

Annual Purdue Extension Report



PURDUE EXTENSION IS INDIANA'S
EDUCATIONAL PARTNER FOR LIFE.



Results of programming efforts by:
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our amazing community partners; and our dedicated volunteers.

Enhancing the Middle School Experience with STEM

6th-8th grade students staying afterschool at AMS and FMS not only get homework help from Literacy Coalition staff, but in concert with JDAI, Purdue Extension implemented STEM career exploration/exposure using drones, medical equipment, multiple tech tools, and a 3-D printer. The intense 8-session series reached a cumulative total of 171 local youth.

- 83% of respondents like science.
- 71% understand how things work.
- 65% learned how science helps solve everyday problems.
- "It's amazing. This is the best thing that happens in afterschool." Teachers also reported students talked about the vet science lesson on sutures for more than a week after.

STEM → STEAM: Adding Art to Science!

- ✓ *Floral Design*
- ✓ *Canvas Painting*
- ✓ *Soap Making*
- ✓ *Woodworking*
- ✓ *Dissection*

242 youth in northeast Indiana, 43 of whom hail from Steuben County, participated in 5 skills-building STEAM workshops where art co-mingled with STEM concepts to help youth engage in healthy hobbies and learn new skills. 49% of the Steuben County participants were new to 4-H as a result of the innovative, hybrid sessions.

- 61% will continue to use the learned skills.
- 73% would attend another similar workshop.
- When asked about connections to STEAM concepts, "Spatial reasoning, measurement, critical thinking, and tool use were all needed to assemble the [woodworking project.]" and for soap making, "Interesting to learn what ingredients effect what in the process."



Art 101: Embracing Your Creative Mess

We continue to face a mental health crisis in America, and sadly in our own community, even amongst teens. "Art 101: Embracing Your Creative Mess" was facilitated with DeKalb County, totaling 22 youth (11 from Steuben, 8 new to 4-H) promoting stress management and positive mental health.

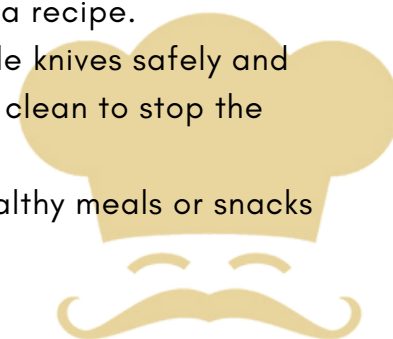
- 100% feel more confident with art as a result.
- 35% intend to do something creative each day.
- 41% intend to do something creative at least once a week.
- 15 youth identified one new thing they learned from the course.
- 10 were able to identify one mental health strategy they will use (ie. "channel negative feelings into something creative").

Chef University: Basic Skills for Life



The 6-session series of Chef University was delivered to YMCA Summer Camp youth in grades 4-7, totaling 81 youth. The series focused on kitchen safety, food safety, healthy eating, measuring, and international foods for cultural awareness. For many, this was their first time to crack eggs and peel kiwi without help, promoting independence and self-confidence.

- 67% reported this was their first 4-H activity.
- 83% learned about healthy food choices.
- 91% know how to follow a recipe.
- 100% know how to handle knives safely and keep their cooking area clean to stop the spread of germs.
- 75% have suggested healthy meals or snacks for the family.



Cultural Immersion in a Left Brain-Right Brain Mash-up

The Art of Nature engaged both the right brain and left brain of 32 Alaskan tribal youth during day camps featuring a unique mash-up of art and environmental science which encouraged creativity and science exploration. Youth experienced nature by piloting a drone, learning to sketch scientific observations, and taking home their own art kit to continue exploring the wonderful world around them! Additional objectives included an appreciation of nature and art, science experimentation, and utilizing various art mediums and techniques to increase their confidence in art.



Scientific Topics

- Topography*
- Watersheds*
- Pollution*
- Drones*
- Taxonomy*
- Bioindicators*
- Forestry*
- Soil Science*

- 91% of respondents understand how art and science work together to help us learn.
- 96% feel more confident in their ability to mix any color they imagine.
- 96% learned the skills of reading and creating maps.
- 92% have a better understanding of how drones can solve real world problems.
- 90% have a better understanding of how scientific sketches help us identify species.
- 71% intend to spend more time being artistic.
- 85% intend to spend more time outdoors.
- "This was the most well-planned camp with hands-on activities. Difficult concepts were made easy."
- "This is the best week of camp so far this summer."

Through an Artistic Lens



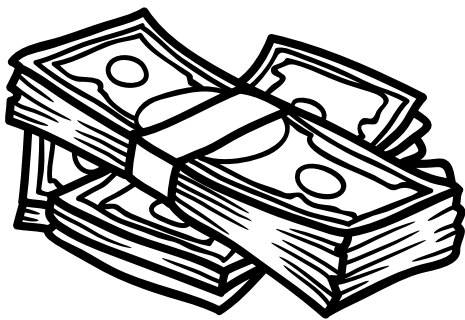
Cooking in the Kitchen

Adult education classes in the Extension Kitchen have been a hit this year! The Creative Cooking class has targeted topics such as macarons, homemade noodles, edible flowers, air frying meals, and holiday entertaining. All of these fun, interactive classes focus on nutrition and meal budgeting.

Easter Seals/Rise clients participate in a monthly Independence in the Kitchen class as a result of a grant from the Steuben County Community Foundation. Participants learn more about personal safety in the kitchen, measuring ingredients, healthy food choices, and using kitchen equipment.



Where Does Your Money Go?



39 Community Corrections participants took part in *Where Does Your Money Go?*, a budgeting and debt paying educational program. One participant eliminated four small debts in the one-month timeframe and proclaimed "He feels great!"

Wee Creations Daycare was also a recipient of this program thanks to a networking opportunity from the Childhood Task Force.

TurningPoint homeless residents received this programming along with other weekly topics including workplace skills, communication, conflict resolution, employee wellbeing, understanding your paycheck, and debt resolution.



Parents Forever

In Steuben County, 72 individuals have successfully completed the Parents Forever program in 2022-2023.

This program starts the conversation with parents about taking care of themselves, managing step-families and everything in between. They learn more about navigating this difficult time while taking care of their children in the process.

One parent expressed that he wished “he had taken course sooner, as it would have helped him communicate better during the divorcing process”.

Donuts with Dana



Enjoy a donut and learn more about your brain! Participants from Heritage Club, YMCA, and Fremont Library engaged in brain exercises to help keep the brain healthy.

Using the WITS Workout curriculum developed by University of Illinois Extension this program focuses on exercises that keep your brain in working order.

These exercises included What’s in my wallet?, Sleep Well / Be Well, Savor the Season (you are what you eat and tips for cooking for one), and Roam in Rome (promoting exercise).



Masters of the Garden in and out of class



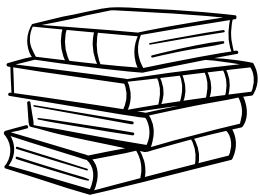
706 HOURS X \$31.80 VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

= \$22,450 DONATED AMOUNT OF TIME



Steuben County Master Gardeners have a passion for gardening and a wealth of knowledge about gardening and horticulture. This volunteer group is actively giving back to our community through numerous projects that create a greener community.

In Steuben County, our volunteers donated 706 hours this year. Most often they are found planting flowers in Hamilton, providing expert advice at the Farmer's Market all summer, judging projects at the county fair, and presenting to local service organizations. According to the value of volunteer time from the independent sector, this year the Steuben County Master Gardeners donated a total amount of over \$22K in volunteer time to Steuben County! With all that time they made new connections with 3,254 adults and youth.



This spring Purdue Extension hosted a 7-week Master Gardener Course where participants learned more about soils, plant nutrition, insects, diseases, and best management practices in the garden. While there was a total of 8 participants, 3 were from Steuben County. We are excited to welcome the new members and will have classes in the future for others to join! Please call the office to inquire about when the next class is.





Agriculture in the Classroom

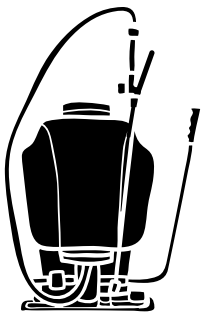
This year, Agriculture in the Classroom was a major focus for 27 students at Hendry Park Elementary afterschool program.

Collaboration between Purdue Extension and Steuben County Farm Bureau has greatly enriched the learning experiences of students.

They explore soils, pumpkins, worms, and popcorn in Indiana. Students learned more about Hoosier agriculture to get a better understanding of the world around them. These hands-on learning experiences allowed the students to actively engage with agriculture in hopes that one day they will enter the industry.



Private Applicator Recertification Programs



Private Applicator Recertification Programs are important because it ensures safe food and water supplies in Indiana. The Indiana State Chemist office requires all individuals who apply restricted use pesticides to be educated and certified.

This year, 3 programs were presented throughout the year to a total of 110 producers. New regulations from the OISC brought about a regulatory topic that was the main focus for the year.

Changes in the rules have been made regarding applicators that will need to be certified for spraying restricted use pesticides. They are no longer allowing applicators to just be “supervised” while using those products.



Steuben County Interagency



Another year of collaboration between non-profit organizations in Steuben County has been a success! Meetings hosted by Purdue Extension have shown the collective effort involving various groups and government agencies has led to effective communication throughout the county.

Interagency meetings, hosted on the last Wednesday of the month, do not fall short of 20+ attendees each time. Topics that have been covered have included Medicaid, Northeastern Center, Cameron Memorial Hospital, and other organizations throughout the county.

Important topics such as housing, childcare, transportation, and other large issues happening in Steuben County are the main focus.

Our hope is that we can bridge the gap between residents within the county that need help and working with organizations that know where to find the resources that they need.

