



Extension

Benton County 4-H News



March 2024

Indiana 4-H Mission

The Indiana 4-H Youth Development mission is to provide real-life educational opportunities that develop young people who will have a positive impact in their communi-

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Benton County](#)



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County

Greetings Benton County 4-H Community!

As the weather starts to get warmer, mixed with a little Indiana March craziness, we are all thawing out and preparing to do big things. Those of you that I have had the pleasure of interacting with have heard me say this 100 times by now, but here I am repeating myself again! The world of 4-H is an entirely new piece of my own personal puzzle that I am learning. As I figure out where and how I fit in, I will be leaning on you awesome, hard-working people to show me the best sides 4-H has to offer. I am excited for my first-ever 4-H involvement at a county fair, 4-H camp, Round-Up, and so much more. Being that I am not only new to 4-H, but also Benton County, I really enjoy meeting with people and hearing their stories, and sharing my own. You may think, "why did he take a job in 4-H if he doesn't know anything about it?" Well, I'm here to tell you why. For the youth. I spent my early years bouncing around home to home, school to school, never settling down. I was emancipated while ageing out of the foster care system and spent more than a few nights in shelters across Northwest Indiana. Due to these things happening to me out of my own personal control, I have grown to love the fire and passion within our youth. I may have missed out on a lot of opportunities, but my mission is to inspire your youth to take steps towards their dreams, learn skills to help them reach those dreams, and most importantly, to learn how to have compassion for others. I have two main personal goals as your Benton County 4-H Educator.

Take what amazing clubs/programs/projects you already have and help them blossom further.

Create new clubs/programs/projects that help bring in new families and youth that are on the cusp of joining.

I want to focus on mentorships, camaraderie, community volunteering, learning everyday skills needed in life, and giving you the tools to take on all the challenges that life throws at you.

My phone line, email, and office door are always open. Whether for complaints, suggestions, or just idle chit-chat.

I look forward to meeting and speaking with all of you.

Nick Vitalone

Benton County's 4-H Rookie

Inside this Issue:

- Dates: County Fair, State Fair, Camps, Club & Mini 4-H Meeting, and Beef, Goat, & Sheep Weigh-In
- Contact Info for: Club Leaders & Barn Superintendents
- Camp Information
- Sponsors
- Safe Place—National Safe Place Week
- Indiana 4-H Broadband
- Purdue Fast Start

Purdue University is an equal access/equal opportunity institution.

2024 Benton County Fair

July 16-22, 2024



2024 State Fair

August 2-18, 2024

Our Newsletter has gone Green

If you would like to receive a paper copy of the newsletter by mail, please let us know by calling 765.884.0140 or email Kelly at wallpe2@purdue.edu.



Dog Obedience Training Meeting

Information will be available soon



Want to give back to 4-H? We are always in need of your help. We have a lot of rockstar volunteers that have been doing this for a while. By adding some of your fresh ideas, it can help 4-H grow. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering and giving back, but are unsure of what they can do to help, please reach out to our office for more details! The more we all get a say and lend a hand, the stronger we will become!

The 2024 4-H Handbook is now available online.

Here is a link to the Purdue Extension State Projects

The State projects that have been updated are Aerospace, Communications, Electric, Garden, Genealogy, Photography, Woodworking Techniques, and Food Recipe Card. All the Animals have some changes, as well. Please read thoroughly the projects you are taking and the all the General Information.



[Benton County 4-H 2024 Handbook \(purdue.edu\)](https://www.purdue.edu/4h/handbook)

[4-H Projects \(purdue.edu\)](https://www.purdue.edu/4h/projects)

PROJECT TIP

If you see a project on the website that interests you, but it is not listed in our Handbook, please sign up for Do Your Own Thing. If your DYOT project falls under a state project category that we do not offer, it may still be go to the State Fair under that project if the DYOT judge deems it eligible.

Club Information

Dan Patch	Emily Matthys Bennett	765-701-1582	ematthysbennett@gmail.com
Fowler's Finest	Anne Snodgrass	765-543-4098	suitera@hotmail.com
	Ryan Snodgrass	765-588-8923	suitera@hotmail.com
Helping Hands	Angela Whitwer	217-722-2074	angelawhitwer@yahoo.com
Hometown Hubsters	Lisa Dowell	765-918-1520	dowell3388@sbcgloabal.net
	Alex Ardapple	765-430-2056	lilardapple@gmail.com
Horse & Pony	Cassie Dalton	765-404-4038	CDalton@bentonk12.in.us
Junior Farmers	Kristi Kretzmeier	765-426-1127	kretzmeier5@msn.com
Junior Leaders	Carrie Buck	765-491-1772	buck.carrie@gmail.com
Lucky Pines	Ashely Bice	765-585-2751	ashleybeth1@gmail.com
	Meghan Center	765-413-4424	meghan@ehcsheetmetal.com
Mini 4-H	Lauren Weigle	765-404-4563	lauren.budreau@gmail.com
	Brooke Johnson	765-610-8986	bsj52111@yahoo.com
Parish Grove	Carrie Buck	765-491-1772	buck.carrie@gmail.com
	Lynn Lucy	219-869-1571	lsondgeroth@gmail.com
Shooting Sports	Andrew Wilkinson	765-413-7178	andrew.wilkinson@live.com
	Amy Wilkinson	765-427-7373	amy46310@yahoo.com

Dan Patch

All Meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at Oxford Public Library every other Sunday

March 17 & 31 April 14 & 28
May 12 & 26 June 9 & 23

Junior Farmers

All Meeting will be held at 4:30-6:30 p.m. at OUMC—Otterbein United Methodist Church

Sun., Apr. 21st Sun., May 19th
Sun., Jun. 9th

Fowler's Finest

Sun., Apr. 21st 5-6 p.m. Benton County Annex

Junior Leaders

All Meeting will be held from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Benton County Annex

Sat., Mar. 9th Sat., May 4th
Sat., Apr. 6th Sat., Jun. 1st

Helping Hands

All Meeting will be held at 4 p.m. at the Earl Park Community Park

Sun., Apr. 7th Sun., May 5th
Sun., Jun 2nd Sun., Jul. 7th

Mini 4-H - Cloverbuds

All Meeting will be held from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Benton County Annex

Sat., Mar. 9th Sat., May 4th
Sat., Apr. 6th Sat., Jun. 1st

Hometown Hubsters

All Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Boswell Town Hall

Wed., Apr. 17

Lucky Pines

Sun., Apr. 21st 5 p.m. Benton County Annex
Sun., May. 19th 6:30 p.m. Location, TBD
Sun., June 9th 6:30 p.m. Location, TBD

Horse & Pony

Meetings will be held at 7 p.m. at Benton Central in Cassie's classroom J101

Thur., Mar. 14th

Parish Grove

Sun., Mar. 17th 4 p.m. Home of Carrie Buck
Sun., Apr. 13th 2 p.m. Roadside Clean-up
Sun., May 19th 4 p.m., Location TBD
Sun., Jun. 9th 7 p.m., Location TBD

Shooting Sports

Sun., Apr. 21st 1-2:30 p.m. Location TBD

Barn Superintendents

Beef	Kalob Weigle	765-421-8970	kweigle@icloud.com
Goat	Melissa Fox	765-404-0969	wrangler1102@yahoo.com
Horse & Pony	Cassie Dalton	765-404-4038	CDalton@benon.k12.in.us
Poultry	Megan Traylor	765-299-4637	crazymegs03@gmail.com
	Kelly Wallpe	765-884-1588	wallpe2@purdue.edu
Rabbit	Alex Ardapple	765-430-2056	lilardapple@gmail.com
Sheep	Kristi Kretzmeier	765-426-1127	kretzmeier5@msn.com
Swine	Jeff Fields	765-426-5708	jfields@purdue.edu



4-H Animal ID Deadline

May 15



Beef Weigh-In & Tagging

Wednesday, April 10th

From 5-7 p.m.

At the Fairground in the west-end of
the Coliseum

Goat & Sheep Weigh-In & Tagging

Wednesday, May 8th

From 5-7 p.m.

At the Fairgrounds in the west-end of
the Coliseum

All 4-H members planning to exhibit livestock at the 2024 Benton County Fair are required to complete an in-person Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care training (\$3, sign up in 4HOnline) OR an online YQCA training (\$12, sign up at yqcaprogram.org). You only need to complete one or the other. If you choose YQCA, you will need to email wallpe2@purdue.edu, mail—Purdue Extension Benton County, 410 S Ade-way Rd Suite A, Fowler, IN 47944, or drop-off your certificate by Tuesday, July 9th.

Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training

All Meeting will be held at the Benton County Annex

Monday, March 25th - 2 –4 p.m.

Wednesday, May 15th - 6-8 p.m.

Wednesday, June 5th - 6-8 p.m.

Monday, July 8th - 6-8 p.m. **This is the LAST day to
be able to complete training before the fair!**



[2024 Livestock Schedule](#)

Camp & Trip Opportunities



Camp & State Trip Dates

- **4-H Camp** - Grade 3-6 - Shakamak State Park - June 12th - 14th Cost \$100 Deadline



- **4-H Academy** - Grade 9-12 - Purdue University - June 12th - 14th
 - **4-H Round-Up** - Grade 7-9 - Purdue University - June 24th - 26th
 - **Band & Chorus** - Grade 9-12—Purdue University - June 22nd - 25th
- Cost \$250 before May 15th then price increases, final deadline May 29th**

****Nick is going to be chaperone at both 4-H Round Up and 4-H Camp.
Come hang out with Nick and get to know him!****

Camp Counselor Training Meeting

will be held at the Benton County Annex from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Monday, April 22nd

Tuesday, May 7th

Wednesday, May 22nd

Tuesday, June 6th



THANK YOU

To Our

4-H SPONSORS

Gold Sponsors

Warren County REMC

Silver Sponsors

Alliance Bank - Oxford & Otterbein
Fowler State Bank
Mike Alsop Kentland Chevrolet
Ron & Lynda Freeland

Green Sponsors

7 HD - Winners Drink Milk	Katrina Molter
Barce & Redlin PC	Kentland Veterinary Clinic, LLP
Boswell Trade Center	McFall's Service Station
Brouillette Heating, Cooling & Plumbing	Ron Charlesworth Family
Curt & Tracy Albertson	Shane & Margaret O'Malley
Dwenger Excavating Contractors, Inc.	Shane & Sara Gretencord
Gibson Furniture	Strasburger Trucking, Inc.
Judd & Cris Burgett	Terry Harman Family
	Tom & Patty Suiter
	Wallpe Farms - Steve & Lana



SOME PLACE TO GO SOMEONE TO HELP

Ever wonder what they mean? The Safe Place sign indicates that any young person can enter the location and ask for help.

What is Safe Place®? Safe Place is a national outreach and prevention program for youth in crisis. More than 20,000 locations across the U.S. and 2,000+ in Indiana, display the yellow and black Safe Place sign, the universal symbol of help and safety for all young people.

Most licensed Safe Place agencies serve youth between the ages of 12 to 17 years old, although some agencies serve younger and older youth. To learn more, please visit: www.nationalsafeplace.org/what-is-safe-place.

Indiana has been operating Safe Place programs since 1987. Since that time, nearly 15,000 young people accessed immediate safety and were connected to resources to keep them off the streets.

It is estimated that more than one million youth run away from home each year due to abuse, neglect, family conflicts and other issues. The Safe Place program is an option for young people who feel they have nowhere to turn.

There are nineteen Safe Place programs serving youth in 31 counties across the state of Indiana with 2,000 stationary and mobile sites ready to help any Indiana youth in need. In 2019, 450 youth were helped through the Safe Place program and nearly 150,000 youth were educated about how to get help through Safe Place in times of crisis.

The Safe Place program, operated locally by Purdue Extension Benton County, partners with 14 businesses and community organizations such as the Benton County EMS Boswell and Fowler, Benton County Public Library, Benton County Sheriff Department, Benton County Health & Wellness Center, Boswell Public Library, Ceres Solutions Templeton, Farmers & Merchants Bank Boswell, Otterbein Pizza King, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Otterbein, EMS & fire Department, Otterbein, Oxford Public Library, Strasburger Trucking and Town of Boswell to provide Benton County youth immediate safety and access to supportive resources.

For more information about Benton County Safe Place program reach out to
Cherilynn L Mundell at
Purdue Extension Benton County Office at 765-884-0140 Ext. 8158 or
<https://extension.purdue.edu/county/benton/benton-county-hhs.html>



INDIANA 4-H NEEDS YOU TO BE A



BROADBAND
INFLUENCER

What is an Indiana 4-H Broadband Influencer?

1

Checks your internet speed

pcrd.purdue.edu/speedtest



2

Validates it on the FCC website

broadbandmap.fcc.gov

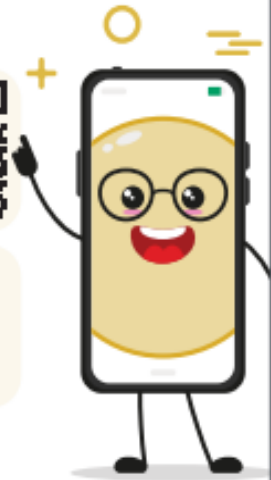


3

Share what they've done with others

4

Reports work in the Broadband Influencers event in 4-H Online



Once you have completed all 4, you will receive your Broadband Influencer Pin and be eligible to win an iPad*!

Why should I be an Indiana 4-H Broadband Influencer?

There are a lot of different ways to connect to the internet. Some of them are *very* fast, and some of them are *very* slow. We would like everyone in the state of Indiana to be able to use the internet at fast speeds. While it might help you play games and watch videos more easily, it also can help people who are looking for jobs or trying to communicate, do business, or do schoolwork.

The FCC, or Federal Communication Commission, can't help everyone get fast internet unless they know all the places the internet is installed and how fast it is in each location.

I have more questions!



For more information contact your county extension 4-H educator OR email:

state4hleader@purdue.edu



P PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

Extension - 4-H Youth
Development



*Indiana 4-H Broadband Influencers will be asked to write a short essay about their experience. The Broadband Influencer Program is a Purdue Broadband Team initiative.

ASSURED ADMISSION

PURDUE FAST START

PROGRAM



At Purdue University, we are empowering students to direct their own futures through the free

PURDUE FAST START PROGRAM,

which makes higher education more affordable for all.

WHAT

Many promising students will now have the opportunity to take their first steps toward a Purdue degree with the new Purdue Fast Start program. Through Purdue's partnership with ModernStates.org, a website featuring more than 30 free, high-quality courses, you can gain assured admission into Purdue by earning free college credit. This partnership will create new opportunities for Indiana students to take giant leaps in their education with a new pathway to Purdue University.

THROUGH THE PURDUE FAST START PROGRAM, STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE THEIR OWN GIANT LEAPS A REALITY BY EARNING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION AT PURDUE.

HOW

To earn acceptance into Purdue, Indiana students can take the Modern States online courses for free. Those who pass a minimum of five corresponding College Board CLEP exams are assured admission to Purdue and will be designated as Klinsky Scholars. Students also will have access to mentors during the program.

Make a Purdue University education even more affordable:

- Free online courses and corresponding CLEP exams through Modern States, covering the entire cost of the Fast Start program
- Complete 5 courses + pass the CLEP exams (paid for by ModernStates.org) = 15 credits, a full semester's worth of credit at Purdue, **WHICH CAN SAVE A STUDENT \$11,000**
- Complete 10 courses + pass the CLEP exams (paid for by ModernStates.org) = 30 credits, freshman year for free at Purdue, **WHICH CAN SAVE A STUDENT OVER \$21,000**

LEARN MORE

For more information, go to the Fast Start website at purdue.university/faststart, or call 765-494-1776 or (for hearing impaired) 800-743-3333.

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