



Annual Winter Meeting
Sponsored by:
Moss Fertilizer Service, Inc.
along with:
Miami Co. Soil & Water
Miami Co. Purdue Extension
March 6th, 2024
9 am - 1 pm
Miami Co. 4-H Fairgrounds
RSVP to:
Moss Fertilizer Service-574-664-4031
or Miami SWCD-765-473-6753 ext 3

PARP, CCH (1, 14, RT) & CCA credits available

9-10a: Todd Zehr – Owner and Product Chemist– Soil Biotics-How to use Biological Products & Humic Acids to improve nutrient availability and to feed your crops
10-11a: Dustin Johnson – Cisco Seeds – Forage Agronomist and Farmer-Cover crop strategies and how to get it all done in the fall
11-12p: Brian Reineke, PCA, CPAg, CCA – Director of Agronomy for Phospholutions – Phosphorus fertilizer products and new product enhancements to improve phosphorus availability
12-12:30p: Courtney Schmidt ANR Extension Educator- Worker Protection Standards
12:30 p.m.: Lunch

CCA/CCH=\$10/PERSON
Purdue Extension is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution.

Annie's Project
Empowering Women in Agriculture



Jan. 16 Held in Miami County
• Real Colors
• Goal Setting
• McClure's Orchard

Jan. 23 Held in Howard County
• Land Leasing and Ownership
• Hands on Soil Health Demonstration

Jan. 30 Held in Miami County
• Farm Insurance
• Quickbooks
• Preparing for Retirement and Estate Planning

Feb. 6 Held in Howard County
• Helpful Organization and Agencies
• Intro to Succession Planning

Feb. 13 Held in Miami County
• Farm Stress
• Flower Arranging

Feb. 20 Held in Howard County
• Grain Marketing
• Kokomo Grain

Mark Your Calendars!
Registration details will be available soon!

PURDUE UNIVERSITY Extension

For more information about the program contact:
Courtney Schmidt - schmil63@purdue.edu - 765-472-1921
Mathias Ingle - rmingle@purdue.edu - 765-456-2313
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Extension - Miami County



INDIANA'S EDUCATIONAL PARTNER FOR LIFE

Miami County Annual Report
October 2022—September 2023

PURDUE EXTENSION MONTHLY HOT TOPICS
SEASON 2
12:00-1:00 PM EST

EACH MONTH JOIN A PURDUE EXTENSION SPECIALIST THROUGH THIS FREE, LIVE, VIRTUAL PROGRAM AS THEY DISCUSS THEIR RESEARCH AND HOT TOPICS IN THEIR AREA OF EXPERTISE

20 JUL HEMP PRODUCTION
MARGARET BOLT

17 AUG TOMATO PRODUCE
DAN EGAN

21 SEP POISON HEMLOCK AND OTHER
DUGAN

19 OCT LANDSCAPE PESTS
BRIAN SWAN

16 NOV GRAPES
MIRANDA PURCELL

21 DEC SPOTTED LANTERN FLY
BOB BRUNER

PURDUE UNIVERSITY Extension
LINK TO ZOOM:
[HTTPS://PURDUE.EDU/ZOOM/US/1/99222021404](https://PURDUE.EDU/ZOOM/US/1/99222021404)

PURDUE EXTENSION MONTHLY Hot Topics
SEASON 3
12:00 - 1:00 PM EST

17 JAN Ants
Tabby Flinn, ANR Extension Educator

21 FEB Weather
Austin Pearson, Climatologist, Midwest Research Climate Center

20 MAR Purdue on the Farm
Scott Gabbard, ANR Extension Educator

17 APR Eat Midwest Fish
Amy Shambach, Aquaculture Marketing Outreach Associate

15 MAY Purdue Institute for Family Business
Dr. Maria Marshall, Director, North Central Regional Center for Rural Development

19 JUN TBD

Each month join a Purdue Extension Professional through this free, live, virtual program as they discuss their research and hot topics in their area of expertise.

REGISTER NOW!
<https://bit.ly/HotTopics2024>

PURDUE UNIVERSITY Extension
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Program Impact and Statistics

Educational Outreach

- Number of Educational Programs taught: 140
- Total Teaching Hours: 288
- Direct Educational Contacts: 5,337

Volunteers

- Extension Homemakers: 70– Extension Homemaker Clubs: 6
- Master Gardeners: 23
- 4-H Adult Volunteers: 64
- 4-H Junior Leaders: 31

4-H Numbers

- Total 4-H enrollment, grades K-12: 359
- Total Mini 4-H'ers: 64
- 4-H Clubs: 17
- Total 4-H non-livestock exhibits: 762
- 4-H Animal Exhibitor Count:

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Beef: 31 | Dog: 9 |
| Cat: 5 | Guinea Pig: 3 |
| Dairy: 13 | Horse & Pony: 20 |
| Dairy Beef: 23 | Meat Goats: 16 |
| Dairy Goat: 10 | Poultry: 44 |
| | Rabbits: 27 |

Clients

- Total # of ANR/HHS Client Consultations: 78
- Pressure Gauge Canner Tests: 3

Social Media

- Miami County Extension Facebook:
 - Reach: 61,429 (up 39% from last year)
 - Page Likes: 1,200 (160 new) Followers: 1,317
- Instagram:
 - Reach: 1,157
 - Followers: 98
- Twitter/X:
 - Followers: 64

Miami County Food Pantry Donations

- Farm Credit Stock the Trailer Food Drive: 4,500 lbs (In collaboration with Miami County Farm Bureau)
- Miami County 4-H Fairgrounds Learning Garden: 221 lbs



Telling Your Extension Story

Purdue-CARET is a volunteer group of Indiana residents that believes in the power of research and education from the Purdue University College of Agriculture and the Purdue Extension miss to translate research into practical, effective, local programs for people across our state. Most of all, Purdue CARET is a mighty advocate. We promote Purdue Agriculture's significance and strength to county officials, state legislators, members of congress, and other decision-makers.

Purdue CARET is the Purdue University branch of the national CARET organization. The purpose of Purdue CARET is to provide a means for Indiana citizens to have input into program development, budgetary matter, and legislation.

Learn more by visiting:

<http://pcaret.org>

PURDUE UNIVERSITY Extension - Miami County

Prefer to get the Miami County Extension newsletter electronically? Let us know! You can also OPT-IN here to get the latest Miami County Program news.

https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9YrPl4fIqLeZiqG

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BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO GRANT WRITING

The two-day **Beginner's Guide to Grant Writing** program is a great skill builder for the beginner or intermediate grant writer. Whatever your skill level, come with an idea and be ready to write. At the end of Day One, you will have a proposal outline and all of the resources you need to expand your outline into a full proposal.

Return on Day Two with your full proposal and we will put you into the role of a reviewer, teach you strategies for finding funding, and provide you with an opportunity to polish your proposal and send it in for a strong professional review.

Save the Date

When: Wednesday, **January 24** and Wednesday, **February 28, 2024** at 9:00 am to 4:30 pm Eastern

Where: Miami County Fairgrounds Community Building, 1029 West 200 North, Peru, IN 46970-7526

Cost: The workshop is \$195.00, which includes all materials and lunch on both days.

Information about sponsorships will be available once registration is open.

Whether your project is big or small, this workshop will give you the information you need to submit proposals confidently.

NOTE: If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, contact Courtney Schmidt at 765-472-1921 or schmi163@purdue.edu prior to the workshop.

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service is an equal access/equal opportunity institution.

Our Team

Courtney Schmidt, County Extension Director/Extension Educator
Agriculture & Natural Resources/Health & Human Sciences—schmi163@purdue.edu

Heather Smith, Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development — heathersmith856@purdue.edu

Rachel Taylor
Nutrition Education Program Advisor—taylor19@purdue.edu

Mindy Duckett
Community Wellness Coordinator—duckett@purdue.edu

Amy Alexander
Office Manager—alexa244@purdue.edu

Jamie Carter
Program Assistant—carte473@purdue.edu

Connect with Us



765-472-1921



Purdue Extension-Miami County



@purdueextension_miamicounty



@PurdueMiami



@PurdueArea8ANR



@PurdueArea8Heal-jy7tc



@FRMPurdueExtensionHHS

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Home Horticulture

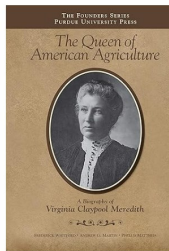
Miami/Grant/Howard Counties conducted a joint Master Gardener Basic Training course with 11 participants; 15-3 hour educational sessions from September- December 2022.

Client Consults: 49



PURDUE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Women In Agriculture



Courtney Schmidt and another educator from Southern Indiana started a new program for Women in Ag focused on Ag Advocacy and Leadership Skills-Literary Leaders Book Club. The first book was Queen of American Agriculture: Virginia Claypool Meredith read with 14 participants from around the state. In three virtual sessions we had excellent discussions with women speakers who have leadership and ag advocacy roles in Indiana. The final session was with the authors Fred Whitford and Phyllis Mattheis.

Pesticide Applicators Education

The Annual Winter Meeting in March was held in partnership with Moss Fertilizer Services with 73 attendants and then also the Annual Cover Crop Workshop in August with 72 attendants. Each of these farmer meetings is held in collaboration with Miami County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Private Applicator Recertification Point Recipients: 54

Commercial Applicator Continuing Credit Hour Recipients: 12

Certified Crop Advisor Credit Recipients: 3

Extension Hot Topics

The Area 8 ANR Educators have started this new monthly webinar program for the purpose of trying to connect Purdue professors and specialists with other educators for professional development but more importantly with the public in general that would like to learn more about their current research and events on a different topic each month. Our audience has continued to grow each month. Videos of each session are available to watch anytime on our Area 8 ANR YouTube Page.

Registered Participants: 603



Junior Master Gardener: Bringing Groups Together for Gardening and Healthy Living Youth Education

As stated by the Indiana Youth Institute, "Children need healthy, nutritious food to grow, develop, and learn. Poor nutrition can lead to problems like excessive weight gain and obesity. Childhood obesity can in turn create many health problems, from Type II diabetes to heart disease. Those who have access to healthy, nutritious food are more likely to be academically and economically successful adults."

According to their research, Indiana has seen a 7% increase in overweight or obese children ages 10 to 17 over the past few years. Indiana has the second-highest percentage of youth ages 10 to 17 who are overweight or obese compared to our neighboring states: Kentucky (36.9%), Indiana (36.6%), Ohio (34.4%), Michigan (30.1%), and Illinois (29.3%)

JMG by the Numbers(21/22 & 22/23):

Total Certified Junior Master Gardeners: 426
 North Miami Elem. 5th Graders: 110
 Pipe Creek 1st Grades: 300
 JMG Summer Camps: 16
 Produce Donations: 250 lbs +



One way we saw to address this concern was the Junior Master Gardener program. In Fall of 2021, we participated in the JMG Train the Trainer program in order to bring this education to the youth of Miami County. In the Spring of 2022, many groups collaborated in order to build garden beds on the fairgrounds. For the last 2 years, we have partnered with North Miami Elementary 5th Grade to teach their kids the Learn,

Grow, Eat and Go curriculum. It is 10 sessions each Spring; the kids plant seeds and taste new fruits or vegetables at each class. Our Miami County Master Gardeners have also been teaching the curriculum at Pipe Creek Elementary for all of the 1st grade classes.

With the outdoor learning garden at the fairgrounds, we conduct the standard Junior Master Gardener programs arranged in a two-week summer camp open to any 4-6th grade aged child. The kids plant the beds and then come back to harvest. Each day they are taught a recipe using our fresh garden vegetables. We incorporate physical activity and team building exercises. Most of the produce from the learning garden is then delivered to local food pantries.

This has been an excellent community collaboration and has truly been made possible by the efforts of many caring groups and individuals. Those include (but not limited to); **Miami Co. 4-H Fairboard, Miami Co. 4-H Council, Arrow Head RC&D, Miami Co. Master Gardeners, North Miami Elementary, Pipe Creek Elementary, Miami Co. SWCD, NEPA Rachel Taylor, 4-H Educator Heather Smith, Amy Alexander, Jamie Carter, ANR/HHS Educator Courtney Schmidt.** THANK YOU for bringing resources together for the kids of our community!

"All veggies are important"

"You should always try something new"

"Raspberries are yummy"

Health and Human Sciences

Financial Resource Management

Courtney taught Captain Cash in Maconaquah Elementary School to all 6 of the 3rd grade classes. This is a 4 session financial literacy education series centered on teaching kids responsible ways to save, spend, earn and borrow.

Staying Scam Safe and Fraud Bingo were brought to the Peru Public Library to try and teach others how to detect attempts to steal identities and assets. The lesson Considering the Financial Caregiver was given at Consumer Education Day to help people build their financial advisory team.

The Financial Resource Management statewide extension team started publishing short, virtual videos to help educate on things such as Home Buying, Financial Targets for Ages and Stages and Estate Planning. The effort is called Wealth Wisdom Series. Courtney has created three of the videos this year; Home Appraisals, Home Inspection & Home Insurance.

Ahoy, Mateys!

Join *Captain Cash* on a money voyage through the islands of *Earn, Save, Spend and Borrow*. Our adventure will include:

- Four 30-45-minute interactive sessions for third grade students to learn about real-life money management.
- Age-appropriate money concepts that students can use now and in the future.

Contact your local *Purdue Extension Health and Human Sciences* educator: purdue.edu/hhs/extension/

@Purdue University Health and Human Sciences Extension
@HHS_Extension

PURDUE UNIVERSITY Extension - Health and Human Sciences

Captain Cash was created and developed by Purdue Extension and meets Indiana Academic Standards for math and social studies. Each session is led by a trained Purdue Extension educator.

Extension Board Members

We would like to recognize and thank our Extension Board members. The Extension Board meets with the 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:



John Donaldson

Mike Walters

Lauren Catey

Patty Cole

Bob Clark

Sandy Chittum

Tom Daugherty

TJ Zeiser

Ashley Vincent

Community Wellness Coordinator

Mindy Duckett, Miami County Community Wellness Coordinator and Emergency Food Assistance State Specialist, has worked with United Way of Miami County to convene the Miami County Food Security Alliance. This collaboration of food pantries, social agencies, faith-based groups and school representatives have been finding ways to share resources and begin the work of looking into systems change that will help provide our neighbors with stability and self-sufficiency.

The Alliance meets each month on the third Friday at 2:00 in the CRC Building. Anyone interested in being part of the solution is welcome to attend.

This year the Alliance worked together to collect non-perishable items at the Miami County Fair as part of the Farm Credit America "Stock the Trailer". They had a very successful "Kiss the Pig" contest from which the proceeds helped to purchase some of the food. Over 4500 pounds of food was split between 6 pantries. A connection was also made through the United Way to help distribute produce grown at the Miami Correctional Facility to any pantry interested.



Nutrition Education Program Advisor



The Purdue Extension Nutrition Education Program works to make the healthy choice the easy choice where limited-resource Hoosiers live, eat, work, play and shop. The program is supported by two U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) educational programs: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

Best known for cooking demonstrations and sharing food samples and cooking tools, our certified Nutrition Education Program Advisors (NEPAs) offer FREE lessons for children, teens, and adults that can make a healthy difference in their lives.

Online or in-person, our practical, hands-on programs show you how to stretch your food dollars; plan fast, easy and healthy meals; increase physical activity; and more. Best of all, our NEPAs come to you.

Miami County 22/23 Stats:

Total lessons: 79

Participants: 1452

NEP Funding to Miami County during that period: \$59,900

4-H Youth Development

4-H is for ALL

Some misconceptions about 4-H are: “it’s only the fair” or “you have to be a farmer to be in 4-H”. Well that simply is not the case. 4-H is a great organization for ALL YOUTH in K-12th grade (Mini 4-H K-2, Regular 4-H 3-12th). Do you have to live on a farm? No. Do you have to raise animals? No. Do you have to be involved in agriculture? No. Did you know that 4-H is the largest positive youth development program globally? Well it is, and I need your help to spread the word! Share your stories about how 4-H has impacted your life. Explain that

4-H has other opportunities than showing animals. Building projects, Career Development Event programs such as Junior Leaders, workshops, and community development are a few examples of some other opportunities linked to 4-H and Youth Development in Miami county. Let’s work together and GROW this program one 4-Her at a time. Stop by the Purdue Extension Office and pick up a yard sign to show your support today.



Poster Workshop Save the Date
 March 12, 2024
 Come as you Please anytime between 4:00-7:00pm
 Be on the lookout for more details!

Bring Your own supplies
 Computer and printer Access Available
 Great opportunity to complete a 4-H Project
 Get tips on how to make your poster a Grand Champion

4-H Career Development Events (CDE's)

In an effort to promote other activities in the 4-H world I have brought a new opportunity to 4-H members at North Miami by coaching Livestock Skill-a-thon. With this program, youth gain a variety of knowledge about livestock breeds, feeds, equipment, meats, and medicine labels. This is practical knowledge which will help them take their livestock project to the next level. This is also a great opportunity for the youth to gain foundational experiences that focus



on a veterinary or production agriculture career. Eleven 4-H members practiced for the contest and the teams placed 8th and 9th out of 41 teams. Meggan Starkey was also 10 overall individually. Jim Wildermuth, Agriculture Teacher at North Miami and 4-H volunteer coached several Miami County 4-H members in the Soils CDE. Youth investigate parent material, landforms, textures, color, and slope by getting in 4 pits. They learn skills needed to be a soil scientist, land surveyor, or even an agronomist. Students dug deep for a 1st and 2nd place finish advancing them to the State Contest on October 21st. At the State Contest they made their way



to 1st and 4th place earning them spots at the National Soils Contest in Oklahoma! The following 4-Hers were in the top 10 individually. Hannah Early -1st, Laina Kling – 3rd, Evan Piercy – 8th, and Alan Wildermuth- 9th. Congratulations! The National Poultry CDE is happening as I write this which is in Louisville, Kentucky. Holly Richardson, Alison Smith, Ben Hoover, and Austin Knauff create the team which is coached by Jim Wildermuth and Jordan Weaver.

Junior Leaders

Junior Leaders has had a successful kick off/cook-out/ pumpkin decorating and team building workshops.

I would like to introduce the 2024 Junior Leader Officers:

- President: Lauryn Merritt
- Vice President: Abby Jordan
- Secretary: Hannah Early
- Treasurer: Sam Jones
- Stand Chairman: Janessa Hierholzer
- Jr. Secretary: Rivkah Miller
- Jr. Treasurer: Brent Perry
- Jr. Stand Chairman: Cass Duckwall

4-H Council Representatives: Carter Miller and Finley Dobbs.
 This has been a fun group to work with so far and I can't wait to see what the next few months look like for the 4-H organization!

Junior Leaders INDIANA 4-H
 Join Junior Leaders on Remind:
 Text this code: @c7bcb2b to 81010

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| December 11 Miami County Extension Office 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM | Junior Leader Holiday Party Making no-tie fleece blankets, Pizza Party, Hot Cocoa Bar Christmas Movie: _____ | |
| February 22 Project Building February 24th | PANCAKE DAY SET UP! PANCAKE DAY Bring: Your muscle | |
| March 11 Kokomo IN | THE ZONE LAZER TAG We need an RSVP for this. I will also be inviting Howard County. | |
| April 8 Community Building 6:30PM to 8PM | 1st Year 4-H Family Info Night Tour of the Fairgrounds Bring: Any donations for Helping Hands | |
| April 19th Carroll County 6:00 PM-? | K-9 Demo and Team Building Pizza | |
| April TBD Community Building TBD | Helping Extension Homemakers with International Night | |
| May 11 Project Building | Help with Master Gardener Plant Sale | |
| June 10 Indiana Beach TBD | Indiana Beach With Area Junior Leaders | |

2024 MIAMI COUNTY

HANDBOOK

New Project Alert!

The Rules Committee have met and we are adding the following new projects for the 2024 Miami County Fair: Mini Forestry, Mini Cookie or Cupcake Decorating, Mini Scenes in a Shoebox, Mini Entomology, Mini Horse, Fire Safety, Welding, Dollhouse, Legos with a Kit, Dollar Deal Designs, ATV Safety, and Blacksmithing. Rules and guidelines will come out in the 2024 Handbook towards the end of February.

Office Spotlight

In October, Jamie and Amy went all out and decorated the office for Fall/Halloween giving the front a “Falloween” feel. Congratulations on their hard work as Miami County was voted 4th in the State Extension Office Decorating Contest. The 4-H Council Sponsored candy and treats for Heather and Amy to take to the Maconaquah FFA “Trunk or Treat” where they passed out over 76,310 calories which were mainly sugar. In addition, everyone received information on how to join 4-H! To join the fun, enroll at the website: <https://v2.4honline.com> We will see you at the FAIR. June 24-29th



We want to hear from you!
 Scan the QR Code or follow the link below to take the survey
https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_14C8110106161204?_lang=en

To Make the Best BETTER



EXTRA - EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT- FAIR PAPERS ARE IN THE OFFICE!

2023 Fair Highlight Papers are in the office! There is a limit of ONE per 4-H Member.
 We want to thank Amanda Wilson for photos, Amy and Jamie for putting the paper together, the paper for printing them, and a huge THANK YOU to 4-H Council for sponsoring it!