

# IMPACT REPORT 2022



## Purdue Extension- Spencer County



# WHO WE ARE

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## Our Mission

We deliver practical, research-based information that enhances lives and livelihoods.

## Our Vision

We will be a leader in providing relevant, high-impact educational programs that transform the lives and livelihoods of individuals and communities in Indiana and the world.

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*Purdue Extension is Indiana's educational partner for life*

# WHAT WE DO

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## **AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES**

Serve as a research based, unbiased information source for county and state constituents on a variety of topics including: crops, ag business, livestock, natural resource, horticulture, small farms, urban ag, pesticide use, and land conservation.

## **4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

Prepare young people to be leaders in their community and around the world through hands-on experiences alongside their peers and caring adults.

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SCIENCES**

Provide education to people of all ages in Indiana's 92 counties. The community is our classroom – where we bring university information to the local level and help people strengthen families, spend smart, eat right, and live well.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Strengthen the capacity of local leaders, residents, businesses, and organizations to build resilient, inclusive and sustainable communities through research-based resources and processes.

# 4-H/YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## Youth "Coast into STEM" Again in 2022

**Coast into STEM**, first offered in 2019 and held in partnership with **Holiday World & Splashin' Safari**, provides youth in grades 7-12 an opportunity to learn about STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) principles and take part in **hands-on activities** that apply those principles to various rides in the park. In addition, the youth take part in a private, behind-the-scenes tour of the park. New this year, water park rides were incorporated into the activities. This popular program continues to attract **youth from across Indiana**, with 65 taking part in 2022.



## Summer Community Adventures Partnership Begins

Purdue Extension began a partnership in 2022 with **Summer Community Adventures**, a long-standing **summer youth program** in Dale. Over 30 youth participated in **healthy-living activities**, including yoga, sun safety activities, healthy kid-friendly snacks, and fun physical activities, as well as **STEM lessons** focusing on robotics, coding and augmented reality. Participants also tended and harvested the **school garden** at David Turnham throughout the summer. One student who plans to be a chef found the gardening activities especially fun and was able to spend **extra time caring for the garden**. In 2023, Purdue Extension will take on a larger role with the program, organizing and offering sessions throughout the summer.

## After-school STEM Introduces Youth to 4-H

After-school STEM Clubs at Luce and Rockport Elementary Schools provided an opportunity for **62 youth** to learn about STEM principles and take part in **hands-on learning and building activities**. For many of these youth, the after-school programming is their **first exposure to 4-H** programming and opens the door to all that 4-H has to offer. An additional after-school club began at Chrisney Elementary in October.

## Workshops Provide Opportunity to Learn About 4-H Projects

Project workshops focusing on **succulents** and **livestock showmanship** were held to give current and potential 4-H members an opportunity to learn more about floriculture and livestock projects prior to signing up for them. Over **30 youth** attended these workshops and **increased their knowledge and skill levels**, including one new 4-H member whose floriculture project made it to the 2022 Indiana State Fair!

# HEALTH & HUMAN SCIENCES

## Life Skills Classes Improve Outcomes

Purdue Extension has implemented programs with two groups in the community to teach life skills. **NOW Counseling** clients as well as **Habitat for Humanity** homeowners have received education on **budgeting, job skills, stress management, time management, nutrition education, and positive relationships**. A **\$13,400 grant** was received from the **Community Foundation** to continue this work.



## Health Coalition Provides Opportunity to Residents and Employees

The **Spencer County Health Coalition** continues to grow and provide our county with resources to improve the lives and livelihoods of people who live, work, and play here. Serving as a member of the leadership team has opened doors for Extension **health and wellness programs** to be provided to employers such as **Kimball International, St. Meinrad Archabbey**, and others.

## Student Learning Enhanced Through School Programs

Eight third grade classrooms received **financial education** through the **Captain Cash** program. This program teaches concepts of **earning, saving, spending, and borrowing** to give students a good foundation for understanding money management. **Hand washing** lessons were also provided to many students to teach **good hygiene** and **reduce sickness** in our local schools. Additionally, the Spencer County Purdue Extension Team provided education on **gardening and nutrition** to local schools through our **Lettuce Eat Healthy** program.



## Matter of Balance Class Boosts Confidence

Purdue Extension partnered with **Santa Claus Parks and Recreation** and **Willowdale Village** to provide the **Matter of Balance** class. This eight week course is designed to help seniors acknowledge the **risk of falling** while emphasizing practical coping strategies to reduce this concern and **remain active and independent**. One participant shared, "This is a class that every senior in Spencer County should take. It's been so helpful."

# AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

## Greener Pastures Field Day Addresses Local Livestock Needs

**Greener Pastures Field Day** is a long-standing, multi-county collaboration between Purdue Extension, SWCD, NRCS and ISDA held every three years to provide local **livestock and forage producers** with timely, research-based production information. This year's program was held in Spencer County and hosted by **Steckler Grassfed**. Topics included **forage selection and management, watering systems, multi-species grazing and soil life & grazing effects**. The event was attended by over 100 producers from across SW Indiana. Participants indicated they **gained knowledge in the topics presented** with a strong majority indicating a likeliness to **change practices** on their farm as a result of attending.



## Helping Producers Get into the Farm Business

**Getting Into the Farm Business**, a four-part beginning **farm financial series** geared towards multi-generational family farms was held twice for producers in SW Indiana. Topics included **business planning, thinking like a CFO, financial analysis and technical assistance programs**. Of the 23 participants, a strong majority indicated they gained **valuable business and financial planning insight** as a result of attending, with nearly all indicating they planned to **make a change** in their financial and business planning practices for operations. This program is currently planned to be repeated in 2022-23.



**GETTING INTO THE FARM BUSINESS**

## Crop Day Reaches Local Producers and Beyond

Offered again as an in-person/virtual hybrid format, the 2022 **Perry-Spencer Crop Day** focused on **corn and soybean management** updates and **mini-bulk storage rules**. **PARP and CCH** credit were offered. A total of 47 participants took part, with 23 participating virtually from across Indiana and the remainder in-person. Participants indicated knowledge gained and planned to make changes in production and pesticide storage practices as a result of attending.



## Exam Training Prepares Applicators

A SW Indiana Purdue Extension collaboration offered a **local training session** for preparation for the Indiana private applicator **core and Category 14 exams**. Thirty-two participants took part in the morning session held at **Ivy Tech-Evansville**. In the afternoon, participants could schedule an exam session at the Ivy Tech testing center. Over 90% indicated the session **better prepared them for taking the exam**.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## Leadership Spencer County Grows Leaders

Purdue Extension began a partnership with **Leadership Spencer County** in 2019. The second class of the revamped and enhanced program completed in November 2021 with 8 graduates. Sessions were held monthly at locations throughout Spencer County with facilitated sessions and activities on a variety of **personal and professional leadership development topics**. Upon completion, participants are encouraged to become more **involved in the community and take on leadership roles, both professionally and civically**. The 2021 class chose mapping Spencer County hiking/biking trails on the "All Trials" app as their class project.



**LEADERSHIP**  
*Spencer County*  
"A Tradition of Growing Leaders"



## Leadership Roundup Provides Networking, Professional Development Opportunities

**Leadership Roundup**, a **leadership development speaker series** was launched by Leadership Spencer County in 2022 to provide **leadership and professional development opportunities** businesses, organizations and individuals in Spencer County and beyond. Two sessions have been held so far, with over **100 individuals attending**. A third and final 2022 session will be held in November.

## Purdue Extension Helps Businesses get Digital Ready

Digital Ready Businesses, a 12-session course designed to help **small businesses** become more **digitally savvy** was offered as a **virtual, statewide program** twice in 2022.

The hands-on sessions last no more than an hour and include topics such as **Claiming Your Online Turf, Website Basics, Virtual Storefront, Search Engine Optimization, Social Media Plan and Content, and more**. Participants can choose sessions "a la carte" or register for all 12. Additional Digital Ready courses are planned for 2023.



*You're not ready until you are*  
**DIGITAL READY**

**51%**  
of Americans report making online purchases using their cellphones.

**15%**  
have purchased something by following a link on social media sites.

**82%**  
of U.S. adults read online customer ratings or reviews before purchasing items.

Statistics courtesy of Pew Research Center, December 2016

# NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM

## Farm to School Launched in Spencer County

With assistance from Purdue Extension Community Wellness Coordinator Erin Meyer, North Spencer Schools obtained a **\$10,000 Hometown Grant** from the **American Dairy Association of Indiana**. This funding supported **farm to school efforts** including Apple Crunch (using Lakeview Orchard apples), Dairy Days (using local milk from Prairie Farms) and school gardening programs. In addition, South Spencer Schools were awarded a **\$25,880.46 grant from the Indiana Department of Health** to improve **food insecurity and fight childhood obesity** as part of the state's Health Issues and Challenges program. These funds will establish a Farm to School Cafeteria Program utilizing **locally-grown produce**.



## Community Garden Work Continues

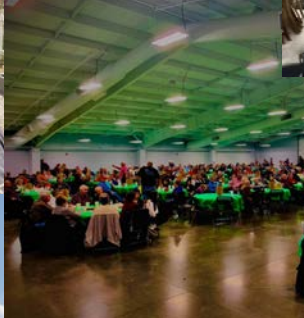
A partnership with **Gary's Place Community Garden** established in 2021 continued in 2022. This year's efforts revolved around obtaining additional funding to support the garden expansion. With assistance from Purdue Extension, a **\$5,000 Rural Food Access Grant** was received to build a greenhouse to lengthen the growing season and increase produce production. In addition, a **Welborn Baptist Foundation Healthy Eating, Active Living matching grant of up to \$20,000** was received to hire a gardener. The garden is currently working to raise the matching funds so that gardening help can be hired for the 2023 growing season.



## NEP Success Stories

- The Nutrition Education Program has provided free **hands-on and virtual lessons** throughout the community at senior housing units, schools, community centers, and food pantries. Participants enjoyed **sampling new healthy recipes** and **fun physical activities**.
- Many lessons utilized **food from local gardens** this year. One group participated in lessons at Gary's Place Community Garden. They sampled tasty in-season food recipes and afterwards **donated their time helping in the garden**.
- Another lesson series at **David Turnham Education Center** used the **school garden**. Students sampled a salsa that they grew and prepared themselves! Many were very surprised at how much they liked it. **Students set a goal of having more vegetable snacks**.








# PURDUE EXTENSION

## Contact Us:

Purdue Extension-Spencer County  
1101 E. CR 800 N.  
Chrisney, IN 47611

**Hours:** 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Monday-Friday

 (812) 362-8066

 [www.extension.purdue.edu/spencer](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/spencer)

 [facebook.com/PurdueExtensionSpencerCounty](https://facebook.com/PurdueExtensionSpencerCounty)

 [Purdue Extension-Spencer County](https://PurdueExtension-SpencerCounty)

## Office Staff

**Nicholas Held—[nheld@purdue.edu](mailto:nheld@purdue.edu)**

Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Community Development  
County Extension Director

**Jennifer Mayo—[allen393@purdue.edu](mailto:allen393@purdue.edu)**

4-H/Youth Development

**Megan Jaspersen—[mjaspers@purdue.edu](mailto:mjaspers@purdue.edu)**

Health & Human Sciences

**Erin Meyer—[meyer258@purdue.edu](mailto:meyer258@purdue.edu)**

Community Wellness Coordinator

**Danica Williams— [will1179@purdue.edu](mailto:will1179@purdue.edu)**

Nutrition Education Program Assistant

**Pat Cochenour—[pcocheno@purdue.edu](mailto:pcocheno@purdue.edu)**

Office Manager



Extension - Spencer County

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