

EXTENSION CONNECTION



4 - H



ANR



HHS



SEPT/OCT 2025

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THANK YOU!!

Another 4-H Fair has come and gone.



- ✓ THANK YOU for being flexible!
- ✓ THANK YOU for your patience!
- ✓ THANK YOU to 4-H Clubs, Inc., 4-H Club Leaders, and 4-H Council for your many hours of hard work and support to help us carry out our 4-H program this past year!
- ✓ THANK YOU for the volunteers who helped throughout fair week in the 4-H Center, in the barns, in the concessions, and with entertainment activities!
- ✓ THANK YOU to the Ag Museum, Extension Homemakers, and Master Gardeners for returning your programs, activities, displays, and food at this year's fair!
- ✓ THANK YOU for helping us celebrate our youth through our 2025 Whitley County 4-H Fair.

Whitley County has a great Extension family and an awesome 4-H family! Whether you are an adult or youth, please remember to thank those people that helped you this summer. Remember, if you need 4-H thank you notes, contact the Extension Office.

Extension programming continues. Many programs will be offered this fall. Let us know your educational wants and/or needs; contact Todd, John, or Brittney for your program requests.

Have a great fall!!! Be safe!!!

Whitley County 4-H Presents the 3rd Annual Season of Wonder Dec. 6 ~ 4-H Center



Festivities will include:

- Youth project competitions
 - Details coming this fall!!!
- Youth projects on display for the public
- Holiday craft vendors
- Food and drinks available while you check out the projects and shop!

Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for more information this fall!!!

OFFICE MOVING!

Purdue Extension –
Whitley County Office
will be moving
sometime this fall.
Please call before
you come in.
More info to come.

Todd 🍁 John 🍁 Brittney 🍁 Jacki 🍁 Lisa 🍁 Candy 🍁 Stacy

4-H Checks Ready for Pickup

4-H AUCTION CHECKS can be picked up at the Extension Office by Oct. 10th. Please remember to send thank you cards to all of your buyers who supported you this year.



UNCLAIMED 4-H PROJECTS MUST BE PICKED UP BY SEPT. 1

Per the 2025 Whitley County 4-H Rules Book, page 4, rule #13 - All 4-H projects exhibited at the Whitley County 4-H Fair and/or the Indiana State Fair must be picked up two weeks after State Fair ends. At that time the Extension Office reserves the right to dispose of projects. **ALL PROJECTS MUST BE PICKED UP BY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1.**

This also includes any unclaimed ribbons and judging results.

Fall Garage Sale September 27



Sponsored by:
Whitley County



Extension Homemakers

8 – 3 pm ~ 4-H Center,
Whitley Co. 4-H Fairgrounds

****SPACES AVAILABLE****
CALL 260-244-7615

WHITLEY COUNTY 4-H PRESENTS
HALLOWEEN
HOOT & HOWL
OPEN HOUSE

- kids games
- door prizes
- pumpkin decorating
- costume contest!!

Free Event!!

- Caramel Apple Station
- S'mores Station

Learn about what 4-H has to offer!!

COME HAVE FUN & EXPLORE 4-H

OCTOBER 30, 2025 5:30-7:00PM

OPEN TO ALL YOUTH GRADES K-12

WHITLEY CNTY 4-H CENTER
680 W SQUAWBUCK ROAD
COLUMBIA CITY, IN

FOR MORE INFO CALL
260-244-7615



Holiday Bazaar



Sponsored by:

Whitley County Extension Homemakers

November 1 ~ 9 – 3 pm

4-H Center, 4-H Fairgrounds

****SPACES AVAILABLE**** Call 260-244-7615



WWW.WHITLEYCOUNTY4H.COM
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

ANNUAL MEETING

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.

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.



12th Annual Autumn Harvest Festival – October 11

Whitley County 4-H Clubs, Inc. will host the 12th annual Autumn Harvest Festival at the Whitley County Fairgrounds on Saturday, October 11th, 2025. All proceeds from this event go to support Whitley County 4-H. The day will be full of activities for all ages. The Farm Toy Show will also be hosted “on the hill” in the 4-H Center. Several food options will be available, including our famous "Fair Ice Cream" featuring special fall flavors. The Whitley County Ag Museum will be open throughout the day with many learning centers. We will again have the Kiddie Tractor Pull. Weigh-in will begin at 12:00, with the pull beginning at 12:30. Several local music and entertainment acts will perform throughout the day under the canopy at main concessions.

The Autumn Harvest Festival Demolition Derby will begin at 2:00 in the grandstand. Admission for this event will be \$10, and pit passes will be \$15.

It's a day you won't want to miss! Be watching for additional information for all things associated with the festival. Registration forms for vendors and car show participants can be found on the 4-H website at www.whitleycounty4h.com and any questions can be emailed to whitleycounty4h@gmail.com.



*Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access University.

Extension Homemaker Happenings



Date	Event	Time	Location
SEPTEMBER			
1	LABOR DAY – OFFICE CLOSED		
27	Fall Garage Sale	8:00-3:00 p.m.	4-H Center
OCTOBER			
6	Fort Wayne Fall District Meeting – WHITLEY COUNTY		4-H Center
7	President's Council Meeting	9:30 a.m.	4-H Center
13	COLUMBUS DAY – OFFICE CLOSED		
20-25	Indiana Extension Homemakers Week		
23	November/December Newsletter Mailing: Union Busy Bells/Club 21 10:00 a.m.		TBD



Thank you to Sally Hull, Betty Armbruster and Glenna Johnson of Evening Bells and Cheryl Wilkinson of Double Dozen Extension Homemaker Clubs for helping with the July/August Newsletter.

President's Council Meeting

October 7, 9:30 a.m. – 4-H Center

Extension Homemakers Cookbook

The Whitley County Extension Homemakers cookbook are at the Extension Office and the cost 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.



4-H Clothing Tenure Winner

Whitley County Extension Homemakers honor an outstanding 4-H'er who has completed 10 years of sewing and fashion revue. 2025 winner is Olivia Palmer. Congrats!

Fair Food Chairs

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! Without the help of many volunteers, we would not be able to serve food during the 2024 Fair in the 4-H Center. If you worked one hour or many hours, your help was appreciated. Special thanks to our chair people of the day: Vickie Fleischauer, Janet Hindbaugh, Amy Richards, Shannon Ramsey, Karen Hall, Virginia Faulkner, Lori Rebman, Pat Stetzel, Dee Blackburn, Deb Leatherman and to Whitley

IEHA Week: October 20-25

To honor the service and accomplishments of the Indiana Extension Homemakers Association, October 20 through October 25, it has been declared Indiana Extension Homemakers Week.

This organization has been actively engaged in promoting education, volunteer community support and leadership development at the local, state and international level since its founding in 1913. Consisting of over 800 active members in 90 Indiana counties, its main endeavor is to improve the greatest institution in the world, "THE HOME".

Great things happen at the local level! Homemakers quietly work in communities, doing great things with little fanfare, impacting the Indiana family for the better. Want to join us and make a difference? Our clubs are open to everyone without regard to race, color, creed, gender, national origin or social economic circumstances. Contact the Purdue Extension of Whitley County for further information.

County HHS Educator Brittney Schori.

Fall Garage Sale & Holiday Bazaar

Extension Homemakers are sponsoring the Fall Garage Sale on September 27 from 8 am – 3 p.m and the Holiday Bazaar on November 1 from 9 am – 3 pm, both at the 4-H Center. There are currently spaces available for both. Call the Extension Office at 260-244-7615 for info.

Extension Homemaker 4-H Scholarship

The Whitley County Extension Homemakers sponsor a 4-H Scholarship each year to Whitley County seniors. The 2025 winner is Kohen Schipper. Congrats!

The Whitley County Extension Homemakers sponsored two events at the Whitley County 4-H Fair in July. There were 191 entries and 74 participants.

****Results for the 35th Annual Whitley County Adult Open Show can be seen on page 9.**

****Results for the Specialty Contest can be seen on page 5.**



Financial Tip → Fall into Savings

As cooler months approach, review your monthly subscriptions and recurring expenses. Cancel anything you're not using, and put the saved money into a holiday fund or toward an end-of-year financial goal.

Why it matters: Small, automatic charges can quietly eat away at your budget. Streaming services, apps, gym memberships, and "trial" subscriptions you forgot about can add up to hundreds of dollars a year. By cutting what you don't use or need, you can free up money for important goals, whether that's paying off debt, building your savings, or making the holiday season less stressful.

Steps you can take:

- **Make a list** – Check your bank and credit card statements for all recurring charges over the past 2–3 months.
- **Ask yourself** – Do I use this regularly? Is it worth the cost? Could I find a cheaper or free alternative?
- **Prioritize your must-haves** – Keep only the subscriptions that truly add value to your life.
- **Cancel unused services** – Follow the company's official process to avoid future charges.
- **Redirect your savings** – Set up an automatic transfer for the amount you've freed up into a savings account, holiday fund, or toward your debt! *When you start seeing this amount grow, you may not miss that subscription!*



Quick Seasonal Health Tip – "Beat the Sugar Rush"

Instead of keeping a candy bowl out all month for Halloween, swap it with an air-tight container of trail mix or roasted pumpkin seeds. You'll still have something to grab and munch, but with more nutrients and less sugar.

Family Dinner Table Conversation Starter – "Autumn Would You Rather"

Create a little laughter and encourage family connection. Here are a few sample questions you can start at your dinner table!

- Would you rather carve a pumpkin or bake a fall dessert?
- Would you rather jump in a leaf pile or roast marshmallows by a fire?
- Would you rather have an extra hour of daylight or an extra hour of sleep?

Family Challenge – "Gratitude Pumpkin"

If you want to encourage daily gratitude during the season of thankfulness, here is one suggestion!

- ❖ Start by placing a pumpkin (real or craft) in your kitchen or another space everyone in your home visits. Each day in October, have family members write one thing that they're thankful for directly on the pumpkin with a permanent marker. By Halloween, your family will have a full "gratitude pumpkin" to display!



The next **CHAMPS (Community Health Advisory Members Providing Solutions)** meeting will be held

on Thursday, December 4, at 10 AM. For additional details about the meeting location or about the task force, you can contact Brittney Schori at bpender@purdue.edu. One of the

goals of CHAMPS is to identify needs and then create and distribute education to the community. To view the monthly educational factsheets, visit <https://extension.purdue.edu/county/whitley/hhs.html>. The month of September focuses on **basic investing**, and October will focus on **seasonal disorder**. Do you in Whitley County.



A Healthier Seasonal Snack – Apple Nachos

This is a fun and easy recipe that the whole family can enjoy! It's easy for kids to help make, naturally sweet, and perfect for the fall apple season.

Ingredients:

Apples

Peanut or another nut butter

Cinnamon

Unsweetened coconut

Chopped nuts

Dark chocolate chips

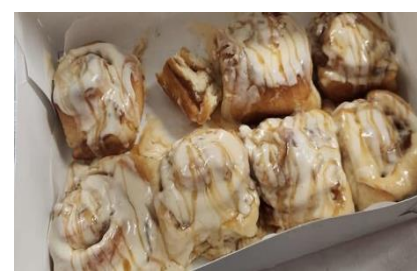
Instructions:

(1) Slice apples thinly and arrange on a plate. (2) Drizzle with warm peanut butter (or another nut butter) (3) Sprinkle with cinnamon, unsweetened coconut, chopped nuts, or dark chocolate chips.



2025 Specialty Contest Winners – "Apple-A-Licious"

Overall Winner – Ada Mae Rebman with "Caramel Apple Cinnamon Rolls"



(L to R) Vickie Fleischauer (Specialty Chair), Ada Mae Rebman, with judges: Greg Lopshire, Martha Trier and Amy Richards

Bars/Brownies: Ashley Williamson
Breads: Ada Mae Rebman
Cakes: Sharon Hesting
Cookie: Brandy Kyler

Crisp: Colleen Johnson
Dumplings: Angie King
Jam/Jelly/Spreads: Mary Beth Schuman
Pies: Marsha Hoffman

4-H Youth Development

Todd Geiger, Extension Educator



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

Date	Event	Time	Location
1	LABOR DAY.....	CLOSED.....	EXTENSION OFFICE
1	ALL INDIANA STATE FAIR PROJECTS PICK-UP		EXTENSION OFFICE
8	Cat Club Meeting.....	6:45 p.m.	4-H Center West Room
8	4-H Leaders & 4-H Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.	4-H Center
9	4-H Clubs, Inc. Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Ag Museum
21	Jr. Leaders Fall Kick-off Event.....	1:30 p.m.	Meet at the 4-H Center



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

1	4-H ONLINE ENROLLMENT BEGINS.....		v2.4honline.com
7	Jr. Leaders Gathering.....	6:30 p.m.....	4-H Center West Room
11	Autumn Fall Harvest Festival.....	9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.....	4-H Fairgrounds
13	ITEMS FOR NOV/DEC NEWSLETTER DUE.....	4:30 p.m.	Extension Office
13	4-H Leader/4-H Council Meeting.....	6:30 p.m.....	4-H Center
14	4-H Club, Inc. Meeting.....	7:00 p.m.....	Ag Museum
14	COLUMBUS DAY.....	CLOSED.....	EXTENSION OFFICE
30	Halloween Hoot & Howl Open House.....	5:30 p.m.....	4-H Center



Updates & Reminders

THANK YOU!

Thank you all for a job well done! The 2025 Whitley County 4-H Fair could not have happened without all your work, planning, and help. Thank you especially to 4-H Clubs, Inc., 4-H Council, 4-H Leaders, and all the parents and volunteers.

Important 4-H Enrollment Information

4-H enrollment for the 2025-2026 year will start October 1, 2025. This applies to all youth re-enrolling and new 4-H members and 4-H Volunteers!!

The 4-H Online system is a web-based system. You have access to your information. If there is a change in address, etc. you will be able to change it directly on the site and do not have to contact the Extension Office to make the changes!

Another advantage to the 4-H Online system is easier access for leaders of 4-H township clubs to get their members contact information. With 4-H enrollment beginning in October there is the possibility of doing more educational and fun activities with your club earlier in the year.

You will need to go to the Indiana 4-H Online website at <https://v2.4honline.com> to begin the enrollment process. You will need to use a personal computer or laptop with

Google Chrome to complete the enrollment.

If you are re-enrolling into the 4-H program, you will need your previous email address and password to re-enroll. If new to the 4-H program, you will need an email address. If you do not have any means to enroll online, you can still enroll with a paper form or you may use the computer in the lobby at the Extension Office.

If you enrolled in 4-H last year with 4-H Online, your information should be there along with 4-H project information. We are looking forward to another positive experience for all 4-H youth and their families for the 2025-2026 4-H year!

4-H...All Year Round!!

Just because the 4-H Fair is over does not mean 4-H is over for the year! 4-H educational opportunities occur 12 months of the year!!

4-H Clubs, Inc., 4-H Council, and 4-H Leaders organization meet each month to discuss projects and programs to add or improve. As well as help design, arrange, and set-up workshops and other events for 4-H'ers and the community to have the opportunity to attend. Most 4-H clubs meet throughout the year and workshops occur nearly every month. It's never too early to begin working on next year's project!! Invite a friend to attend a club meeting, workshop, or 4-H event this year!!

Unclaimed 4-H Projects Must be Picked Up by September 3

Per the 2025 Whitley County 4-H Rules Book, page 4, rule #13 - All 4-H projects exhibited at the Whitley County 4-H Fair and/or the Indiana State Fair must be picked up two weeks after State Fair ends. At that time the Extension Office reserves the right to dispose of projects. **ALL PROJECTS MUST BE PICKED UP BY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST.** This also includes any unclaimed ribbons and judges results.

ATTENTION:

4-H Member... Thank You Cards

Remember to send a "Thank You" card to those individuals and businesses that made your 4-H Fair special by sponsoring/donating awards and by purchasing your Foods/Livestock project in the auction(s).

The sponsor's name is listed on the auction payment voucher attached to your check.

Remember to send a "Thank You" to all those people who helped with your 4-H projects - 4-H Leaders, 4-H volunteers, neighbors, and family members.



Thinking Ahead...

It is hard to believe the 2025 4-H Fair just ended and now is the time to begin planning for the 2026 4-H Fair. Many 4-H projects for next year will need to be worked on this fall and winter.

4-H'ers involved in large animal specie projects, the fall and winter months are filled with selecting or breeding for their next year's project.

If you're interested in Entomology, Geology or Forestry, this is the time to begin collecting insects, rocks or minerals, or tree seeds. There are many great shots for Photography at this time of year or the early part of winter. For Collections you might want to put those hard-to-get items on your Christmas list; or for Genealogy members, talk to grandparents or other relatives during holiday get-togethers.

Even Foods projects may need to be preserved this fall, or try a new recipe at family dinners. The time to start planning is now when you aren't in a rush and there's more time. You may want to explore other projects to see if you want to sign up for a new project. It would be good to set a time-table for when you want to accomplish different activities and parts of your projects. You may not always meet your deadline, but you may get things completed earlier for next year. It may even be possible to have a relaxing summer as you finish those projects early for the coming 4-H year.

Be sure to read the *Extension Connection* newsletter each month and share it with your parents and other adults. Some people missed an important deadline this past year even though all the information was printed in the *Extension Connection*. You can avoid this next year by staying on top of those dates printed in the *Extension Connection* and turning forms in early. The Extension Office may catch mistakes if your forms come in early and there would be time to make corrections. It's extremely difficult to watch for

errors on a busy deadline day when several hundred forms come in.

So...start looking over those projects for next year and try not to procrastinate. It will all be worth it come next summer.

See you at the 2026 Whitley County 4-H Fair on July 17-23, 2026!

Making the Best Better!

Do you have an idea on how to make our Whitley County 4-H program better? If so, this is the time to make your ideas known! Do you have an idea for a new or different award? New 4-H activity? If so, contact your 4-H Leader.

Do you have an idea for new entertainment or an activity at the 4-H Fair? If so you can visit 4-H Clubs, Inc. during one of their upcoming meetings or contact Jerred Reiff, President at (574) 551-6562.

Maybe you have an idea about a rule change or a new 4-H project! If so, please visit 4-H Council during one of their upcoming meetings or contact Tammy Studebaker, President (260) 248-1368.

You may also send your ideas on how to help make Whitley County 4-H better to 4hwhitleyin@gmail.com.

Halloween Hoot & Howl Open House – October 30th from 5:30 – 7:00p (4-H Center)

Come on out with the family for

a fun event!! Games and activities for the kids and an opportunity to explore everything that our 4-H program has to offer. Invite friends, neighbors, kids from school that you feel would enjoy this event!! **See page 2 for details.**

Summer 4-H Staff

We would like to say a big thank you to our great summer 4-H staff: Maggie Wolf, Candy Sroufe, Alissa Roberts and Stacy Geiger. All of them put in a lot of hours this summer assisting the 4-H program and we truly appreciate their help!! Maggie Wolf, a former 10-year 4-H member, is currently a student at Huntington University. Candy Sroufe is currently at the Purdue Extension Whitley County Office as

a program assistant. Alissa Roberts is currently a FACS teacher at Columbia City High School. Stacy is currently the store manager at BABE of Whitley County and our STEM program assistant.

4-H Program Volunteers Wanted to Share their Passions

Do you have a hobby? Maybe you have an interest or expertise in something. Say maybe woodworking, computers, computer coding, web design, robotics, cooking, sewing, painting, etc. It can be anything! We are looking for adults that would like to share their hobby, interest, expertise, talent, with youth through some hands-on workshops to share their passion with youth that could last a lifetime! If you have something that comes to mind and would be willing to commit to six total hours sharing with youth, give Todd a call at the Extension Office for more details. 260-244-7615. Or maybe you are interested in helping with some of our traditional projects. We are looking for some great adult volunteers to become leaders of our Aerospace/Rocketry, Woodworking, Beekeeping and Photography project areas. If you have a passion in these areas think about sharing that passion with the youth of Whitley County.

TSC & 4-H Paper Clover Fundraiser

Since 2010, Tractor Supply has partnered with 4-H to prepare youth to be ready for work and life. The success of the Paper Clover campaign has raised more than \$24 million to impact local youth with the technical skills and life skills that prepare them for whatever comes their way.

100 percent of funds raised through the bi-annual Paper Clover campaign directly benefits 4-H youth. 90 percent of donations directly support 4-H youth in the state where the funds were raised, and the remaining 10 percent supports the overall mission and growth of 4-H nationally. Dates are: **November 28 – December 24, 2025.**



Get involved with Columbia City's Tractor Supply store to raise money for our county and state 4-H programs! Let us try to beat the Spring 2025 donations!

Thank You to Our 4-H Volunteers!

As the 4-H year for 2024-2025 ends at the end of September, we have some great things to reflect on. Youth enrollment continues to be strong! 900+ youth participated in our 4-H program, the most in over 2 decades! Over 160 adults volunteered to help with the Whitley County 4-H program in 2024-2025! Without our adult volunteers, our 4-H program does not happen. Thank you to all of you that give of your time and energy for the youth of our county!

I WANT TO BE LIKE YOU

Thank you, 4-H Volunteer,
For being my life's role model.
When I consider all you've taught me
and reflect on the kind of person
you are,

I want to be like you –
smart, interesting, and engaging,
positive, confident, unpretentious.

I want to be like you –
well-informed and easy to understand,
thinking with your heart as well as
your head,
gently nudging us to do our best,
with sensitivity and insight.
I want to be like you –
giving your time, energy and talent
to ensure the brightest possible future
for each of us.

Thank you, 4-H Volunteer,
for giving me a goal to shoot for:
I want to be like you!

Adapted from Joanna Fuchs

4-H Projects

Call For Rule Changes/Updates, Project Guideline Changes, New Projects

Rule changes for 2026 must be submitted by September 24th, 2025 so they can be added to the 4-H Council Meeting agenda. If the rule change affects an animal project, it must first be presented to that specie's advisory board, then that advisory board must present the rule change to 4-H Council. 4-H Council has ruled that



FLOAT

- 1st: Smith Harvesters
- 2nd: Poultry Club
- 3rd: Thorncreek Sons of the Soil
- 4th: Richland Ramblers
- 5th: Smith Worker Bees
- 6th: Cleveland Showmen

NON-FLOAT

- 1st: Washington 4-H Busters
- 2nd: Horse & Pony Club
- 3rd: Rabbit Club

WALKING UNIT

- 1st: Jefferson Hustlers

**2025
4-H Parade Results**

it will not accept new projects, rules or changes to our County rules after the October meeting in order for the 2026 Rule Book to be updated and distributed on time for next year. Please submit your suggestions in writing to Todd Geiger at geigert@purdue.edu.

Youth Activities

4-H Awards & Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the following
4H'ers:

Hester Adams Memorial Award

Winners:

Kylee Ousley
Olivia Palmer
Teeghun Miller
Reese Minthorn
Kohen Schipper
Baylee McCoy

B.V. Widney Memorial Award

Winner:

Rylee McCoy

Jim Teghtmeyer Memorial Award

Winner:

Kylee Ousley

Farm Bureau Tenure Award:

Carle Sroufe
Oliver Palmer

Helping Hands 4-H Endowment Scholarship:

Carle Sroufe

Lester & Joy Worrick Memorial Scholarship:

Teeghun Miller

Extension Homemakers Scholarship:

Kohen Schipper



Ag Youth Loan

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to individual young persons to start and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, FFA, a Tribal youth group, or similar agricultural youth organization. The project being financed with an FSA Youth Loan needs to provide an opportunity for the young person to acquire experience and education in agriculture-related skills.

The Youth Loan application requires a recommendation from a project advisor who verifies that he/she will sponsor the loan applicant, has the correct training and experience to supervise your project, and is available to help whenever needed.

If you are between the ages of 10 and 20 years at the time of loan closing, parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) must consent to the loan application. Young people applying for a Youth Loan are personally responsible for repaying the loan. A co-signer is required only if the project shows possible difficulty in repaying the loan or does not meet security requirements.

Contact the Farm Service Agency - Farm Loan Programs office that covers Northeast Indiana at 788 W Connexion Way, Columbia City, IN 46725 for help preparing and processing the application forms. They can also be reached at 260-244-6266 ext. 105.

Whitley County Represented at the Indiana State Fair!!



Congratulations to our Whitley County participants on a job well done!! Check out Indiana State Fair results posted on the Indiana State Fair website at: www.indianastatefair.com. Click on "Competitions" and then choose "Results".

~ Upcoming Event Coming Soon ~
Wilderness Skills Day Camp

Get ready for an amazing fall adventure at our Wilderness Skills Day Camp! This is your chance to explore the great outdoors while learning awesome skills like pitching tents, fishing, and cooking over a crackling campfire. You'll also get to try your hand at archery and rifle skills, paddle a canoe, and more! With the colorful leaves as your backdrop, it's the perfect time to connect with nature and make new friends. Don't wait—you will want to sign up right away and let the fall fun begin!



When: Thursday,
 October 16 from
 9:00am-3:00pm
 @ Camp Whitley
 4305 West Camp
 Whitley Road,
 Columbia City, IN

Who: Any youth in grades 3 – 7
 Be watching your email and our social media pages for the registration launching soon!!



Congratulations to the
10-Year 4-H Members for 2025



4-H teaches leadership, teamwork and life skills. Our 4-H members and volunteers will continue to learn and teach others and will improve our nation's ability to tackle the challenges of the 21st century. Thank you to everyone for participating and/or supporting Whitley County 4-H. Congratulations to the 4-H members who have completed ten years of membership: Abigail Heuer, Aleeya Cramer, Aleighya Noe, Amy Brown, Braden Weirick, Brant Pettigrew, Brendan Johnson, Carle Sroufe, Carmin Gayheart, Carter Meinika, Clara Moran, Eli Patrick, Eli Ralston, Elizabeth Gable, Elle Harrison, Emma Hiss, Falon Ott, Hannah Thomas, Holly Branning, Hope Bradley, Hunter Wood, Jeffrey Johnson, Joshua Marker, Julia Gaerte, Kaleb Eiler, Karaline Schuman, Kohen Schipper, Kollin Van Emon, Kyle Jackson, Kylee Ousley, Lucas Wagner, Lydia Yoder, Madison Breece, Olivia Palmer, Sephen Patterson, Sierra Mowrey, Teeghun Miller, Tessa Eiler and Zach Johnson.

(continued from page 4)

2025 Adult Open Show Winners:

CRAFTS: Beth Sarapata

- Canning – Beth Sarapata
- Decorative Painting – Sharon Raypole
- Diamond Painting – Norma Miller
- Macrame – Carla Gebert
- Scrapbooking – Val Slack
- Stamping – Val Slack
- Wreaths – Brandy Kyler
- Miscellaneous – Jennifer Lilly

FINE ARTS: Sara Andrews

- Painting/Acrylic – Sara Andrews

FLOWERS: Angela King

- Container Plant – Angela King
- Single Stem: Janelle Burnworth
- Fresh Arrangements – Lana Jenkins
- Dried Arrangements – Beverly Yingst

FOODS: Sheila Schilling

- Brownies – Sheila Schilling
- Cakes – Marsha Hoffman
- Cookies – Sheila Schilling*
- Pies – Ethel Miller
- Muffins – Sharon Hesting
- Quick Bread – Judy Rhoads

- Yeast Breads/Loaf & Roll – Joan Western

FOOD PRESERVATION: Jacki Bishop*

- Jams & Jellies – Ginny Faulkner
- Pickles & Relishes – Jacki Bishop
- Tomato Product – Jacki Bishop*

HERBS: Vickie Fleischauer

- Fresh Sprig – Vickie Fleischauer

NEEDLEWORK: Jann Johnson

- Counted Cross Stitch – Jann Johnson
- Crochet – Vicky Shearin
- Embroidery/Hand – Jann Johnson*
- Embroidery/Machine – Norma Miller
- Knitting – Vicky Shearin
- Miscellaneous – Diane Harlan

PHOTOGRAPHY: Angela Taulbee

- B&W/Single Print – Val Slack
- Color/Single Print – Angela Taulbee
- Miscellaneous – Brandy Smith

QUILTING: Diane Harlan

- Baby Quilts/Machine – Cindy Zollinger
- Full Size/Machine – Cindy Zollinger
- Misc/Hand – Becky Ousley
- Misc/Machine – Diane Harlan

- Small Patchwork/Machine – Joyce Linder

REDESIGNING: Yvette Palmer

SEWING: Sally Hull

VEGETABLES: Sherry Brown

- Single Vegetable – Karen Hall
- (5) Vegetables – Sherry Brown

WOODCRAFTS: Larry Gilbert



Yvette Palmer (left) & Vickie
 Fleischauer
 (Adult Open Show Chair)
People's Choice Winner:
Yvette Palmer

Agricultural & Natural Resources (ANR)

John Woodmansee, Extension Educator



Date	Event	Time	Location
AUG:			
26	ANR Program Advisory Committee Meeting	7:00 p.m.....	Extension Office (invitees only)
SEPT:			
3	Master Gardener Assn. Meeting...(NOTE: change to Wed. evening, bring Lawn Chair)...6:30 p.m.		Crooked Lake Nature Preserve
8	Master Gardener Basic Training Class	1:00-4:00 p.m.	Noble County South Complex (location address: 109 N York St., Albion; for paid and registered enrollees only – this and future classes through 10/20)
10	NEPAC Field Day	8:00 – 1:30 p.m.	NEPAC Farm, Columbia City
12-13	Beyond the Garden Gate.....		State Master Gardener Conf, Danville, IN
15	Master Gardener Basic Training Class	1:00-4:00 p.m.	Albion
18	MarketReady Producer Program.....		Purdue Extension – Decatur County
20	Forestry Tour – Purdue Miller Woodlands.....	9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Upland, IN
22 & 30	Master Gardener Basic Training Class	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Albion
OCT:			
2	Purdue Extension Annual Event.....	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Whitley Co. Community Foundation
2	Master Gardener Association Meeting.....	6:30 p.m.....	Woodlands Sr. Activity Center
6 & 13	Master Gardener Basic Training Class	1:00-4:00 p.m.	Albion
20	Master Gardener Basic Training Class	1:00-4:00 p.m.	Albion
27	Master Gardener Basic Training Class	1:00-4:00 p.m.	4-H Center West Room



Master Gardener Basic Training

A new in-person basic training class for potential Master Gardener interns is set to begin Sept. 8. You'll notice on the calendar that classes are for paid and registered enrollees only, however current Master Gardeners may attend for an educational refresher. Additionally, current Master Gardeners may be helping with other aspects of the program, such as providing refreshments or serving as guest speakers. Those hoping to take the class in the future may call our office to leave your name and contact information. We'll notify you of the details of the next class. Or, check early next summer at: <https://purdue.link/BecomeMasterGardener>.



Plan to Attend Sept. 10 NEPAC Field Day

Purdue Extension in northeast Indiana will host a field day on September 10 for farmers and agribusiness professionals that highlights current agronomic research. The field day will be held at Northeast Purdue Agricultural Center (NEPAC), 4821 E. 400 S, Columbia City, IN.

The program will begin with a series of morning workshops led by Purdue Extension experts. Workshop topics and presenters include:

*State pesticide regulation update by James Wolff, Extension Educator.

*Corn production update by Dan Quinn, Purdue corn specialist

*Update on crop diseases, by Darcy Telenko, Purdue field crops pathologist

*A Different Approach to P Management, by Megan Bourns, Purdue soil fertility specialist

*Update on cover crops, by Shalamar Armstrong, Purdue agronomist

Following lunch, which our sponsors provide, an optional session will be available on using UAVs to spray pesticides, scout crops, or seed cover crops.

Participants can receive private applicator recertification program credit. Indiana Corn Marketing Council and Indiana Soybean Alliance will be sponsoring the individual \$10 fee. Commercial applicator CCHs and Certified Crop Adviser CEUs are also available.

Registration, refreshments, and vendor visits will be from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. The program will run from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with lunch provided. The optional afternoon session will be from 1:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m., or until complete. Admission is free, but registration by Sept. 3 is required to attend and receive a meal.

Event sponsors (as of Aug. 8) include Indiana Corn Marketing Council, Indiana Soybean Alliance, Ag Plus, Inc., Agro-Chem, Inc., Baughman Tile Co., Beacon Credit Union, Bippus State Bank, Diverse Corn Belt, Elite Ag Solutions, Forefront Ag Solutions,

Schlipf Precision Ag, and Truland Equipment. Visit vendor booths and displays at the field day for more information.

Register online at <https://purdue.link/NEPAC2025> by Sept. 3. Alternatively, you may contact the Whitley County Extension Office at 260-244-7615. If you have any need for accommodations to attend this program, or if you need an interpreter or translator, or special dietary needs, please contact John Woodmansee by Aug. 27 at 260-244-7615 or jwoodman@purdue.edu. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Purdue University is an equal access, equal opportunity university.

Schedule and content are subject to change. For more information, visit the Purdue Extension Whitley County website, <http://extension.purdue.edu/whitley>, or call your local county's Purdue Extension office.

MarketReady Producer Program

Are you a local food producer or farmer interested



in selling your products to restaurants, grocery stores, schools, or wholesale distributors? Or maybe you just want to explore additional marketing options? Join us for the MarketReady Producer Training Program to gain the tools for business success! The program includes the training, lunch, a buyer panel. and a few words from our

program partners.

September 18, 2025, 9:30 AM-2:30 PM (ET), Decatur County Extension Office, 545 S County Road 200 W, Greensburg, IN 47240. \$75 fee includes lunch. The first 30 paid participants will be admitted—no refunds after Sept. 10.

Update on Spotted Lanternfly in Indiana

Spotted lanternfly (SLF) was first found in 2021 in far southeastern Indiana, and then it was confirmed the following year in Huntington, IN. As we had suspected, it has spread to other counties, including Noble County to our north, although it has not been confirmed to date in Whitley County. As a hitchhiker on trains and other means of transportation, it could be anywhere in Indiana. Railway corridors, where trains may sit idle for a time with tree-of-heaven bordering the tracks, tend to be the areas of first detection.

SLF has the ability to cause economic losses in grapes for vineyard owners. We are also concerned about black walnut, although the potential impact on walnut plantations is not fully known. Once thought to be an economic threat to orchards, that concern has lessened.

I have had the opportunity to personally observe SLF in Huntington. I observed 3rd and 4th instar nymphs (See Figures 1 & 2 below) and adults (See Figure 3 below). Their preferred host is Tree of Heaven, but they are comfortable on over 100 other plant species.

Indiana DNR (Department of Natural Resources) is asking all citizens to search for and report spotted lanternfly. Report SLF by calling 866-NO EXOTIC (866-663-9684) or send an email with a photo to DEPP@dnr.IN.gov.

Find info. from Indiana DNR at: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/entomology/pests-of-concern/spotted-lanternfly/>. See current known locations of spotted lanternflies at <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/7b5fd32790554abfbf2e8f0cf464fa31/>.

To identify tree-of-heaven, see my article at: <https://extension.purdue.edu/news/county/whitley/2023/08/identifying-tree-of-heaven.html>.

Sept. 20 Forestry Tour to Highlight Forest Management

This fall's northeastern Indiana Forestry tour will be in Grant County at Purdue's Miller Woodlands, just east of Upland, IN. Learn forest management techniques to regenerate oak and improve the growth of young stands.

Topics include oak management techniques, how to select and release crop trees, and how to ID and manage oak wilt.

Lunch is included in the \$10 registration cost. Register by Sept. 17 at <https://tinyurl.com/476t4rdv>.

This event is hosted and sponsored by the Purdue Forestry & Natural Resources Department, Purdue Extension, Indiana DNR Division of Forestry, Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Assn., and Walnut Council, Indiana Chapter.

Forestry Tour

Sept. 20th, 2025
9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Learn forest management techniques to regenerate oak and improve growth of young stands

\$10, includes lunch

Register:

<https://tinyurl.com/476t4rdv>

Purdue Miller Property, Grant County

1st Location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/N5KzT8JQpoTjp55m6>

2nd Location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/x1o1aPcLHWjqHh56>

Sponsors:



Purdue Extension - Grant County
401 S Adams St., Suite 422
Marion, IN 46953
765-651-2413

If you are in need of special dietary accommodations, an interpreter, or translator to attend this program, please contact Jessica Thurman (jthurman24@purdue.edu or 765-651-2413) by 8/6/25. Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran.



Topics:

- Oak management techniques
- How to select and release crop trees
- How to ID and manage oak wilt



Figure 1:
1st-3rd instar nymph,
Photo: John Woodmansee

Figure 1:
4th instar nymph,
Photo: John Woodmansee



Figure 3:
Adult spotted
Lanternfly,
Photo: John Woodmansee

See an Orange and Red Triangle – Slow Down!

Fall harvest is just around the corner, and it's important to remain patient on roads during harvest season. Safety for everyone will be enhanced if motor vehicle operators stay alert and slow down, and farmers operating the equipment buckle up and make sure all safety equipment is properly displayed.



Local drivers should use caution and slow down when they first see a Slow-Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblem, the classic orange and red triangle on farm equipment. Equipment displaying this triangle are capable of speeds no faster than 25 miles per hour.

Understanding Growing Degree Days (GDD)

One measurement that agronomists and entomologists frequently use is

Growing Degree Days (GDD). Sometimes referred to as "Heat Units (HU)," Growing Degree Days closely correspond with crop growth and development, as well as the growth and development of insect pests. If that is the case, how well do you understand GDD, and how can it become more useful to you in your management decisions?

In simple terms, the average temperature minus the established base temperature equals GDD for that day. The daily average is calculated by adding the maximum and minimum temperatures and dividing by 2. GDD accumulations have a starting date, and GDDs add up from that date to the present date.

Modified GDDs are used for crops like corn. With Modified Growing Degree Days (MGDD), daily high and low temperatures are adjusted before calculating the average: if the daily high exceeds 86°F, it is capped at 86°F, and if the daily low is below 50°F, it is raised to 50°F. These adjustments reflect the temperatures most favorable for crop growth, assuming that development slows significantly outside of this range.

Tracking the development of cool-season crops, like wheat or oats, or insect pests may involve different base and maximum temperatures.

Read my full article on this at: <https://extension.purdue.edu/news/county/whitley/2025/08/understanding-growing-degree-days.html>.



Whitley County Office Phone:
260.244.7615 or 260.625.3313

Office Email: whitleyCES@purdue.edu
www.extension.purdue.edu/whitley

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Purdue Extension Whitley County](http://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 Secretary)

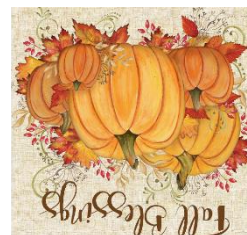
Lisa Schrader, (schradel@purdue.edu)Office Coordinator (4-H Youth Secretary)

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

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