

January, February, March 2026

Quarterly Newsletter



Welcome to the Quarterly Report!

Purdue Extension- Harrison County strives to improve lives and livelihoods by delivering tested and trusted educational resources. The Cooperative Extension Service is one of the nation's largest providers of scientific research-based information and education. It's a network of colleges, universities, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, serving communities and counties across America.

Purdue Extension focuses on Agriculture and Natural Resources, Community Development, Health and Human Sciences, and 4-H Youth Development. Then, based on community needs, Purdue Extension- Harrison County is also able to leverage valuable expertise from Purdue's Nutrition Education Program (NEP). NEP works to make the healthy choice the easy choice where limited-resource Hoosiers live, eat, work, play, and shop. It is supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and offers unique opportunities here in Harrison County.

Purdue Extension strives to be Indiana's Educational Partner for Life!



Extension - Harrison County

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Purdue Extension Harrison County Staff:

Ariel Camm-Wilson

County Extension Director
Agriculture & Natural Resources
Educator

Tara Beckman

Health and Human Sciences &
Community Development Educator

Open Position

4-H Youth Development Educator

Cindy Finerfrock

Nutrition Education Program Advisor
(NEPA)

Mary Eve

Office Manager

Sallie Carter

Extension Program Assistant

Tammy Alcorn

Administrative Assistant

Sarah Gilmer

Administrative Program Assistant

Letters from the Educators

Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)

Ariel Camm -Wilson

County Extension Director, Agriculture & Natural Resources Educator

Thank you to everyone that came to our Extension Board Annual Meeting. This event is a great way to reflect on the past year and the impacts that Harrison County Purdue Extension has had. It is great to see that so many people care and advocate for the work that we do in Extension. We could not do the work that we do without supporters, volunteers, and participants. I am grateful for each and every person that has supported Purdue Extension and Harrison County.

As spring is upon us, take some time to enjoy the warm weather and all that the season has to offer. I am very excited to see what spring programming has to offer and to see new and familiar faces.

Health and Human Sciences (HHS) / Community Development (CD)

Tara Beckman

Health and Human Sciences & Community Development Educator

Winter and early spring brought opportunities to support well-being, learning, and community connection across Harrison County. From exploring simple habits to boost energy and mood, to learning how to stay safe from scams, keeping food service practices up to date, and discovering smarter snacking habits, our programs brought together community partners and provided hands-on, research-based tools for everyday life.

It's inspiring to see participants try new ideas, share experiences, and connect with local resources—small steps that make a big difference in health, confidence, and community engagement. These interactions remind me that learning happens everywhere, and together, we're building a stronger, healthier Harrison County.

4-H and Youth Development

Open Position

4-H Youth Development Educator

The office is excited and gearing up for fair time, which is right around the corner! We can't wait to see all of the hard work and dedication that 4-H members put into their projects.

We seeking a 4-H & Youth Development Educator. Apply for Harrison County 4-H Youth Development Educator position here:

https://careers.purdue.edu/.../Extension.../40355-en_US/



Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)

Winter Ag Speaker Series

The Winter Ag Speaker Series was a tremendous success with over 40 participants across six sessions of topics pertaining to beef cattle winter feeding, becoming certified organic, farm finances, crop insurance, greenhouse basics, and forestry land management.

The Series was a great way to further education in all six areas of Purdue Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources: Animal Science, Diversified Food and Farming, Farm Management, Field Crops, Horticulture, and Natural Resources.

Dinner was provided beforehand sponsored by Herd Pack and Meade County Bank.

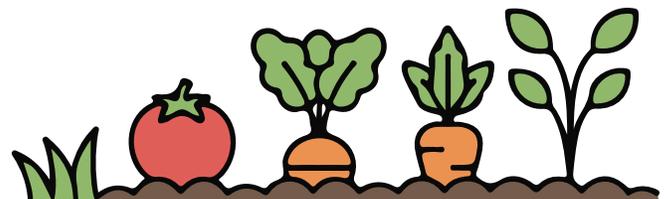
Thank you to our sponsors, speakers, and participants!



Beginning Gardening Workshop



ANR Educator, Ariel Camm-Wilson hosted two hands-on gardening sessions with over 10 community members in attendance. Participants learned about site selection, soil health, cool and warm season crops, and how to identify common garden diseases and pests. Everyone also had the chance to plant herbs, peppers, or tomatoes to take home and get a head start on the gardening season. This session seems to be a fan favorite every year!



Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)

Premier Ag PARP

55 people were in attendance for the Premier Ag PARP. Topics included: nutrients in soil, crown root rot, regulations with



OISC, nutrients in plants and chemical applications. Thank you Premier Ag for your partnership on this event!

Wild About Berries

Two educational sessions were held at the Corydon Branch and Palmyra Branch, with a total of 30 participants in attendance. Participants learned about growing strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, and blueberries. The sessions covered how to choose an appropriate planting site, proper planting techniques, recommended varieties, harvesting methods, and common pests and diseases affecting each type of berry.



Floyd County Extension Master Gardener Class

Over 30 participants attended a recent Floyd County Extension Master Gardener class led by Ariel Camm-Wilson, who delivered an in-depth session on soils and plant nutrition. The class explored essential soil concepts including drainage, soil textures, parent materials, soil horizons, plant nutrient requirements, and the role of beneficial organisms in supporting plant health. Participants gained a stronger understanding of how soil properties influence plant growth and landscape success.

A hands-on demonstration featured different types of subsoil and practical methods for determining clay content in soil. Attendees examined soil samples and learned simple field techniques to better assess soil structure and composition in their own gardens and landscapes.

The session provided practical, research-based knowledge to help Master Gardeners make informed recommendations and improve soil health practices.

Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)

Composting Class

Twenty participants attended the two Composting Classes led by ANR Educator, Ariel Camm-Wilson, at the Corydon Branch and Palmyra Branch. During the sessions, participants learned the basics of composting, including necessary supplies, the difference between “brown” and “green” materials, the benefits of composting, and what items can and cannot be composted. They also took part in a hands-on activity, practicing how to create compost in a bag. With gardening season right around the corner, this program provided a timely and practical introduction to help participants begin preparing their gardens.

PARP

Over 20 participants attended the PARP session, which covered several key agricultural topics.

Valerie Clingerman presented on the use of drones in agriculture, discussing the pros and cons of UAVs, different types available, their practical applications in farming, and current regulations governing their use. Participants also learned about regulations from the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC), focusing on rules related to planting practices and herbicide usage. Nathan Lind covered the benefits of cover crops, setting goals for their use, different types of cover crops, planting methods, and provided a demonstration on how to use cover crop tools.



Nutrition Education Program (NEP)



Cindy Finerfrock is our Nutrition Education Program Advisor (NEPA) who serves Harrison, Floyd, and Clark Counties.

NEPAs work to improve the nutrition and health of audiences with limited resources in Indiana – FREE of charge thanks to their Expanded Food & Nutrition Education

Program (EFNEP) federal funding initiative. Cindy serves SNAP recipients, limited-resource individuals of all ages, and eligible schools & programs (50% or more, free & reduced lunch).

She provides support services to local entities in our community who are focused on public health efforts and change. These FREE lessons for children, teens, and adults make a healthy difference in their lives. She teaches that healthy choices can be easy choices! She welcomes your interest and is willing to answer questions regarding nutritional programming.

**Making the
HealthyChoice
The Easy Choice!**



4-H and Youth Development

Goat Milk Soap Making

In only 2 hours, a room full of children transformed 4 simple ingredients into beautiful, fragrant boxes full of soap. The class was led by 4-H Council member Ashley First, who with the help of 4-H volunteers and a couple of her children, guided participants through the surprisingly easy recipe. Each child made their own unique box of soap using Mica colors and essential oils. The classroom smelled great when all the soaps were poured and boxed. Thank you to the 4-H volunteers and members who taught the class and to the 4-H Council for sponsoring it.



Harrison County Performing Arts Contest

It was a full house for the annual Harrison County 4-H Performing Arts Contest held on Friday, March 20 at the Talmage Windell Ag Building at the County Fairgrounds. Many talented 4-H members took the stage to entertain us with music, jokes, life tips, and skits. All performances were phenomenal! Third place was “Patriotic Medley” with Savannah English and Alayna Embry, second place was Blue River All Stars with, “Live from the Fairgrounds-It’s Saturday Night Livestock” and though not mentioned at the show, there was a tie for first place with the Golden Clovers Club with, “Amazing 4-H Adventures” and Cadence English performing a vocal and guitar solo of, “Still Waters”. Special thanks to the Harrison Co. 4-H Junior Leaders for announcing the acts and manning a concession stand with refreshments and treats.



4-H and Youth Development

4-H Mini's

Let's Make Puppets!

Puppets, Puppets, everywhere Puppets! Who knew you could make so many puppets from household items-paper bag bears, popsicle stick people, and wild and crazy sock puppets! The children had a great time having fun, being creative, and making new friends. Our book movie for the night was *"The Monster and Puppet Show"*. Thank you to the many adults who attended to help their Mini's.

Join us for the next 4-H Mini's workshop, "My First Garden," at 5:30 on Wednesday, May 13 at the Harrison County Purdue Extension office. Registrations are now open. Follow link <https://Minilstgarden.4honline.com> to take you directly to registration.



CD Scrap Art Workshop

Though colds and the cold temps kept some registered participants from attending, members had a great time during the CD Scrap Art class. They created mock stained glass and spinning tops from CD's and a Valentine and desk calendar from the CD cases. At the end of class, we shared chocolate iced cookies and read the book, *"Norman the Doorman"*. This book was chosen for the class because Norman the Mouse makes a prize-winning sculpture from old wire, mouse traps, and scraps of paper.

Not a member? Join by signing up on 4honline.com. You'll receive updates and our bi-monthly newsletter with upcoming 4-H events and programs. Call the Extension office at 812-738-4236 with any questions.



Collaborations: ANR and HHS

Grow It, Cook It: Peppers

Grow It, Cook It: Peppers welcomed eight enthusiastic participants for a hands-on learning experience!

Ariel Camm Wilson, ANR Educator, led the grow it portion, sharing valuable tips on how to grow and harvest a variety of peppers including bell peppers, jalapenos, and banana peppers. Participants planted pepper seeds in a biodegradable egg carton to take home and plant in their gardens.

Tara Beckman, HHS Educator, led the cook it aspect of the class. Tara discussed nutrients found in peppers, ways to prepare them, and proper storage. A highlight of the discussion was participants sharing creative ways to use the featured ingredient, exchanging ideas and inspiration with one another.

The recipe was a 4- ingredient Roasted Red Pepper Spread that highlighted how to roast peppers at home using different methods and featured nonfat Greek yogurt to increase protein and provide a light, nutritious base for the spread. Participants went home with their planted seeds, growing information and a packet of recipes.



Corydon Intermediate Career Day

HHS/CD Educator Tara Beckman, and ANR Educator Ariel Camm Wilson taught three sessions at the Corydon Intermediate School's annual Career Fair with 38 participants in total. The students learned about careers in Extension, the skills needed to be successful, its mission, and how Extension was founded. Many students were surprised to learn there is an Extension Office in all 92 counties in Indiana!

Tara and Ariel also put their knowledge to the test by showing a variety of items, like a cow stuffed animal, a bi-metallic thermometer, a seed packet, and a stress ball, and asking them to identify which educator might get that client question and why. Spoiler: there was overlap! Depending on the client issue, the question could relate to raising cattle, beef nutrition for consumers, or showing and caring for 4-H beef projects.

The youth asked great questions and, by the end, demonstrated a strong understanding of Purdue Extension and the many ways our work meets the needs of the community each day. We are always delighted to be invited to events like this, as we love sharing about Purdue Extension and the many opportunities it offers— both now and in the future!

Winter Wellness: 5 Simple Habits to Boost Energy & Mood



During the winter months, shorter daylight hours, colder temperatures, and reduced social interaction can contribute to fatigue, low mood, and increased isolation—especially for older adults. To address this need, Tara partnered with SWAG (Seniors With A Goal), a program through RSVP of Southern Indiana that meets twice a month at the Harrison County Public Library – Palmyra Branch, to offer a Winter Wellness: 5 Simple Habits to Boost Energy & Mood session.



Eight participants attended the program, which focused on research-based strategies that encourage small, realistic habits to support energy levels and emotional well-being during the winter months and throughout the year. Participants explored practical, take-home strategies they could immediately incorporate into their daily routines to help combat winter fatigue and maintain wellness.

The program also created space for participants to share local resources and community connections. Attendees learned about volunteer opportunities, wellness

programs, and year-round educational offerings available through Purdue Extension, helping strengthen awareness of local resources that support wellness, agriculture, youth development, and community engagement.

Through this program, participants gained increased awareness of simple lifestyle habits that can support energy, mood, and social connection during the winter months. By combining research-based education with community resource sharing, the session helped participants identify practical steps to maintain wellness year-round.

Staying Scam Safe- Protecting Yourself and Your Community



As scams increasingly target individuals through phone calls, text messages, email, and social media, communities benefit from education on recognizing and preventing fraud. Tara partnered with the Joe Rhodes Senior Center and reconnected with community partner Lincoln Hills Development Corporation (LHDC) Milltown Housing to deliver the Staying Scam Safe program. Two sessions reached 16 participants, providing practical guidance on safely using technology, identifying scam tactics, and reducing the risk of fraud.

The program also addressed common myths about scam victims. Research from the Federal Trade Commission shows younger adults often report losing money to scams at higher rates than older adults, highlighting that anyone can be a target. With tax season underway, a time when scams generally increase, participants were reminded that vigilance and awareness are important year-round.

Participants discussed recent scam attempts, strategies to protect personal information, and warning signs such as urgency, impersonation, and unusual payment requests. They were also encouraged to share scam prevention information with friends, family, and neighbors, extending the impact throughout the community.

Food Safety Education: What's New in the Food Code



The Harrison County Health Department and Purdue Extension recently partnered to deliver *What's New in the Food Code*, a timely program addressing the needs of local food service professionals to stay current on regulations and best practices. Two sessions reached 13 participants from 8 different entities, providing opportunities for shared learning, discussion, and professional networking.



Chief Food Inspector Christa Ridenour, joined by colleague Justin Bary, reviewed key Food Code updates, explained their importance, and answered participant questions. Purdue Extension HHS/CD Educator Tara Beckman highlighted ServSafe® training opportunities offered through Purdue Extension and shared research-based resources and food safety best practices, helping food service professionals continue building the knowledge and skills to confidently apply food safety practices in their operations.

The program strengthened collaboration, reinforced a commitment to food safety, and addressed the real-world need for up-to-date, practical guidance in daily operations. We look forward to continuing this program with the next topic, *Sanitizing With Confidence*, offered on April 6 at 1:00 p.m. and April 14 at 9:00 a.m. Community input is always welcome—if there are other food safety topics that would benefit your operations or home, please contact the Harrison County Health Department or Purdue Extension office to help shape future sessions.

Snack Smart Challenge: Explore, Taste, and Learn



As we move into spring with changing schedules, spring breaks, and new routines, *Snack Smart* was March's Challenge Kit theme, developed by Tara, reaching approximately 45 participants with 30 kits distributed. The kit offered a hands-on way to explore healthier snacking, teaching participants about smart snack choices, healthy swaps, and how to build snacks at home or on-the-go using MyPlate nutritional guidelines.

Thanks to a generous donation that continues to support our Challenge Kit programming months later, participants also received individual portions of healthy trail mix ingredients to take home and create their own mixes. The kit also included a *Snack Smart Taste Test Chart* to encourage food exploration at home, along with a *Spring Break Bingo* activity designed to promote healthy habits around food and movement.

By combining education with interactive, practical activities, the program empowered participants to make healthier snack choices and maintain wellness habits during this busy season.

EXTENSION BOARD ANNUAL MEETING



Harrison County Extension would like to thank our community sponsors, partner organizations, volunteers, Extension Board members, advisory committees, 4-H Council, extension-based organizations, county officials, and the community at-large for the continued support, hard work, and dedication to Purdue Extension's mission. The ongoing contributions and efforts of these individuals and organizations make all of our high-impact, research-based educational opportunities possible.

The Annual Meeting had a full house of over 50 attendees! Thank you all for coming!



SPONSORSHIP OF THE MEAL

Thank you to Blackman Farms for sponsoring the meal and beverages!

Guests got to enjoy an Italian fare of lasagna, alfredo, green beans, garlic bread, salads, and many types of dessert.





Agriculture & Natural Resources Educator Report

ANR Educator, Ariel Camm-Wilson

Direct County and Area Impacts with Harrison County ANR Involved:

- Adult Direct Contacts-1,245
- Youth Direct Contacts- 552
- Indirect Contacts- 280
- Learner Minutes Total- 9,780
- Client Consultations- 201

Programs reported on where Family Ag Day, Beef Cattle Programs, and Extension Master Gardener Training Course.

HEALTH & HUMAN SCIENCES/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EDUCATOR REPORT

HHS/CD Educator, Tara Beckman

Direct County and Area Impacts with Harrison County HHS/CD Involved:

- Adult Direct Contacts- 933
- Youth Direct Contacts- 34
- Indirect Contacts- 174
- Learner Minutes Total - 8207

Reported programs included the May Community Wellness Challenge, initiatives supporting older adults, and Building Stronger Boards.



4-H & Youth Development

We are looking for a 4-H & Youth Development Educator. Apply for Harrison County 4-H Youth Development Educator position here:

https://careers.purdue.edu/.../Extension.../40355-en_US/

Impact Report:

Mini 4-H Enrollments: 91

Traditional 4-H Enrollments: 285

4-H Volunteers: 131

County Exhibit Hall Projects 2025: 620

County Livestock Projects 2025: 696

State Exhibit Hall Projects 2025: 102

We're Hiring

Apply Now

**Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development**

https://careers.purdue.edu/.../Extension.../40355-en_US/

NUTRITION EDUCATION REPORT

NEPA Cindy Finerfrock serves 3 counties: Harrison, Floyd & Clark

In 2025 the Purdue Nutrition Education Program Evaluation and Reporting System tracked her impact:

- Direct Ed Reach at 419
- Indirect Ed Reach at 1188
- Completed Survey Responses at 494
- 12 of her 29 Program Activities served Harrison County Community Partners
- 50% of her Indirect Activities served Harrison County
- 100% of programs in Harrison County were delivered in person.



ANR AND HHS PRESENTATION

Ariel and Tara had an educational presentation on “Farm to Label Buzzwords.” This activity highlighted how cross-program areas, such as ANR and HHS, can collaborate to showcase impactful programing. During the session, participants were presented with statements commonly seen on food labels, such as “cage-free” and “USDA organic” and asked to determine whether each statement was “fact” or “fiction.” The discussion helped clarify what these terms truly mean and how they can influence consumer perceptions. Ariel provided insight from the agriculture perspective, while Tara contributed from the health and wellness standpoint, offering a well-rounded explanation of how food labeling connects to farming practices, nutrition, and consumer choices.



4-H PRESENTATION

4-H members Lily Kintner, Paige Schmelz, Waylon Jones, Lucas Jones, Samuel Wiseman, and Issac Uhl gave a presentation on experiences that they have had in the 4-H program to show connection between how skills and programs that are learned in 4-H can be used in their everyday lives. Members discussed programs such as showing animals and exhibit hall projects and where they were able to gain valuable insights to take their knowledge even further.



ABOVE & BEYOND AWARD

The Above and Beyond Award recognizes someone who volunteers their time towards Purdue Extension Harrison County, participates and gives back in a variety of ways, and simply, goes Above and Beyond to make a positive impact in our community.

Lisa Uhl has been a volunteer in multiple capacities within Purdue Extension since 1981. She has been an Extension Board member for over 20 years and a 4-H volunteer for 46 years. She is currently the leader of the Tic Tac and Sew 4-H club, 4-H Junior Leaders, 4-H Foods Superintendent, member of the Finance Committee, and Secretary for the 4-H Council and Extension Board. Thank you Lisa for going above and beyond for Harrison County!



OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

This award recognizes an individual in our community that go above and beyond the call of duty at large for the impact of our community. This person may or may not be directly involved in Extension.

Mike Kruz currently serves as the Emergency Management Director for Harrison County. He serves as chairman of the board for 4:34 Ministries which operates the Macy House in Corydon. He has strengthened the EMA program in the county by updating emergency plans and procedures as well as working with local government agencies. Mike and his wife Misty have fostered 30 children over their years of marriage while raising 6 of their own children and 2 adopted. Thank you Mike for all that you do to not only Purdue Extension, but all of Harrison County!



FRIEND OF EXTENSION AWARD

The Friend of Extension Award recognizes someone in our community that has a long-standing, deeply-devoted, relationship with Purdue Extension Harrison County and its many initiatives.

Kristen Garwood resides in Mauckport on the last dairy farm in Harrison County. Her son, Samuel, is currently a 5th year 4-H member. She has spent 20 years as a 4-H volunteer, 15 years as dairy goat superintendent, and President of the livestock committee for 14 years. Kristen has helped over 100 kids show every type of dairy animal possible at the fair. Thank you Kristen for being a Friend of Harrison County Purdue Extension!





Thank you to all of our Award Recipients!

Congratulations to our evening's award recipients (left to right):

- Outstanding Service- Mike Kurz
- Friend of Extension- Kristen Garwood
- Above & Beyond- Lisa Uhl

Congratulations

With Appreciation

A very special thank you to our Extension Board— pictured to the right are those who were able to attend.

We also thank our County Officials in attendance: Nelson Stepro, Annisa Kellum, Brad Wiseman, Kyle Nix, and Jake Blackman.



EXTENSION BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

Each County Extension Program in Indiana is supported by the work of a County Extension Board, which provides guidance on the overall direction of programming and also advocacy for the work of Extension within the community.

We'd like to recognize and congratulate our new Extension Board members for Harrison County Purdue Extension.

- Allison Lewis
- Wanda Phillips



Extension - Harrison County

A special thank you to everyone who supports Purdue Extension and our mission as Indiana's educational partner for life— your support truly makes everything we do possible.



Extension - Harrison County

January, February, March 2026

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Accommodations

If you are in need of accommodations to attend a program or access this newsletter, please contact the Extension Office.

Harrison County Extension Inclement Weather Policy:

ALL Extension Activities (4-H events, adult workshops, meetings, classes, etc.) are cancelled when schools are closed due to inclement weather. This includes any events at the Extension Building, Harrison County Schools, etc. If the event is on the weekend, please contact the event host, or your club leader to confirm cancellation! We will do our best to share this information through Facebook posts and emails.