

EXTENSION CONNECTION



4 - H

ANR

HHS



Extension - Whitley County

NOV/DEC



2025



Health & Human Sciences

- Homemaker Happenings
- Holiday Bazaar – November 1
- Emergency Savings?
- Honoring Veterans!
- Pan Sausage and Vegetables

4-H Youth

- 4-H Calendar
- 2025-2026 Enrollment
- 2026 Fair Dates
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- Season of Wonder Info

Ag & Natural Resources

- Homesteading Conference
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- Purdue Top Farmer Conference
- Land Values, Cash Rents, Leasing
- Private App. Recert Program
- Master Gardener Basic Training?
- Regional Beef Meeting
- Indiana Small Farm Conf.



Dear Friends of Extension:

During this holiday season, we want to say **“Thank You”** for your contributions, involvement, leadership and support of Purdue Extension. Education is our mission and it is a cooperative effort between national (United States Department of Agriculture), state (Purdue University and the state of Indiana) and local (Whitley County Commissioners and County Council) resources. We provide education so young people can gain life skills and adults can make informed decisions.

Purdue Extension Offices, Extension Educators and Extension Specialists live and work in all 92 counties in Indiana. We provide information and expertise that's available in the form you want, when you want it. Our mission statement is: “We deliver practical, research-based information that transforms lives and livelihoods.”

There are five full time staff, 3 part-time staff in our office. The 3 Educators are:

> **Brittney Schori**, Extension Educator – Health and Human Sciences (HHS), teaches research-based programs designed to help families live healthier, more balanced lives. She offers workshops on cooking and nutrition, reading and understanding food labels, meal planning, food safety, budgeting, credit management, preparing for unexpected expenses, staying active, getting enough sleep, maintaining proper hydration, and more. Her areas of expertise include health and wellness as well as personal finances.

> **John Woodmansee**, Extension Educator – Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR), offers programs and information on: Master Gardeners, agriculture production, farm management, land use, hobby farmers, pest management and lawn and garden.

> **Todd Geiger**, Extension Educator – 4-H Youth Development, promotes 4-H clubs, 4-H junior leaders and youth development. Todd is also the County Extension Director (CED)/Dept. Head.

Jacki Bishop, office manager, works with the HHS and ANR program areas; Lisa Schrader, office coordinator, works with the 4-H program; and Candy Sroufe, program assistant, works with the 4-H programs/fair; Stacy Geiger, STEM program assistant, works with STEM, 4-H programs/fair; Alissa Roberts and Maggie Wolf, summer program assistants, focus on 4-H summer activities.

As you plan for 2026, does your club, church, organization, classroom or business want/need an educational program? We offer programs via package lesson, in-person and virtually. Many programs are free and others have a nominal fee. Send us an email, give us a call or stop in the office to make a program request or discuss an idea.

Todd, John, Brittney, Jacki, Lisa, Candy and Stacy

2026 Newsletter

Article Due Dates:

Jan/Feb – due Dec. 5, 2025

March/April – due Feb. 13

May/June – due April 17

July/August – due June 19

Sept/Oct – due Aug. 14

Nov/Dec – due Oct. 16

Email your articles to:

bishop87@purdue.edu



The Purdue Extension Whitley County Office is Moving!!

We will be closed Oct. 13 – 24
for the move.

Our new office will be
located at:

220 W Van Buren, Suite LL4
Columbia City.

It is located in the Whitley
County Government Center,
Lower Level.

Whitley County 4-H Fairgrounds
WINTER STORAGE
 Campers, Boats, Cars, Trucks,
 Motorcycles, RVs and more!

CHECK IN DATES
 October 18
 October 25
 November 1
 November 8
9AM-12PM

SHORT TERM through March 7
 \$1.20 per sq ft
LONG TERM through MAY 2
 \$1.50/sq ft

Motorcycles/Golf Carts
 \$50 short term \$75 long term

No reservations. First come, first served. Questions: call 260-212-2143

4-H Clubs, Inc. Annual Meeting is November 20

The 4-H Clubs, Inc. Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20 at 7:00 PM in the 4-H Center. At this meeting, all who are members of 4-H Clubs, Incorporated (\$10 for a lifetime membership) will elect 4 people to serve on the Whitley County 4-H Inc. Board of Directors (Fairboard) for the next 3 years. Anyone interested in learning more about this volunteer opportunity or requesting an application can email whitleycounty4h@gmail.com. Also, that evening, we will review the finances of the Fairboard, as well as share updates on the fairground activities and improvements throughout the year.

End of the Year Donations Thanks for Your Support!!!

Looking for a place to donate extra dollars at the end of the year? We have suggestions!!!!



1. Want to support adult education or a specific program, such as Master Gardeners, Extension Homemakers or Whitley County Youth Leadership? Make your donation to Purdue University.
2. Want to support 4-H leaders, volunteer workshops, or volunteer recognition? Make your donation to: Whitley County 4-H Leaders.
3. Want to support 4-H members, 4-H workshops or 4-H recognition? Make your donation to: Whitley County 4-H Council.
4. Want to support 4-H awards, 4-H Fair expenses or the maintenance and upkeep of the fairgrounds? Make your donation to: Whitley County 4-H Clubs Inc.
5. Want to support 4-H Junior Leaders to strengthen their leadership skills? Make your donation to: 4-H Junior Leaders.
6. Want to support 4-Hers in your township? Make your donation to: (Club Name) 4-H Club.
7. Want to support scholarships for 4-H members? Make your donation to: Community Foundation of Whitley County, Helping Hands Fund.
8. Want to preserve Whitley County's Ag history? Make your donation to Whitley County Ag Museum.

All donations may be sent to: Purdue Extension – Whitley Co. Office, 220 W Van Buren, Suite LL4, Columbia City, IN 46725.

Whitley County 4-H Clubs, Inc. Directors Needed

The Fairboard is seeking individuals with strong leadership and communication skills, and experience and knowledge in: marketing, finances, non-profit organization management, entertainment events, buildings and grounds, concessions, and/or strategic planning. Fairboard terms are 3 years with 1/3 of the board being elected each year. This year we will be electing 4 people to be on the board.

The Whitley County 4-H Clubs Inc (Fairboard) is the organization that is in charge of running the fairgrounds year-round. This organization raises the funds needed to maintain the fairgrounds, and support the 4-H Programming in Whitley County.

The essential functions of the board members are:

- Attend monthly board meetings (2nd Tuesday of the Month), as well as, other occasional functions and special events.
- Serve on at least 2 standing committees commensurate with skills and needs of the board.
- Be available for assigned tasks, and frequent long shifts, for the days leading up to and week of the fair, as well as, clean-up of the grounds and buildings.
- Support the other Board members and the work of the Board at all times. Help other directors with their areas as assistance is needed, especially during the week of the fair.
- Deal fairly, respectfully, and appropriately with other Board members, vendors and others at the fairgrounds,
- Support all 4-H Clubs, Inc activities (fundraising, marketing, Fun Night, 4-H trip sponsorships, 4-H workshops, 4-H fair activities, etc).



This also includes MANDATORY involvement with the Autumn Harvest Festival (2nd Saturday in October).

If you are interested, please download the application form from the whitleycounty4h.com website. Any questions can be directed to Jerred Reiff at 574-551-6562 or Sara Demske at 260-213-3190.

**DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO GET
 HOLIDAY FLAVORED ICE CREAM QUARTS
 AT THE HOLIDAY BAZAAR
 NOVEMBER 1ST 9AM-3PM 4-H CENTER**

Peppermint
 Peppermint/Chocolate Twist
 Maple
 Christmas Cookie
 Eggnog

**4-H INC WILL ALSO BE SELLING
 ICE CREAM COUPONS
 PERFECT FOR GIFTS!!**



Holiday Bazaar



Sponsored by: Whitley County Extension Homemakers

November 1 ~ 9 am-3 pm

4-H Center, Whitley County Fairgrounds

Several spaces still available...call 260-244-7615

Extension Homemaker Happenings



Date	Event	Time	Location
NOV 11	Whitley Co. Extension Homemakers sponsored Holiday Bazaar	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	4-H Center
20	VETERANS DAY – OFFICE CLOSED		
27 & 28	4-H Inc Annual Meeting	7:00 p.m.	4-H Center
DEC 2	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED		
11	President's Council Meeting/Holiday Celebration		TBA
24 & 25	January/February Newsletter mailing (Double Dozen/Evening Bells)	10:00 a.m.	Extension Office
	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED		



Thank you to Ruth (Roger) Stampe, Carolyn Grawcock and Ruth Boner of Tawasi; and Dorothy Eberly and Sharon Raypole of Jefferson Homemaker Clubs for helping with the Sept/Oct Newsletter.

President's Council Meeting/Holiday Celebration

December 2 - TBA

Extension Homemakers Cookbook

The Whitley County Extension Homemakers cookbook are at the Extension Office. This cookbook has Whitley County Extension Homemaker and other recipes. The cookbook has been reduced to \$5.00. Please bring correct change if you are purchasing a cookbook or make checks payable to: Whitley County Extension Homemakers.



Holiday Bazaar

Dates/Times: Nov. 1 ~ 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
4-H Center, Columbia City ~ Admission: FREE

Come and enjoy all of the 80+ vendors who will be selling handmade items, craft items, holiday gifts and baked goods. A lunch menu, which will include soup and sandwiches will be available.



Indiana Extension Homemakers Assoc. (IEHA)

The Indiana Extension Homemakers Association (IEHA) is a statewide organization in Indiana and was founded in 1913. I am proud to say that our organization is active in 88 of the 92 counties. Our mission is "To strengthen families through continuing education, leadership development and volunteer community support." Whitley County joined IEHA in 1924 as the woman's auxiliary of Farm Bureau. Our objectives in 1924 were educational in nature and we promoted the advancement within homes and community life. We also took pride in encouraging youth to achieve their highest potential throughout the 4-H program, as well as prepare them for a successful future. We are proud to say that we continue to live out these objectives today.

So, what does our community involvement look like? The ladies in Whitley County continue to be very involved in the community, including volunteering at the County 4-H Fair. Our 4-H Fair involvement began years ago in the shelter house with a menu of hot beef, hot dogs, sloppy joes and homemade pies. We continue to volunteer and prepare homemade style meals each year. After some time, a fund was established and a new building was built. In 1953, the 4-H Center "Up on the Hill" was finished and gave us the opportunity to prepare meals in a new kitchen! Our organization continues to prepare meals at the fair and we are proud to say that we will be celebrating our 70th year in 2023!

Fundraising is another key component. It truly has become an integral part of our program. It helps to support, not only our youth but our community as a whole. We organize and volunteer with several annual events, such as the Adult Open Show at the County 4-H Fair, Holiday Craft Bazaar, and the Spring and Fall Garage Sales. These events help us raise money to fund many of our community projects.

Every October we celebrate our organization statewide in hopes to recruit new members and expand within communities. Are you interested in giving back to Whitley County? Anyone is welcome to join our organization! There are no requirements and we are an equal opportunity organization.

If you are interested in getting involved, contact the Whitley County Purdue Extension Office at 260-244-7615.

Focus Groups and Activity Committees

Each year volunteers are needed to serve on the IEHA Focus Groups and Activity Committees. All active members of IEHA are eligible to apply. It is not necessary to have served as a county officer.

Committee members commit to attend Focus Days one or two times yearly. Focus Days are currently held in Noblesville, IN at the Hamilton County Extension Complex. All groups meet on Focus Days making car pools possible. Attendance at Home & Family Conference is required of members of some groups.

Applications are due to the President Elect at spring district meetings. A new application is required each year.

These groups meet twice yearly to plan the work of our Focus Groups and Activity Committees. These work days are scheduled in a central location and are both fun and reward.

Groups and committees include: **Education** – Through cooperation with Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service IEHA offers a wide range of lessons at no charge. Programs include: Foods and Nutrition; Human Development; Family Resource Management; Special Interest Lessons; **Leadership** – Opportunities abound to learn leadership skills and to mentor future leaders: i-LEaD – Indiana Leadership Education and Development (a person leadership development program); Leadership opportunities at local, district and state levels; Sponsor of Indiana Family Impact Seminars for legislators and other decision makers; **Volunteer Community Support** – Items for Riley Children's Hospital; Support of Ronald McDonald House; Health Awareness Programs; Annual Participation in National Make a Difference Day; Support of local community projects; **Activities** – Annual Home and Family Conference; First Book for Kids; Spring and Fall District Meetings; Exchange Homemaker Program; Host-A-Hoosier Program; Extension Homemakers Chorus; Focus Group and Activities Committees information can be found at: <https://www.join.ieha-families.org/about/>.



1 in 3 Americans Have No Emergency Savings – Here's How to Change That

A new survey from retirement plan provider Empower reveals a startling reality: one-third of Americans have no emergency savings fund. Even more concerning, nearly 3 in 10 people (29%) could not afford an unexpected expense over \$400. The survey also found that:

- The median emergency savings for Americans is \$500.
- 63% said the rising cost of living has made it harder to save.
- 58% described saving for emergencies as “almost impossible” in today’s economy.
- Half of Americans (50%) feel stressed about their current emergency savings.
- 42% worry their savings wouldn’t help if they lost their job.

These numbers highlight a growing financial strain on households, but they also point to the importance of having even a modest emergency fund.

Why Emergency Savings Matter

Life is unpredictable. Whether it’s a car repair, a medical bill, or an unexpected job change, emergencies happen. Without savings, people often turn to credit cards or loans, which can quickly lead to debt. Having a financial cushion provides:

- Peace of mind when unexpected expenses pop up.
- Financial stability during income disruptions.
- A way to avoid high-interest debt.



How much should you have in an emergency savings account?

Financial experts often recommend 3 to 6 months of living expenses, but that can feel overwhelming. Try breaking it into smaller steps:

- First goal: Save \$500 to \$1,000
- Next step: Save one month of essential expenses (like rent, food, and bills)
- Longer-term goal: Work towards three months or more

The important thing is to get started; every little bit helps!

How to Get Started, Even When Money is Tight

1. Start small, but start now! Even saving \$10–\$20 per week will add up over time.
2. Automate your savings! Have money moved straight from your paycheck or bank account into a savings account so you don’t even have to think about it.
3. Keep it separate! Use a savings account just for emergencies. This makes it less tempting to spend.
4. Save extra money! Got a tax refund, bonus, or birthday money? Try putting some (or all) into your savings.
5. Cut small expenses. Skip one takeout meal or cancel a subscription that you don’t use, and add that money to your savings.
6. Celebrate milestones. Hitting your first \$100, \$500, or \$1,000 is worth recognizing.

*Saving is a habit, not a race. Every dollar you set aside makes you stronger for the future.

The Bottom Line – The survey shows the financial stress many Americans are under, but it also underscores that having

even a small emergency fund makes a big difference. Starting with just a few dollars each week builds resilience and peace of mind. When the unexpected happens, your future self will thank you for saving today!

Dates to Remember:

Nov 1 – Whitley County Homemakers Holiday Bazaar
Whitley Co. 4-H Center from 9a-3p

Nov 3 at 10A – Chair-Based Exercise & Cooking for One at Woodlands Senior Center (no need to register)

Nov 11 – Veterans Day (office closed)

Nov 20 at 12P – Drug-Free Whitley County Coalition Meeting

Dec 4 at 10A – CHAMPS Taskforce Meeting

Dec 10 at 1P – Chair-Based Exercise & Cooking for One at Blue River Apts (call Melissa Nabinger at 574-377-1991 to register)

Dec 12 at 10A – JDAI Steering Committee Mtg.

Dec 24-25 – Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (office closed)

*For more info., contact us at the Purdue Extension Office.

Community Health Advisory Members Providing Solutions (CHAMPS)

Our next meeting is being held on Thurs., Dec. 4, at 10 AM. For additional details about the meeting location or about the task force, contact Brittney Schori at bpender@purdue.edu.

If you would like to view our educational fact sheets for November (How to Stay Active During Chilly Months) and/or December (Spending Leaks), visit our website at <https://extension.purdue.edu/county/whitley/hhs.html>

Honoring Service and Celebrating the Season of Giving

As the year winds down, November and December invite us to pause and reflect on gratitude, service, and the ways we can strengthen our community.

In November, remember to honor our Veterans.

Our nation observes Veterans Day on November 11. This is a time to honor the men and women who have served in the armed forces. Their dedication and sacrifice remind us of the freedoms we enjoy every day. This year, consider extending your appreciation beyond the holiday by:

- ❖ Supporting local veterans’ organizations or programs, like donating to the Whitley County Veterans Treatment Court
- ❖ Sharing and listening to veterans’ stories within your family or the community.
- ❖ Encouraging youth to express gratitude through thank-you notes, artwork, or simple conversations.

In December, share kindness and generosity.

As December arrives, many of us embrace traditions of celebration and giving. This season is a wonderful opportunity to share kindness and generosity in ways both big and small:

- ❖ Volunteer time at a food pantry, animal shelter, or community event.
- ❖ Donate coats, gloves, or food to those in need, such as local churches or schools.
- ❖ Practice small acts of kindness, like holding a door, writing a note, or offering a smile.

Together, these months remind us of the importance of both **honoring service** and **giving to others**. Whether by thanking a veteran, volunteering, or practicing everyday kindness, each action helps build stronger, more compassionate communities.

****See page 5 for Pan Sausage and Vegetable Recipe****

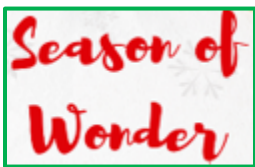


Halloween Hoot & Howl Open House

Hey kids, grab your costumes and come join us on Thursday, October 30th from 5:30-7:00 pm for lots of fun, games, costume contest, and snacks!! Don't forget...we'll have candy too!! Bring your family, bring your friends for a great evening of fun!



Season of Wonder Holiday Fair



Hey kids, do you love the holidays? Do you enjoy decorating the Christmas tree? Making a gingerbread house? Making and decorating Christmas cookies? How about making homemade ornaments or wreaths? If so, then this is for you!! The Season of Wonder Holiday Fair will feature each of these as contests for youth. You will have the opportunity to pick your favorite holiday activity featured above and create your own and submit it to judged! Prizes will be awarded to winners of each at our 3rd Annual "Season of Wonder" Holiday Fair on December 6th from 10 am – 4 pm at the 4-H Center. Your project(s) will be on display during this time and the public will be invited to come view your awesome festive creations! Holiday craft vendors will be there to offer the public some last-minute gift ideas. Be looking for more information coming out soon on contest details and how you can get signed up!

Snowflake Studio Workshop

Open to all youth in grades 3-12. Looking for a way to come up with that special gift for a family member? Then check this out!! You will have the opportunity to create 4 homemade gifts through cooking, graphic design, laser engraving, and utilizing agri-science skills. Come spend the afternoon of November 23rd with us making these unique creations that you can give to your parents, siblings, or grandparents this holiday season. Be watching for further details along with registration information coming soon!!



Fall Sheet Pan Sausage and Fall Vegetables

*Makes about 6 servings

Ingredients:

12 oz. smoked turkey sausage, sliced into 1/3-inch-thick slices
16 oz sweet potatoes, peeled and diced into ¾-inch cubes
16 oz. brussels sprouts, trimmed and halved
½ medium red onion, roughly sliced
1 tablespoon minced garlic
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
½ teaspoon salt and freshly ground black pepper
Optional - 1 tablespoon parmesan cheese
Optional - spices to add: chili powder, cumin, smoked paprika, chili flakes

Maple-Dijon Sauce Ingredients:

1/3 cup maple syrup
1/3 cup Dijon mustard

Instructions:

1. Preheat your oven to 400°F. Lightly oil a large cookie sheet pan with cooking spray. Spread the diced sweet potatoes and halved Brussels sprouts on the sheet pan in an even layer. *Tip: Turn the Brussels sprouts cut side down so they get that nice golden sear!*
2. Drizzle everything with olive oil, sprinkle with seasoning(s), then add salt and pepper to taste. Roast the sweet potatoes and Brussels sprouts in the preheated oven for 15 minutes. *These are root vegetables, so they will take a little longer to cook.*
3. In the meantime, make the Maple-Dijon sauce. Combine maple syrup and Dijon mustard in a jar or bowl and shake or mix well.
4. Remove the sheet pan from the oven, and add sliced sausage, garlic, and red onion. Drizzle half the Maple-Dijon sauce over and toss with the veggies. Make sure to spread everything on the sheet pan in one layer. Return the sheet pan to the oven and continue to roast until veggies are tender, about 15 minutes longer.
5. Remove the sheet pan from the oven. Drizzle the remaining sauce over the sausage and veggies and toss to coat. Sprinkle the sausage and veggies with parmesan and serve immediately.





November 4-H Calendar

(Events, dates and times are subject to change)

4	Jr. Leaders Gathering.....	6:30 p.m.....	4-H Center West Room
7	Scrapbook Club Workshop.....	6:30-8:30 p.m.....	Washington Comm Bldg
9	Smith Worker Bees Meeting.....	2:00 p.m.....	Collins Church
10	4-H Leaders & 4-H Council Meeting.....	6:30 p.m.....	4-H Center
11	VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE.....	CLOSED.....	EXTENSION OFFICE
11	4-H Clubs, Inc. Meeting.....	6:30 p.m.....	4-H Center
20	4-H Clubs, Inc. Annual Meeting.....	7:00 p.m.....	4-H Center
27-28	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.....	CLOSED.....	EXTENSION OFFICE



December 4-H Calendar

(Events, date and times are subject to change)

2	Jr. Leaders Gathering.....	6:30 p.m.....	4-H Center West Room
5	JAN/FEB NEWSLETTER INFO DUE.....	4:30 p.m.....	Extension Office
5	Scrapbook Club Workshop.....	6:30-8:30 p.m.....	Washington Comm Bldg
6	Season of Wonder Holiday Fair.....	10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.....	4-H Center
8	4-H Council Meeting.....	6:30 p.m.....	4-H Center
9	4-H Clubs, Inc. Meeting.....	7:00 p.m.....	Ag Museum
14	Smith Worker Bees Meeting.....	2:00 p.m.....	Collins Church
24-25	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY.....	CLOSED.....	EXTENSION OFFICE



Updates & Reminders

Combined Newsletter for January and February

Remember the next newsletter is a combined January and February newsletter. Be sure to plan and include February dates! Articles and dates for this newsletter will be due on Monday, December 11th at the Extension Office.

SAY WHAT?

Did you know the 4-H Youth program is the largest youth serving organization in the country? Yep, the largest in the United States. Hard to imagine there are that many youth out there today showing cows and pigs right? Well ... believe it or not that's because they don't all show cows and pigs. Here in Whitley County we have a large number of youth in our 4-H livestock projects, but did you know that of our 900+ youth that participated in 4-H this past year only about 400 of them exhibited livestock?

Wondering what youth can be a part of in 4-H if it's not livestock? Question, how many 4-H projects do we offer here in Whitley County? Give up? 63!!! How many of these 63 projects do you think are animal related? Nope, it is only 11! This means that we offer 52 projects that do not involve raising animals.

Do you know a kid in grades Kindergarten - 12th grade that would be interested in learning about how to build a rocket in our Aerospace project or creating memories with our Scrapbooking project? Or maybe one of the other 60 projects that I haven't mentioned? Get them enrolled in 4-H today, visit v2.4honline.com! Enrollment fee is \$20.00 for the year and only \$5 for kids in grades K-2. For

more information or need help with enrollment just contact Todd or Lisa at the Whitley County Extension Office (260) 244-7615.

4-H Enrollment for 2025-2026

Enrollment for the 2025-2026 year in the Whitley County 4-H program is open. Adult volunteers and youth need to get re-enrolled for the new year in order to not miss out on any important 4-H information, meetings, workshops, or events. Do you know of any youth in grades K-2 who would enjoy our Mini 4-H program? Or any youth in grades 3-12 who would enjoy our traditional 4-H program? Help us invite them to come join 4-H and explore the endless opportunities for them to learn through hands-on activities, workshops and have lots of fun with other youth. Youth and parents can enroll by visiting v2.4honline.com. If you need help with enrollment please contact the Extension Office and ask for Lisa or Todd.

Clubs

Congrats ET Hustlers

Congratulations to all 4-Hers for your county and state fair accomplishments. Happy holidays! We look forward to 2026!

*Etna Troy Hustler Leaders
Jacquelyn and Kennedy*

2026

FAIR DATES

Whitley County

4-H Fair

July 17 - 23

Indiana

State Fair

August 7 - 23

2026 Meeting Dates and Times

Please make sure to get your 2026 meeting dates and times turned in ASAP to Lisa at the Extension Office. Dates for the use of the 4-H Center are already filling up fast!

Youth Activities

Scholarship Opportunities

In partnership with the Indiana 4-H Foundation, the Indiana 4-H Youth Development Program annually awards more than \$125,000.00 in scholarships to 4-H members to pursue post-secondary education. Scholarships are awarded to recognize youth participating in Indiana's 4-H Youth Development Program on their achievements and life skill development resulting from their participation in a variety of 4-H experiences.



To Apply:

Go to the Indiana 4-H website at <https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H> to the Scholarship Information page to access the scholarship applications. Applications are due January 25th. Youth may complete their application through their 4HOnline account. Instructions on how to submit your scholarship application are listed below.

4-H Accomplishment Scholarships

Available to 4-H members in grade 10-12 and the year immediately following high school graduation. Selection is based on the member's life skill development resulting from their 4-H participation. Awards range from \$1,000.00-\$2,000.00. Categories include Animal Science; Citizenship; Communications; Engineering and Technological Science; Healthy Living, Food, and Nutrition Science; Leadership Development; Plant and Environmental Science; Premier Achievement; Premier Citizenship; and Premier Leadership.

4-H Club Scholarship

Available to 4-H members entering Purdue University, as a freshman or transfer student, majoring in the College of Agriculture or select majors, listed on the application, in the College of Health and Human Sciences. Selection is based on the member's overall 4-H achievement and financial need as determined by Purdue's Division of Financial Aid.

In order to apply applications must have their FAFSA on file by March 1st. (Reminder: The scholarship is due January 25th). In order to access the Federal Student Aid website an FSA ID (username and password) will need to be created. Students and parents must make their own FSA IDs. For more information about the FSA ID, tips and resources to help with creating an FSA ID, and a link to create an FSA ID, please visit StudentAid.gov/fsaid.

4-H Senior Year Scholarship

Available to 4-H members in their senior year of high school. Selection is based on the member's overall 4-H achievement. Awards range from \$250.00-\$1,000.00.

Laurenz Greene Memorial Excellence in 4-H Horticulture Scholarship

Available to 4-H members entering Purdue University Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture pursuing an undergraduate degree in Horticulture, Turf Management and Science, Sustainable Food and Farming Systems or Landscape Architecture. Applicants must have studied at least four years horticulture and/or plant science related subject matter/project through Indiana 4-H Youth Development. Selection is based on the member's overall 4-H achievement.

FarmHouse Fraternity Achievement Scholarship

This scholarship is sponsored by The Purdue FarmHouse Foundation of FarmHouse Fraternity and is restricted to an Indiana 4-H member who will be a freshman at Purdue University. Indiana 4-H youth development staff do not review applications and are not involved in the selection process.

Junior Leader News

- "Gatherings" – Upcoming Junior Leader



"gatherings" will be on November 4 @ 6:30 pm and December 2 @ 6:30 pm at the 4-H Center. Contact

Todd for more details.

- Cookie Bash – The Junior Leader Cookie Bash is tentatively set for December 13th. Junior Leaders need to bring their favorite cookie recipe all mixed up and ready to

bake to begin a great time of baking, decorating cookies, listening to Christmas music, watching Christmas movies, writing Christmas cards, and packaging cookies to be delivered for this community service project. Location TBA.

- Ringing Bells for Salvation Army & Shopping for Toys for Tots – Junior Leaders will be taking part in this community service project again this year. Junior Leaders will need to watch for the upcoming schedule to sign-up for a time to ring the bells at the Ace Hardware entrance in Columbia City from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. on December 13th. Afterwards, we will shop at Walmart for Toys for Tots and Angel Tree Child Project then deliver them. We will wrap up the evening with dinner at TBD.

For more Junior Leader news and updates, make sure you get on Facebook and request to join our Whitley County 4-H Jr. Leader page!



Agricultural & Natural Resources (ANR)

John Woodmansee, Extension Educator



Date	Time	Location
NOV 3 Master Gardener Basic Training Class...(paid/registered participants only)...	6:00-9:00 p.m...	Whitley Co Ag Museum
6 Whitley County Master Gardener Association Meeting.....	6:30 p.m....	Woodlands Sr. Activity Ctr.
7-8 Rooted & Resilient Homesteading Conference.....		Kendallville
10 Master Gardener Basic Training Class...(paid/registered participants only)...	6:00-9:00 p.m...	Whitley Co Ag Museum
17 Master Gardener Basic Training Class...(paid/registered participants only)...	6:00-9:00 p.m...	Whitley Co Ag Museum
24 Master Gardener Basic Training Class...(paid/registered participants only)...	6:00-9:00 p.m...	Whitley Co Ag Museum
DEC 1 Master Gardener Basic Training Class...(paid/registered participants only)...	6:00-9:00 p.m...	Whitley Co Ag Museum
3 Whitley Co. Master Gardener Association Holiday Party.... (reservations by Nov 12)...	6:00 p.m...	Woodlands Sr. Activity Ctr
8 Master Gardener Basic Training Class...(paid/registered participants only)...	6:00-9:00 p.m...	Whitley Co Ag Museum
10 Private Applicator Recertification Program.....	Evening (TBA)....	Whitley County 4-H Center
15 Master Gardener Basic Training Class...(paid/registered participants only)...	6:00-9:00 p.m...	Whitley Co Ag Museum



Homesteading Conference Will Feature Hands-on Workshops for Experts and Beginners

We're excited to invite you to the Rooted & Resilient Homesteading Conference, happening November 7-8, 2025, in Noble County, Indiana!

This two-day event will bring together homesteaders, educators, and enthusiasts from across the region (and beyond!) to learn, connect, and grow. With over 40 engaging sessions, the conference offers something for everyone—from beginners to seasoned homesteaders. There is even a Saturday Kidsteader track geared for 6-12 year olds!

The early bird registration discount lasts through September, so sign up soon.

Session tracks include:

- Food Preservation
- Gardening & Soil Health
- Animal Production
- Small Business & Entrepreneurship
- Sustainable Living & More

Keynote Speaker:

We're thrilled to welcome Graham Towerton, who will inspire us with insights on permaculture and regenerative design.

Dates:

November 7-8, 2025

Location & Details:

Rooted & Resilient Homesteading Conference

Info:

<https://bit.ly/RootedHomesteadConference>

Register by Nov. 6:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/02fb9c5e-3e85-4970-8544-5e818f2af36a/summary>



Private Applicator License Renewals

The Office of the Indiana State Chemist recently or may soon send renewal notices to pesticide applicators with certification expiration 12-31-2025. If you receive a mailing, it should include the number of attended Private Applicator Recertification Programs (PARPs) recorded at the time of mailing (3 required).

If you have accumulated the 3 required PARPs within the 5-year period of your license, submit the renewal form sent to you with the required license fee. If you need another program, do not submit the form before you have attended the third program.

If you need another PARP, you may choose to attend the program I have helped to organize on Dec. 10 (see article), or attend any other one being offered in the area. See <https://ppp.purdue.edu/private-applicators/recertification-parp-parp-events/>.

The expiration date of successfully renewed applicators (renewed starting 1-1-26) will be 12-31-2030.

Private Applicator Recertification Program (PARP)

I'm still working out a few program details, but Whitley County will tentatively host a Private Applicator Recertification Program (PARP) the evening of December 10 in the middle room of the Whitley County 4-H Center. So, please save the date for now if you are interested. I anticipate sending a direct mailing with complete information to licensed applicators. I will also post information on our Whitley County Extension website's Agriculture and Natural Resources page:

<https://extension.purdue.edu/county/whitley/ANR.html>.

Master Gardener Basic Training – What About You?

What about you? Would you like to join our talented Master Gardeners in Whitley County? We would love to see you in our next class, tentatively in fall 2026! If you are interested in taking the

in-person class the next time around, please call 260-244-7615 and give us your name and contact information so that we can inform you directly about the next class. As Uncle Sam would say, “We want YOU!”

Visit our page dedicated to prospective people interested in becoming an Extension Master Gardener: <https://extension.purdue.edu/county/whitley/extension-master-gardeners---we-want-you.html>.

Can't wait until next fall? Purdue Extension is hosting a state-wide virtual (access from your computer at home) program beginning in February! Find details at: <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/events/2026-statewide-virtual-purdue-extension-master-gardener-basic-training/>. In addition to the weekly online training, a required “local connection” meeting will take place either weekly or bi-weekly in a host county. Whitley County is not planning to be a host county in 2026, but you can likely participate in a neighboring county.

2025 IBCA-Purdue Extension Regional Beef Meeting

Indiana Beef Cattle Association (IBCA) area meetings will be open to all beef producers and feature great local food, valuable information on beef issues, policies, programs, and the latest information from the Indiana Beef Cattle Association, the Indiana Beef Council, the Indiana State Board of Animal Health, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Purdue University Extension.



The specifics of the event had not been determined by the time we had to go to press. Please check back on our website calendar at: www.extension.purdue.edu/whitley or https://www.indianabeef.org/ for additional information. This is typically a date in December or early January. Contact the IBCA Area 11 Director, Jacob Pettigrew, at (260) 610-4719, for information about the program and to RSVP.

Purdue Top Farmer Conference

Take part in one of the most successful and longest-running management programs geared specifically for farmers — the Purdue Top Farmer Conference, featuring faculty and staff experts from Purdue's Center for Commercial Agriculture. Surrounded by farm management, farm policy, agricultural finance, marketing experts, and a group of your peers, the conference will stimulate your thinking about agriculture's future and how you can position your farm to be successful in the years ahead.

The 2026 conference will be Friday, January 9. If you're not already on our mailing list, please subscribe to receive updates. Find details and updates at: <https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag/home/programs/>.

Land Values, Cash Rents, and Leasing Contracts

This is the time of year that many cash rent contracts are renewed and sometimes renegotiated. Keep in mind that many factors go into what makes a “fair” cash rent, negotiated between landlord and tenant. These may include who gets government program payments from the Farm Service Agency, who applies lime, whether roadsides are mowed, fertility program maintenance, and a host of other factors.

Opinion surveys conducted by Purdue University Department of Agricultural Economics and by USDA/Indiana Agricultural Statistics



Service (see links below) may help with these discussions. Remember that these are *opinion* surveys, polled from ag professionals and farmers, and not based on hard data. They are designed to “get you in the ballpark” in your discussions.

Purdue Agricultural Economics Report (PAER) - access report published August 2025:

<https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag/home/purdue-agricultural-economics-report/>

County estimates from USDA/National Agricultural Statistics Service, Indiana Field Office (cash rent is near the bottom of the page):

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Indiana/Publications/County_Estimates/

Additional resources on leasing from Purdue Agricultural Economics are available at:

<https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag/home/resource/keyword/cash-rent/>

If you need a sample lease form or other resources, visit <https://aglease101.org/>.

The advice or assistance of an attorney is usually recommended. Written leases are recommended over oral leases.

Indiana Horticulture and Small Farm Conference

The Indiana Horticulture and Small Farms Conference will be March 3-5, 2026 at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds in Danville, IN. Save the date. Details will be posted at: https://extension.purdue.edu/anr/teams/dffs/small_farm_conference/index.html.





Whitley County Office Phone:

260.244.7615 or 260.625.3313

www.extension.purdue.edu/whitley

Facebook: Whitley County Purdue Extension

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