barrows and 2 gilts, etc.

6. Poultry Animal Identification Enrollment Forms are due by May 15th at the Extension Office! Forms are available at the Extension Office or on the Purdue Extension Whitley County office website.

7. You can go to the Whitley County 4-H Hub at <https://bit.ly/whitleycounty4-Hhub> to obtain the following information and forms for your livestock project:

*Animal identification enrollment instructions in 4-H Online

*Poultry Animal Identification Form

*Dairy and Horse & Pony Lease Agreement

*Cat, Dog, and Horse & Pony Vaccination Forms

*Copies will also be made available at the Extension Office

8. It is recommended that you read all the general rules in the Rule Book, plus all the rules that apply to the projects you are enrolled in.

Indiana State Fair DNA Hair Sample Requirements for Livestock

In 2025 DNA hair samples will be required to be pulled for all beef cattle, dairy cattle, dairy beef cattle, dairy feeder calves, sheep, and meat goat for 4-H exhibitors who plan on showing at the Indiana State Fair. We will have the envelopes available at the Extension Office.

4-H Paperwork & Manual Pickup

4-H paperwork and manuals can be picked up at the Extension Office. If you drop and/or add projects, you must contact the Extension Office and return any manuals you will not use and/or get the manuals for projects you are adding.

2025 Whitley County 4-H Rules Book

This year's rulebook is available to 4-H'ers and their families online on the Whitley County 4-H Hub at <https://bit.ly/whitleycounty4-Hhub>. Click on it and it will download to your device as a PDF file.

If you don't need the entire rulebook this year, we have a 2025 4-H Projects Guidelines folder on the 4-H Hub that has all of the projects listed in alphabetic order. Each project name is hyperlinked to its own PDF rules file for just that project. 4-H animal projects information, animal ID instructions and forms are also located on the 4-H Hub.

Premise ID Info

Anyone who buys, sells or exhibits livestock must have a Premise ID. A Premise ID is an identification number for the physical location in which animals are housed and is necessary to protect animal agriculture and the livestock industry. In an emergency, animal health officials will be able to rapidly communicate disease spread with producers. All 4-Hers are required to know the Premise ID number for the property in which their animals are located and this number is recorded in 4-H Online when enrolling the animals to be exhibited at the 4-H Fair and Indiana State Fair.

If you own a horse, you can inquire for a Premise ID number, but it is not required to exhibit.

If you do not currently have a premise ID number, you may apply for

one through the Indiana State Board of Animal Health at <http://www.in.gov/boah> for the quickest response or call (317) 544-2400.

You MUST have a premise ID to show at the Whitley County 4-H Fair and the Indiana State Fair for cattle, swine, goats and sheep.

"I wouldn't be who I am today if it wasn't for" 4-H ADULT AWARDS

How can we say "thank you" to the adults in our awesome 4-H program? The adults that have given of their time, effort, contributions, who have gone above and beyond for the youth and the 4-H program here in Whitley County. Fill out a form today to honor an adult that you know that has made and guided you and/or other youth to be the person you/they are today. Contact the Extension Office to pick up a form to nominate someone for either the: 4-H Clover Award or 4-H Distinguished Service Award. Deadline for 4-H Adult Awards nominations is May 1 by 4:30 p.m. at the Extension Office.

Indiana 4-H Specialty License Plate



Show your support for Indiana 4-H by purchasing an Indiana 4-H Foundation specialty license plate. Plate fees support programs for young people state-wide, and a portion of the money from each plate that is sold goes back to the 4-H county where the plate was purchased. Plates can be purchased at your local BMV office or online at www.in.gov/bmv.

>>>> 4-H Projects <<<<

Beef Weigh-IN and Tagging

Beef Steers and Unregistered Beef Heifers weigh-In and tagging is Friday, April 25, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

All Beef Steers and any Beef heifer that is unregistrable



that wants to be shown as a crossbred must attend the scheduled weigh-in to be weighed and identified. Registered heifers are not required to attend the weigh-in, however may come if the youth so chooses to bring them.

Dairy Steer & Feeder Calf Weigh-In and Tagging

Dairy Steer and Dairy Steer Feeder Calf weigh-In is Saturday, April 26th, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Dues, vaccinations, implants and tags will need to be paid at Feeder Calf weigh-in.

REMINDER: Dairy Steer Feeder Calves cannot weigh over 300 pounds at the weigh-in.

If you have any questions, please contact the Extension Office at (260) 244-7615.

Sheep Tagging

The Sheep tagging date is Friday, May 9th, 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 p.m. at the Whitley County 4-H Fairgrounds. All sheep must come to the weigh-in.



Goat Tagging

Dairy and meat wethers and market does that will be showing at the Indiana State Fair and any goat without identification must attend the Goat tagging day on Friday, May 9th, 5:30- on the east side of the Dairy Steer Feeder Calf Barn at the Whitley County 4-H Fairgrounds.

>>>>> CLUBS <<<<<<<

Rabbit Club News



The Rabbit Club will be having a meeting on March 18 at 6:30 p.m.! Before the meeting at 6:00 p.m., we will be completing a service project by decorating posters for local nursing homes. During the March meeting we will be playing Jeopardy and talking about our ARBA Show in May.

For our meeting on April 15, we will be holding a workshop to show a variety of breeds of rabbits. We will also talk about meat pens! This meeting will also have an important demonstration on how to fill out 4-H Online for Animal ID that is due May 15. We hope to see you at these meetings as we get ready for our ARBA Show and important 4-H deadlines!

Submitted by: Cal Myers

Goat Club News

The advisory board has another educational and fun year planned. Our meeting on March 25 will include learning stations on feeding and nutrition. The April 22 meeting will be about pre-showmanship; bracing meat goats, clipping and dairy goat show prep. Be on the lookout for an email that will include info for our flower fundraiser, this will be our only fundraiser for the year, so everyone's participation is encouraged. The money raised from this will go towards club functions and awards if needed. If you have any questions, please reach out to me or an advisory board member.



Your Leader, Lynnette

4-H Club Meetings are an Important Part of the 4-H Experience!

Many community leaders will tell you that their earliest experiences in public speaking occurred at a 4-H Club meeting. Doing demonstrations at your club meeting and serving as a club officer are great ways to develop confidence and become comfortable in group settings.

4-H meetings are a great way to grow and develop life skills that you will use the rest of your life. 4-H meetings are also a great way to keep up on activities and gain information that you need throughout the 4-H year. Take advantage of your club meetings by attending and participating, and don't forget to thank your club leaders. They are volunteering their time to "Make the Best Better!"

4-H Junior Leader News

Upcoming Junior Leader Gatherings:

- ❖ March 13 @ 6:30 p.m. Location to be determined.
- ❖ April ?? @ 6:30 p.m. at the 4-H Center (be watching for more details)

Reminder

about our upcoming Spring Farm Toy Show happening on March 30 at the 4-H Center! Set-up will be on March 29, make sure that you sign up to help with this event as this is a Junior Leader fundraiser!! More information will be coming!



>>> Youth Activities <<<



STAR Bank Agriculture Scholarships

STAR Bank is excited to announce we are once again investing in the "future of agriculture" through five \$1,000 college scholarships.

To be eligible, students must currently be a senior in high school or have at least one year remaining in their college/trade school in Fall of 2025. Eligible high school students would need to be entering a trade or collegiate program within two years of earning the scholarship.

To participate, visit our web page for the contest at <https://www.starfinancial.com/future-of-agriculture-scholarship>. Fill out the form with your contact information and answer the following question: please tell us how you have, or plan to, impact agriculture as it pertains to the past, current or future generations of farmers.

Here are some specifics for the contest:

**The deadline for entry into the contest is April 21, 2025.

**Essays should be 250 words or less.

**The contest will be limited to those who reside or attend school in one of the following Indiana counties: Allen, Blackford, Boone, DeKalb, Delaware, Grant, Hamilton, Hancock, Henry, Huntington, Howard, Jay, Madison, Marion, Noble, Randolph, Steuben, Tipton, Whitley or Wells.

If you have any questions, reach out to Brad Saleik, STAR Bank Community Relations Manager by emailing brad.saleik@starfinancial.com.

Farm House Fraternity

Who: Any male 4-H member enrolled as a freshman at Purdue University.

Basis of the Scholarship: Scholastic, leadership, community

Amount: \$1,000

Deadline: March 15

For a copy of the application, contact the Whitley County Extension Office or www.purduefarmhouse.com

B.V. Widney Award

This award will be given to any current 4-H member in grades 6th-9th as of January 1. Selection will be based on 4-H involvement and essay questions.

Award criteria and questions will be made available at the Extension Office. Please submit the B.V. Widney Award Application in a folder to the Extension Office by Thursday, May 1, 2025. Recipient will receive \$50 from 4-H Leaders and a banner.

Hester Adams Award

This award will be given to any current 4-H member in 10th grade and above. Number of awards given will be determined by the number of applications received with a maximum of 6 awards.

**Hester Adams Award winners: (2) will receive \$500 scholarships, recognition shirts to wear while helping at shows during the fair, and names on a plaque

**Hester Adams Ambassadors: (2) will receive \$250 scholarships and recognition shirts to wear while helping at shows during the fair.

**Hester Adams Honorees: (2) will receive \$100 scholarships and recognition shirts to wear while helping at shows during the fair

The award will be based on the following criteria:

**40% 4-H Involvement – offices held, volunteering, number of years in projects, placings, showmanship participation, meetings attended, etc.

**30% Interview – 10 to 15 minutes long

**15% Resume (involvement of non-4-H activities will be noted in resume)

**15% Essay

4-H involvement, resume and essay must be submitted to the Extension Office by Thursday, May 1, 2025.

Contact the Extension Office for essay topic. Interviews will take place on Monday, May 5, 2025.

Jim Teghtmeyer Award

This award is given to a 4-Her who is currently in 12th grade with outstanding community service. Applicants must fill out an application and submit it to the Extension Office by May 1, 2025. A selection committee will judge applications. Award is based on the following:

**Community service projects in 4-H.

**Community service projects in other organizations.

**4-H offices & committees served on.

**Other activities.

Lester & Joy Worrick Memorial Scholarship

This \$500 scholarship will be awarded to ONE Whitley County 4-H'er who is currently a 10-year 4-H member that is a senior in high school that will be pursuing a post-secondary education at a college, university or other similar institution. The 4-H member must be active not only in 4-H, but also in the community. Applicants must fill out an application and submit it to the Extension Office by May 1, 2025.

Helping Hands 4-H Endowment Scholarship

Seniors attending post-secondary education are eligible to apply for the Whitley County Helping Hands 4-H Endowment Fund. There will be up to three \$500 scholarships awarded.

Applications may be picked up at the Extension Office and are due by May 1, 2024.

Extension Homemakers Scholarship

Whitley County Extension Homemakers are again sponsoring a \$1,000 4-H scholarship that will be given during the Fair. Applicants must meet the following requirements:

**Senior in high school

**Whitley County resident

**Enrolled in the Whitley County 4-H program

**Must have completed 5 years in 4-H

**Enrolled in a post-secondary educational institution for the next school year

**Show evidence of community service outside of 4-H

**Must have a "C" (2.0 GPA)

Applications are available at the Extension Office and are due by May 1 to the Extension Office. For more information, contact the Extension Office or go online, www.extension.purdue.edu/whitley to the Whitley County 4-H page and go to 4-H Awards and Scholarships page to download and print out an application.

**Winners of these scholarships
and awards will be announced
at the 4-H Awards
Recognition Reception on
Sunday, May 18, 2025.**

Indiana State Fair Workers



The State 4-H staff is looking for you if you are looking for an opportunity to work at the State Fair. Applicants are needed to work in the Exhibit Hall and Ag Hort Building. Exhibit Hall workers must be a minimum of 14 years of age to college age young adults. Applications are available at the Extension Office and on the website: www.extension.purdue.edu/whitley. Deadline to State Fair Office is April 1, 2025.

4-H Trips

4-H Trips information will be emailed soon to all 4-H members, grades 3-12. Attending 4-H trips is fun, exciting and educational. There are many opportunities for 4-H'ers to travel and meet other 4-H'ers from all over Indiana as well as the USA.

In Whitley County, you must apply for those trips you are interested in attending. Copies of the applications are also available on our website: www.extension.purdue.edu/whitley.

Don't Miss Out...4-H Trips Application Deadline is April 1 !!

4-H Round-Up: Grades 7-9

National 4-H Dairy Conference:

Grades 10-12

National 4-H Congress: Grades 9-12

4-H Academy: Grades 9-12

State 4-H Junior Leader Conference:

Grades 9-12

State 4-H Band: Grades 9-12

State 4-H Chorus: Grades 9-12

For more information or to ask questions, please call the Extension Office.

"Wonder Thru 4-H" Open House

Happening Friday, February 28th from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center. There will be stem activities for the kids, 4-H projects on display, 4-H Club information available, and our livestock/animal projects "Can't Miss dates" will be on hand as well. So, swing on by and have some fun! Invite your friends to come check-out our 4-H program and have some fun!!





Date	Event	Time	Location
FEB: 24-28	National Invasive Species Awareness Week		
MARCH:			
4-6	Indiana Small Farm Conference		Hendricks Co. Fairgrounds, Danville IN
6	Whitley County Master Gardeners Association	6:30 p.m.....	Woodlands Sr Activity Center
14	Empowering Soybean Producers.....	9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Indiana Soybean Alliance, Indianapolis
14	Whitley County Pork Queen/Ambassador Application DUE to Extension Office		
25	ANR Program Advisory Committee Meeting	7:00 p.m.....	Ext. Office (membership by invite)
26	Whitley County Pork Queen/Ambassador Interviews	6:00 p.m.....	Extension Office
26	Pork Producers Annual Meeting (following interviews)	7:00 p.m.....	Extension Office
APRIL:			
3	Whitley County Master Gardeners Association	6:30 p.m.....	Woodlands Sr Activity Center
18	Good Friday – Extension Office Closed		
25	Arbor Day – plant a tree!!		
MARK YOUR CALENDARS:			
June 24	NEPAC Diagnostic Training Center event (commercial agriculture focus)		
June 28	Whitley County Master Gardeners' Garden Walk		
July 11-17	Whitley County 4-H Fair		
July 14	Master Gardeners Seminars at Whitley County 4-H Fair (Monday) – 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.		
Sept 10	NEPAC Field Day (morning to early afternoon)		



Check Official Sources for Information on Avian Flu

Avian flu cases have shown up recently in Indiana counties, with some of them in northeastern Indiana. Check out my more detailed recent article on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) at <https://extension.purdue.edu/news/county/whitley/2025/01/check-official-sources-for-information-on-avian-flu.html>. Below, I'll concentrate more on hobby flocks and biosecurity.

Farmers, 4-Hers, and the general public should source their information on HPAI from the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) at: <https://www.in.gov/boah/species-information/avianbirds/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza/>. The page features information about current cases in Indiana and other important information. In several locations on the website, a link will direct you to a USDA resource, the Indiana Department of Health, or other reliable official sources.

BOAH urges poultry owners to practice good biosecurity. This includes minimizing or eliminating exposure the poultry has to wild birds and their droppings. Migratory waterfowl (ducks, geese, etc.) are known to carry avian influenza without becoming ill or dying. Keeping poultry



confined to a coop or fenced space can help to reduce possible exposure.

Hobby poultry owners should look for these signs of illness in their flock. According to BOAH, birds affected with HPAI may show one or more of the following signs:

- **Sudden death without clinical signs
- **Lack of energy and appetite
- **Decreased egg production
- **Soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- **Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, and hocks
- **Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs, and legs
- **Nasal discharge
- **Coughing, sneezing
- **Incoordination
- **Diarrhea

At the first signs of any of these, call the USDA Healthy Birds Hotline: 866-536-7593. Callers will be routed to a federal or state veterinarian in Indiana for case assessment. Dead birds should be double-bagged and refrigerated for possible testing. Hobby flocks should also obtain a premises ID from BOAH if they do not already have one, see: <https://www.in.gov/boah/traceability-and-premise-id/indiana-premises-registration/>.

Check out BOAH's more complete information on biosecurity for hobby flocks at <https://www.in.gov/boah/files/BYB->

[Biosecurity-Advisory-2-16-22.pdf](https://www.in.gov/boah/species-information/avianbirds/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza/), and additional resources at <https://www.purdue.edu/engineering/ABE/INPREPared/avian-influenza/>.

If you see several wild birds or waterfowl that have mysteriously died, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources has an online reporting system you can use at: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/wildlife-resources/wildlife-diseases-in-indiana/sick-or-dead-wildlife-reporting/>.

National Invasive Species Awareness Week

North American Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) Feb. 24-28, 2025 is an international event to raise awareness about invasive species, the threat that they pose, and what can be done to prevent their spread. NISAW is powered by The North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA), which supports local, state, and regional organizations to make NISAW their own.

For more information on this awareness week please visit the North American Invasive Species Awareness Week website: <https://www.nisaw.org/>.

Local residents can report invasive species by calling the Invasive Species hotline at 1-866-NO-EXOTIC (1-866-663-9684) or using the free Great Lakes Early Detection Network smartphone app, which can be downloaded on

iTunes or GooglePlay. Purdue has put together a YouTube video to demonstrate how easily the app can be used to alert authorities: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFvaweR4cSw>. You can also email DEPP@dnr.in.gov.

For more information, see:

****Report Invasive Species**
<https://ag.purdue.edu/reportinvasive/>
(Good 1st stop website)

****Indiana Department of Natural Resources:**

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/rules-and-regulations/invasive-species/>

****Indiana Native Plant Society:**
<https://indiananativeplants.org/>

****Midwest Invasive Plant Network:**
<http://www.mipn.org/>

****Publication – “Invasive Plant Species in Hardwood Tree Plantations”:**

<https://edustore.purdue.edu>.

Indiana Small Farm Conference

The 2025 Indiana Small Farm Conference will be Mar. 4-5 in Danville, IN at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds. Find details at https://extension.purdue.edu/anr/teams/dffs/small_farm_conference/index.html.

Empowering Soybean Producers: Harnessing Climate Tools and Purdue on the Farm

The United Soybean Board, in collaboration with the Midwestern Regional Climate Center (MRCC) and Purdue on the Farm, invites you to a subregional workshop focused on leveraging climate data for improved soybean production and to learn about Purdue on the Farm opportunities.



Date: Friday, March 14, 2025
Time: 8:30 AM (Registration), 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM ET

Location: Indiana Soybean Alliance, 8425 Keystone Crossing #200, Indianapolis, IN 46240

What you'll be doing:

1. Learn about climate decision support tools
2. Share ideas about ag climate tool dashboard
3. Assess soybean production decision needs
4. Learn about Purdue on the Farm

5. 2024 Purdue on the Farm findings

6. Research opportunities for 2025

Your expertise in row crop production is valuable for this initiative. Join us to contribute to the development of climate-informed agricultural tools and learn about participation in the Purdue on the Farm program.

How to Participate:

Registration is free but required for planning purposes. Receive a \$350 honorarium, available to the first 25 registered participants, to offset travel costs and time investment. Meals are included.

Register by March 7, 2025:

<https://bit.ly/USB-Indianapolis>

Would you Like to Become the 2025 Pork Queen or Pork Ambassador?



Eligible 4-H swine club members should have recently received (or soon will receive) a mailing inviting them to apply to be the 2025 Pork Queen or Pork Ambassador. Applications will also be available at the Extension office. All interested youth must turn in their application to the Extension office by March 14.

Pork Producers Meeting March 26

Whitley County Pork Producers will meet on March 26 at the Extension office. At 6:00 p.m. they will conduct queen/ambassador interviews, and afterward hold their annual meeting (approximately 7:00 p.m.)

Celebrate Arbor Day – Plant a Tree

Arbor Day is the last Friday in April in Indiana. If you have been thinking about adding a tree or two to your home landscape, late April is a great time to do it! Find detailed tree planting advice from Purdue Extension publication FNR-533-W, *Tree Installation: Process and Practices*, available at:

www.edustore.purdue.edu.

Additionally, Purdue's Lindsey Purcell has produced videos on tree selection and planting that are posted to YouTube. Search for:

- ✓ Tree Planting Part 1: Choosing a Tree, and
- ✓ Tree Planting Part 2: Planting Your Tree

Stay Up-to-Date

Access the agriculture and natural resources (ANR) section of our Whitley County Extension website to stay up-to-date on all ANR news, information and programs:

<https://extension.purdue.edu/county/whitley/ANR.html>. This page is also available from our main homepage www.extension.purdue.edu/whitley - scroll down and click on “Agriculture & Natural Resources” under “Whitley County Resources” near the top of the page.

Do You Need to Obtain an Applicator License?

If you need to obtain a private applicator license (to apply pesticides or CFO manure fertilizer to your own crops, *not* for hire), go to this website for your options:

<https://ppp.purdue.edu/private-applicators/certification/>.

If you need to obtain a commercial applicator license (to apply pesticides for hire), go to: <https://ppp.purdue.edu/commercial-applicators/certification/>. Commercial applicator categories are:

- Category 1 - Agricultural Pest Management
- Category 2 - Forest Pest Management
- Category 3a - Ornamental Pest Management
- Category 3b - Turf Management
- Category 4 - Seed Treatment
- Category 5 - Aquatic Pest Management
- Category 6 - Industrial Weed Management
- Category 7a - Industrial, Institutional, Structural and Health-Related Pest Management
- Category 7b - Termite Control
- Category 7d - Fumigation
- Category 8 - Community-Wide Mosquito Control
- Category 11 - Aerial Application
- Category 12 - Wood Destroying Pest Inspection
- Category 13 - Limited Certification
- Category 14 - Agricultural Fertilizer Application
- Category RT - Registered Technician

To be licensed, private applicators must pass the Core pesticide exam; commercial applicators must pass the Core exam plus the exam for the

Category(s) in which they will be operating.

Refer to information about RT and supervision rules at <https://oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/index.html>. These have changed a couple of times in recent years.

If you feel like you could benefit from training before attempting a licensing exam for private or commercial pesticides, consult information on training dates at Purdue: <https://ag.purdue.edu/departments/extension/ppp/docs/core-brochure-2025-4-panels11.pdf>. These are training events only; an exam will not be offered after the training. Additionally, e-learning options are listed at <https://ag.purdue.edu/departments/extension/ppp/resources/elearning.html>. Both in-person and e-learning courses have course fees of just over \$100 each.

If you have further questions, call the Purdue Extension office at 260-244-7615.

Northeast Purdue Agricultural Center (NEPAC) Field Days



Whitley County is home to Purdue's Northeast Purdue Ag Center southeast of Columbia City on county road 400 South (4821 East 400 South, Columbia City, IN 46725). Please pencil in the following tentative dates on your calendars for 2025 events. Check our website and subsequent newsletters for further details closer to event dates.

June 24: Diagnostic Training Clinic (commercial ag focus)

September 10: Field Day (local/area farmers), includes PARP

Highlights of Recent Agricultural Production

Where did Whitley County rank recently in corn production among all other Indiana counties? What was a recent state-wide yield for soybeans? These and other questions are addressed in the annual Indiana Agricultural Statistics Bulletin, 2023-24, recently posted online. If you are interested in a paper copy, we have a few available free of charge in the Whitley County Extension office.

Below are the most recent finalized statistics available.

Statewide in 2023, Indiana ranked as follows on crops among all states: corn for grain, 5th; soybeans, 4th; peppermint, 4th; spearmint, 3rd; watermelon, 5th; and pumpkins, 3rd. For livestock, Indiana ranks 5th in all hogs (as of Dec. 1, 2023), and 3rd in all chickens (as of Dec. 1, 2023). We ranked 9th in pig crop, 4th in turkeys raised, and 3rd in total eggs produced. Indiana was not among the top 10 producing states for other crops and livestock.

Indiana farmers received \$17.1 billion in cash receipts from marketings in 2023, down 7% from 2022. Marketed crops totaled \$11.2 billion (65.7%), while livestock receipts came in at \$5.9 billion (34.3%).

Corn was the leading source of income for Indiana farmers in 2023, amounting to \$5.62 billion. Soybeans were second at \$4.78 billion. Poultry and eggs were again third at \$2.53 billion, followed by meat animals at \$2.08 billion, and dairy at \$955 million.

These five commodity groups accounted for nearly 93% of cash receipts in 2023. Food grains, vegetables, melons, and other livestock and crops (including fruit and nuts) make up the difference.

2023 Indiana cash receipts in categories by percentage were: feed crops, 33.4%; oil crops, 27.9%; meat animals, 12.2%; poultry & eggs, 14.8%; dairy, 5.6%; other crops, 2.8%; other livestock, 1.8%; food grains, 1.1%; and vegetables and melons, 0.5%.

Indiana corn production in 2023 totaled 1.08 billion bushels, almost 11 percent above 2022. Corn acreage harvested for grain totaled 5.31 million acres, up over 3 percent from 2022. The average yield of 203.0 bushels per acre was 13 bushels above 2022 yields.

Indiana soybean production in 2023 totaled 334.28 million bushels, down just 0.28 percent from 2022. Harvested acreage was 5.48 million acres, down 6 percent from 2022. The average yield of 61.0 bushels per acre was 3.5 bushels above 2022 yields.

No county-level yield data is available at this time for 2024. However, according to the bulletin for average crop yields in Whitley County in 2023, corn came in at 181.9 bushels



per acre, soybeans were 53.3 bushels per acre, and wheat was 81.5 bushels per acre.

Among all Indiana counties for crop production in 2023, Whitley County ranked 43rd in corn, 42nd in soybeans, and 12th in wheat. For livestock production, Whitley County ranked 37th in the number of beef cows, and 27th in the number of milk cows (as of Jan. 2024).

Total ag receipts in Whitley County in 2022 totaled \$197.439 million, with crops contributing \$135.818 million, and livestock contributing \$61.621 million.

2022 realized net income (total income minus total expenses) to Whitley County farmers was \$59.948 million. This net was \$58.1 million in 2021, \$36.7 million in 2020, \$30.3 million in 2019, almost \$7.1 million in 2018, and almost \$8.6 million in 2017.

From the 2022 USDA Ag Census, Whitley County ranked 12th in all hogs, 73rd in all sheep, and 60th in chickens.

Of the 214,764 total acres in Whitley County, 162,338 of those acres were in farms (2022 Census of Agriculture), a loss of 13,917 farm acres from the 2017 Census. 145,401 acres were in cropland, 2,474 acres were pastureland, and 9,469 acres were woodlands. There were 647 Whitley County farms in 2022, with an average size of 251 acres/farm. This is a drop of 49 farms compared to the 2017 Census.

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Indiana Field Office, publishes the Indiana Agricultural Statistics bulletin each year. It contains current and historical data for all major crops, livestock, economic, and related data. Find the current (2023-24) and past reports at:

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Indiana/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/index.php.





Whitley County Office Phone:

260.244.7615 or 260.625.3313

www.extension.purdue.edu/whitley

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PurdueExtensionWhitleyCounty

Purdue Extension – Whitley County Office Staff

Todd Geiger, (geigert@purdue.edu) County Extension Director (CED)

4-H Youth Development

John Woodmansee, (jwoodman@purdue.edu) Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR)

Brittney Schori, (bpender@purdue.edu) Health & Human Sciences (HHS)

Jacki Bishop, (bishop87@purdue.edu) Office Manager (ANR & HHS)

Lisa Schrader, (schradel@purdue.edu) Office Coordinator (4-H Youth)

Candy Sroufe, (sroufec@purdue.edu) Extension Program Assistant

Stacy Geiger, (sngeiger@purdue.edu) STEM Program Assistant

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday

Extension Educator available online at www.extension.purdue.edu/whitley

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