



# HOWARD COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT

October 2021 - September 2022

# From our County Director...

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Dear Extension Friends and Community Supporters,

As I reflect on 2022 and read through the educator reports, I see the work that has been done to bring the university information to the community. Howard County Extension Educators have worked hard to build and re-build partnerships with community organizations to provide programming and consultation services to a wide array of community members.

As an Educator, I can say that my work is only as impactful as the team around me. The team in the Howard County office is truly remarkable. Returning to a “normal” fair schedule they updated new project summaries, judging schedules, and livestock staying overnight was a time that everyone worked together, truly starting before 4-H enrollment for 2021-22 even opened. The team pulled together to deliver two STEM days at Northwestern Middle School, successfully guiding educational activities with eighth graders.

I am excited to see what 2023 brings for Purdue Extension - Howard County and hope that you will be part of it.

Sincerely,  
Allison Hillis  
County Extension Director, Extension Educator  
Health and Human Sciences

# From our Area Director...

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Dear Extension Friends and Community Supporters,

What an interesting year it has been for Purdue Cooperative Extension in Area 8. As we exit from a Covid-based way of sharing our land grant mission with the communities, our programming will never look the same. Our educators' ability to use technology to reach a wider scope of audience and the importance of rebuilding established relationships has become the focus of our efforts. We look forward to the continued adaptation of our programming to fit the ever-changing needs of the area. Thank you for your partnership and dedication to ensuring the success of Purdue Extension - Howard County.

Sincerely,  
Joshua Winrotte  
Area 8 Extension Director, Extension Educator  
4-H Youth Development

# Program Impact and Statistics

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## **Educational Outreach**

- Number of Educational Programs taught: 196
- Total Teaching Hours: 220
- Direct Educational Contacts: 79,732

## **Volunteer Value**

With the reported volunteer hours, the overall value our Extension volunteers have given to our community this past year is worth nearly \$135,000.

- 57 Extension Homemakers
- 47 Master Gardeners
- 14 Community Garden
- 97 4-H Adult Volunteers

## **4-H Numbers**

- Total 4-H enrollment, grades K-12: 509
- Total 4-H exhibits: 578
- Total 4-H livestock exhibited: 380
- Projects taken to state fair: 209
- 4-H clubs: 18

# Agriculture & Natural Resources

Mathias Ingle



This has been a very successful year with programming and teaching. Partnering with the Kokomo-Howard County Public Library, I delivered several programs. In *Where Does My Food Come From?*, I talked about components of pizza and how agriculture is important to the food we eat. In some sessions on gardening, information was shared about invasive species, weeds, and animal pests. I partnered with Wrangler and Friends, a local animal education and therapy service, to speak about pizza, trees and how they can be used, and the importance of planting native plants. We even planted a few native plants in the class for the kids to take home.

It was another banner year for chicken embryology classes, where approximately 600 youth and adults throughout the community were educated. Thank you to Eastern, Western, McKinley, Wallace, Sycamore, Bon Air, Redeemer Lutheran, and Lafayette Park schools, My Caterpillar Clubhouse, and Bona Vista Programs for hosting incubators and warmers. Kokomo-Howard County Public Library provided livestreaming services for the second year for the chicken embryology program. Their partnership allowed numerous to view the stages of chicken hatching and development on demand. I was honored to assist Tipton County with their chicken embryology program this year as well.



In efforts to support the agriculture workforce, education opportunities for PARP (Pesticide Applicator Recertification Program) licensure were coordinated. Through this, over 50 farmers participated in courses to maintain their pesticide licenses. Along with the established farmers, I helped to educate two separate classes of beginning farmers or farmers who are less established, specifically helping them on the topic of the basic farming economics. I collaborated with ANR Educators across the state to develop a multi-session program that focuses on computer use including Excel and Google fundamentals. It was piloted at the Women in Ag regional meetings this year. As a team member of the Women in Ag program, I have supported team webinar efforts through teaching and providing technology assistance.

# Health & Human Sciences

Allison Hillis

In 2022, I have had the opportunity to refine my niche within Purdue Extension. Serving those who are connected to early childhood whether parents, family, or child care providers, is a passion of mine. Throughout this year, I was honored to continue to provide programming to child care providers in multiple counties within our region, as well as several programs in Howard County. These programs included *I am Moving*, *I am Learning* and *HERO'S Story Time*. Another highlight is being part of a team with the Cass and Miami County HHS Educators and securing a grant from the IDOH to provide *Cooking Matters* to families with young children and child care providers. This program provides education on nutrition, meal time attitudes, maximizing your food budget, recipe ideas, and hands on cooking activities. It has impacted child care programs in Howard, Cass, White, and Fulton Counties. I partnered with the Excel Center to provide the program to parents. Serving as the chair of the Quality Early Learning Environments working group with the United Way 75 in 5 this year, I have worked with the committee to support the early childhood providers of Howard County.



*Where Does Your Money Go?* has been a popular program this year. We are in a time where lots of people are feeling crunched financially, this program allows individuals to review their spending habits, their needs and wants, and identify ways that they can change their spending behaviors in order to save money and reach spending goals. Sharing Captain Cash lessons on earning, saving, spending and borrowing money with Eastern and Northwestern third graders is a highlight for both the teachers and me.

I had the privilege of attending the National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences annual session (in person!) this year. I not only got to know Extension colleagues across the state of Indiana but also from around the nation. I was able to learn from sessions sharing successful experiences and programs. I am looking forward to using new ideas for video education and connecting with local FACS teachers.



Thank you to so many community organizations for inviting me to share with their clients. I have enjoyed working with the Extension Homemakers of Howard county, residents at Friendship Haven with bi-monthly programs, the Family Service Association of Howard County, and the Recovery Café at Turning Point.

# 4-H Youth Development

Josh Winrotte



As I reflect on 2022, I am struck by the impact we were able to have through Howard County – 4-H Youth Development. Through our youth programming efforts we were able to reach over 1500 Howard County youth from the ages of kindergarten through 12th grade. We provided impacts in the areas of Healthy Living, Civic Engagement, Teen Leadership, STEM, Animal Husbandry, and so many more.

One of our biggest accomplishments this year was holding two Howard County STEM education days. We were able to work with nearly 200 8th grade students to share, agronomy, astronomy, mechanical design, drones, and teambuilding. Through a new partnership with Bayer Agriculture, this education was presented with no cost to the students or schools they represented. Students who participated citing an increase knowledge about stem careers, science, opportunities, and over 80% noted that they had a better understanding of science after completing the activities. These events were also accomplished with the partnership of Howard County Farm Bureau and the dedicated time of volunteers from both Bayer and Howard County Farm Bureau.



Our mini 4-H program continues to have a direct impact on the local community. This year over 85 youth participated in our K-2 program. Volunteers helped them to understand the greater world around them, meet new animal friends, and have opportunities to do experiential hands-on learning. Our Mini 4-H'ers work with livestock, create new and engaging projects, and learn alongside our regular 4-H'ers at the fair.

# Community Wellness Coordinator

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Ryleigh Scott

As the new Community Wellness Coordinator for Tipton, Howard, and Clinton County, my job is to work with community leaders to fund and implement new resources that will improve community wellness. Under the umbrella of the Nutrition Education Program, I help others eat smart, move more, and make the healthy choice the easy choice! My work is dedicated to five focus areas including physical activity, nutrition, food security, food safety, and food resource management. As a coordinator, I am committed to implementing long-term community change that will be sustainable for leaders. These services are fully funded by SNAP-Ed and therefore, completely free of charge to the community. As a CWC, my work is determined by specific community needs and tends to be somewhat diverse from county to county. Successful initiatives in surrounding counties include community gardens, trail/park work, farm-to-school, farmers markets, and food pantries. The options are endless. As a resource for those bringing community needs and initiative ideas, I am looking forward to collaborating with partners in Howard County and promoting healthy living and the resources to do so!

# Nutrition Education Program Advisor

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Shane Grubb

In April 2022, I started as the new Nutrition Education Program Advisor for Howard and Grant County. As the NEPA, my task is to educate the clients on basic nutritional guidelines and how to spend their food dollars wisely, so they will have food security for their families. We also pair our nutrition education with physical activity education as it is just as important to be active as it is to know how to eat healthier. The opportunities are endless being able to serve the communities of these two counties.

Since starting my work in Howard County, great relationships with partners have already been built. This year, for example, I have partnered with some amazing agencies like Bona Vista at the Crossing, as well as the Recovery Café at Turning Point. I am looking forward to partnering with Salvation Army in the new year. These agencies continue to give their clients the best chance for success. We can truly make a difference in the lives of the people we serve, and there is no better feeling than that!



# Extension Board Members

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Extension board members are elected by the Advisory Committee. The Extension Board meets with Purdue Extension Educators several times throughout the year and offers feedback on the types of programs being conducted and also provides input for program needs. This board is an integral part of our Extension program. Our Extension Board members are:

**Chari Deyoe, Justin Horner, Jessica Johnson, Rita Kingseed, Caele Pemberton, David Tharp, Chad McCarter, John Roberts, Scott Deyoe - PCARET, Patty Ortman - PCARET, Becky Swails - PCARET**

# Advisory Board Members

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The program area advisory board is an organized body of volunteers who counsel the Purdue Extension Educators and assist with identifying community issues and program needs, give support to Educators to develop, carry out, and evaluate non-formal educational programs that contribute to a county's social, environmental, and community development. Thank you to our advisory board members who served to promote and advocate for Extension within the community this year.

**Lisa Holaday, Libby O'Brien, Julie Petrowsky, Amy Russell, Taylor Mills, Kari Higgins, Marla Geiger, Susan Alexander, Angela Coppola, Andrew Bryant, Bianca Anderson, Bridget North, Jennifer Miller, Jennifer Wayt-Duntun, Kristen Farrer, Mike Murphy, Scott Maple, Weston Reed**



# Our Team

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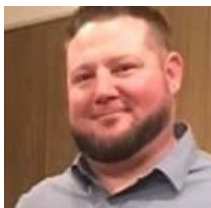
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## Support Staff



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# Telling Your Extension Story

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Purdue CARET is the Purdue University branch of the national CARET (Council for Agriculture Research, Extension, and Teaching) organization. The purpose of the Purdue CARET is to provide means for Indiana citizens to have input into development, budgetary matters, and legislation. Members work with decision makers at all levels - local, state, and national. Thank you to the 2022 Howard County Purdue CARET members:

**Scott Deyoe,  
Patty Ortman, and  
Becky Swails**

It is important to communicate with legislators. We depend on legislators for leadership. That means they must make tough decisions based on what they feel is right and based on the best information at hand. Communicating is your chance to contribute. Purdue CARET members participate in:

- Telling the Purdue Extension Howard County story to county, state, and federal elected officials by attending legislative events in the county and inviting them to our county events.
- Attending two area meetings per year - spring and fall.
- Attending a state meeting in the fall.
- Attending the state legislative luncheon in Indianapolis in January.

If you are interested in serving as a Howard County Purdue CARET member, please contact Allison Hillis.

Learn more by visiting:

<http://pcaret.org>

# Purdue Extension - Howard County

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