



October 2024

## Meet Your New Extension Educator



Hello! My name is Brittnee Bertram. I am so excited to be serving as your Henry County Agriculture and Natural Resources and 4-H Extension Educator! My involvement in 4-H is what led me to pursue a career in agriculture. Upon graduating from Shenandoah High School, I studied agronomy at Purdue University. While at Purdue I worked in the Agronomy department as an undergraduate teaching assistant and in the Weed Science department as an undergraduate research assistant. After graduating, I decided to go into a different area within agriculture and went into food manufacturing. I worked for Red Gold in the Corporate Quality group and was responsible for variety testing of the tomatoes in the harvest season. I also worked for Nestle in Anderson as a batch auditor. However, once I saw that the ANR/4-H Extension Educator position was available for Henry County, I decided I had to go for it! Being the ANR/4-H Extension Educator for Henry County has been a dream job for me. Outside of work, I enjoy running, hiking, and reading. I can't wait to work with you!

My contact info:

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Farmers work in acres not in hours.  
Thank you farmers for all you do!



## Local Events and Workshops

- **Memorial Park's Fall Fest** – October 19, 2024 in New Castle (Come see your extension educators!)
- **Wildlife Woes: Managing Pests in Your Backyard** – October 24, 2024 from 6 – 7 pm in Jay County
- **Green Your Space: Windowsill Gardening Made Easy** – November 7, 2024 from 6 – 7 pm in Jay County

## Upcoming PARPs/CCH Events

- November 7, 2024 – Allen County Nutrient Management Workshop
- November 13, 2024 – Wayne County Multi-Category Pesticide Training
- November 19, 2024 – Allen County Pesticide Applicator Workshop
- December 11, 2024 – Blackford County Multi-Category Pesticide Workshop
- December 16, 2024 – Hancock County Winter Conference PARP

## Purdue Extension Master Gardeners

Do you enjoy gardening and teaching others about horticulture? Do you have an interest in learning more about your garden and gaining new skills? Purdue Extension Master Gardeners Program trains gardening enthusiasts as volunteers to assist Purdue Extension with home horticulture education in Indiana communities. This program provides a learning framework for participants to increase their knowledge on a wide variety of horticultural subjects. Purdue Extension Master Gardener Program is all about “Helping Others Grow.” In 2023, there were over 2,700 active Purdue Extension Master Gardener Volunteers in Indiana! These volunteers contributed more than 168,000 volunteer hours, which is worth more than \$4.8 million. There were over 300 new interns in 2023. So far, in 2024, over 2,330 volunteers have volunteered 120,100 hours, which is worth more than \$3.6 million. As volunteers continue to log their hours, the number of volunteer hours will continue to grow! Our Henry County volunteers participate in the Henry County Farmers Market, community gardens, and library activities to help educate the community.

If you would like more information about Master Gardeners, reach out to Brittnee or go to [purdue.ag/master-gardener](http://purdue.ag/master-gardener).

Spring 2025 EMG Basic Training: March 3 – April 28, 2025 in Madison County

## How many PARP points do you have?

1. Go to [oisc.purdue.edu](http://oisc.purdue.edu)
2. Click on “My records” (gold bar)
3. Click on “Applicator log-in”
4. Enter your first and last name and the last 4 digits of your SSN.

\*\*Remember: Every 5 years you need to earn 3 points.

## Seed Saving Benefits

What is seed saving? Seed saving is harvesting the seeds from various plants to be used in a later season. Seed saving is enjoyed by many gardeners and homeowners. What are some of amazing benefits of seed savings?

1. Allows you to grow varieties that perform well in your area.
2. Allows you to save money, repurposing seed you have from current plants.
3. Allows gardeners and homeowners to select varieties with traits they desire.
4. Can be a educational experience for the whole family, learning about plant life cycles.

What are some plants/vegetables that are great to save seed from? Some beginner friendly seed saving plants would be: peppers, pumpkins, sunflowers, herbs, beans, hollyhocks, cosmos.

Featured article from Purdue:

- “Storing Leftover Garden Seed” by Rosie Lerner: [See the article here](#)

## ANR Advisory Committee

Please be on the lookout for an email communication from Brittnee. The ANR Advisory Committee will be meeting late 2024 or early 2025.



## Need more info from this Newsletter?

Reach out to Brittnee at [bbertram@purdue.edu](mailto:bbertram@purdue.edu) or call 765-529-5002.



# ROOTED AND RESILIENT:

## Homesteading Conference

GATHERING HOMESTEAD SKILLS FOR FAMILIES

**NOVEMBER 1 & 2, 2024**

COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

401 E DIAMOND STREET, KENDALLVILLE, INDIANA



Extension

### Friday, November 1

**Check-in**  
9AM

**Welcome**  
9:30AM

Hands-on Workshops to include:

- Cooking with Herbs & Spices
- Edible Flowers
- Pressure Canning Chicken and Making Bone Broth
- Intro to Beekeeping
- Farm Equipment and Animal Safety
- Poultry Processing
- Goat Milking and Husbandry
- Manure Utilization
- Farm Stress
- Farm to Yarn: Fiber and Natural Dyes
- Seed Saving and Storage
- Chainsaw Safety and Tree Felling
- Maple Syrup
- Ergonomic Tools with AgrAbility
- Tree Pruning

### Saturday, November 2

**Check-in**  
7:45AM

**Welcome**  
8AM

Hands-on Workshops to include:

#### **Kids' Track**

- Animal Dissection, Archery, Art with Natural Dyes, Dairy Foods and Ice Cream Making, Livestock Husbandry and Harvesting

#### **Homesteading 101: The Gateway Topics Homestead Security and Preparedness Foods**

- Sourdough Baking and Benefits, Dehydration, Making Pies from Scratch

#### **Animal Science**

- Large & Small Ruminant Livestock Management, Livestock Necropsy & Health Problems, Hay and Forages, Swine Management, Best Practices for Poultry Management

#### **Gardening/Soil Science**

- Gardening 101, Soil Sciences in the Garden, Starting Raised Beds from Scratch, Invasive Species, Tower Gardening, Composting/Organic Production, Small Fruit Production of Blackberries/Strawberries,

#### **Business/Economics**

- Bookkeeping/Finance Tracking, Insurance, Organic Labeling, Zoning/Land Planning Panel, NRCS Programs for Beginning Farmers

#### **Farmers Market - Value Added**

#### **Upcycled Denim**

#### **Veteran Farmer Panel**

### SESSION DETAILS & REGISTRATION:

<https://bit.ly/rootedconference2024>

