



Kosciusko County  
Purdue University  
Extension

# Highlights



Homemakers Newsletter

August - September 2024

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**Inserts:**

- Michigan City District Meeting
- Camp Elko First Timer Award
- Preserve It Now...Enjoy It Later

DeeAnna's  
**DEEP DISH**



**Welcome to the new extension year!** I am so happy to be your Co-President along with Judy Egolf. Judy has been a wonderful mentor and friend to me.

This year's theme is to *"Create Your Own Sunshine – and Be Happy!"*

Every hour of every day provides the opportunity to live out that theme. Because every hour also provides the chance for disappointment, anger, heartache, health scares, accidents, and plain old frustrations. Not one of us is exempt. All of us have stories of grief, pain, and challenging times.

But we do have choices. We can look for the good. Alternatively, if we keep looking for the bad – we will find it! It does not hide! So, break the destructive mental habit of looking for the bad and learn to look for the good, create your own sunshine, and be happy! There are monthly prompts in our club books for each of us individually and as a club to have our own deep "dish" (discussion).



Blessings!

DeeAnna Muraski, MBA  
*Executive Director*  
Operation Read USA, Inc.  
A literacy social services agency

Email me with suggestions, questions, or comments at:  
deanna@operationreadusa.org



**Extension Web Page**  
[www.extension.purdue.edu/county/kosciusko](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/county/kosciusko)

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Kosciusko County Indiana  
Extension Homemakers

**Kosciusko County**  
Extension Office  
202 W Main St  
Warsaw, In 46580  
574-372-2340

**Hours**

Monday thru Friday  
8:00am—4:30pm

**Please email all articles for the October/November newsletter to Tami at [graff8@purdue.edu](mailto:graff8@purdue.edu) by September 24, 2024.**

**Thank you!**

## Updates & Reminders

### August

- August 2-18 Indiana State Fair Indianapolis, In
- August 28 Lesson: Milk Alternatives by Shannon Shepherd Home & Family Arts Building

### September

- September 9-10 Camp Elko at Camp Mack Milford, In
- September 25 Lesson: Cleaning the Kitchen by Karen Richey Home & Family Arts Building
- September 25 Presidents' Council Home & Family Arts Building

### Reminders

- All Lessons begin at Noon
- To register for a Lesson, call the Purdue Extension Office at 574.372.2340
- All President's Council Meetings begin at 1:15pm, no lunch is provided

## Alice Keirn: A Trailblazer as Grand Marshal of the Kosciusko County Fair Parade



In a celebration of community spirit and achievement, Alice Keirn was selected as the Grand Marshal for the 2024 Kosciusko County Fair Annual Parade—an honor that recognizes not only her personal achievements but also her profound impact on our community.

As Grand Marshal, Alice Keirn led the parade with grace and dignity, riding in a 1968 red Chevy Impala, along with her family: her son, daughter-in-law, granddaughter and great-grandson. She symbolizes the strength and unity of our community. Her presence inspires generations, showcasing the importance of service and the impact one individual can have on the collective spirit of a town.

We are proud to have Alice as part of our program, knowing that her presence elevates our efforts and reinforces our shared values. Her dedication to making our community a better place resonates deeply with everyone she encounters, fostering a sense of pride and unity that strengthens our collective resolve.

As we continue to work towards a brighter future, guided by Alice's example, we are reminded of the importance of embracing diversity, fostering compassion, and nurturing leadership at every level. Together, we celebrate Alice—not just for her accomplishments, but for the enduring legacy she continues to build within our community.

# Congratulations!





A big “THANK YOU” goes out to all the clubs for supporting the Raffle by buying tickets, donating items to be raffled and manning the Raffle table at the fair. This year we had 11 items (the most ever) to be raffled. The amount

raised by the Clubs was \$912.00 and Ticket sales at the Fair was \$531.00 making the total amount \$1443.00 a little less than last year, but we have one less club than last year and we also had rain on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Atwood Home Study, Clunette Crossroads and Tippecanoe Township sold all of the tickets given to them.

The **QUILT** pieced by Sue Martin and quilted by Geneva Veasley was won by Karen Meister! The **RUG** donated by Kathy Schlipf was won by Corliss Rink. The **RAIN GAUGE/THERMOMETER** which had many tickets in it’s box, went home with Jane McGuire. Ann Kline won the **DOLL CLOTHES** made by Marsha Miller. Ann has a young Granddaughter who might fit in the clothes and if they don’t fit she will have clothes for a doll. Nancy Walls was very happy to win the **SCARF** knitted by Beverly Earnhart, she said it was some of her favorite colors. The 2 sided **WELCOME SIGN** made by Sue Martin was won by Connie Himes. Lucky Maureen Mauzy won the **BASKET** donated by Tippecanoe Township Extension Homemakers and the **CHRISTMAS KEEPSAKE** donated by the Atwood Home Study Club. Carl Lauster, who also was a winner last year, won the Kitchen items donated by Alice Keirn. The **CROCHETED THROW** made by Merdena Lister went home with Sally Lawlor. The **QUILTED TABLE RUNNER** from the Better Homes Club was won by Scott Wallis.

It’s never too early to start thinking about what you could donate to the raffle for next year!

Submitted by: Alice Keirn

Committee Personnel and Volunteers and Tech Savey persons

**Holiday Program** – Clubs have volunteered to prepare morning snacks and lunch, but we need ideas and people to present the program. What would you like to learn about and what hands-on projects would you like to do as we prepare for the holidays? Please send you suggestions and perhaps what you would like to volunteer to present to DeeAnna and she will coordinate suggestions etc. with Rural Neighbors and Better Homes and anyone else who like to volunteer.

**Homemakers Web Site**- Tami Graff has very graciously volunteered to create a website for the Homemakers that would be a part of the Kosciusko Extension Website therefore there would be no charge/cost. However, we need to know **WHAT** do we want on the site. What do you want the rest of the world to know about Kosciusko Extension Homemakers and why would they want to join us? You folks who are much more technologically knowledgeable than I please make suggestions as to how the site could be effective. Every member, including mailbox members, what would you like to see on this site. Send those ideas to Judy Egolf, DeeAnna Muraski and Tami Graff, [graff8@purdue.ext](mailto:graff8@purdue.ext) Tami will work on this project from now until the first of October when 4-H activities gear up.

Anyone who has a hobby, creative craft, new sewing techniques, food preservation ideas, entertaining ideas etc. would like to share with others in a class or other activity we are looking for all kinds of suggestions. Again, send those ideas to Judy or DeeAnna.

### Wanted a Vice President

Submitted by: Judy Egolf

*“Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”*  
~Martin Luther King, Jr.~

# INDIANA STATE CONFERENCE



Left to Right: DeeAnna Muraski, Bev Earnhart, Ruth Dilling, Sue Martin, Judy Egolf

The Indiana Extension Homemakers Association (IEHA) held its 110th annual home and family conference from June 10 to 12, 2024, at the Embassy Suites by Hilton at the Noblesville Conference Center.

Ruth Dilling was attending as our County First Timer and I, DeeAnna Muraski, was attending as our Michigan City District First Timer. Judy Egolf had invited me to room with her and she was a wonderful roommate! I was very appreciative to have Judy's guidance on where to go, what to do, etc. since there was so much going on!

We started the conference Monday June 10 opting to do the "Day on the Town." This involved getting a behind the scenes tour of the **Center for Performing Arts** (they pipe the heating and cooling individually to each chair in order to cut down on the noise that blowers would emit!). Directly after that we toured the **Great American Songbook** led by the Executive Director of the non-profit. They work to curate, maintain and preserve our musical culture. I was delighted to hear that Michael Feinstein was the founder – he is an amazing pianist! You can visit them at: <https://thesongbook.org/> to see more. We got to share a meal together in the Arts District and sample some sweet treats!

Tuesday started with a wonderful full breakfast (and necessary coffee!) – even a made-to-order egg scramble with chef. Felt decadent not having to make anything or cook anything for a change! The **annual business meeting** was held at 9am in the main conference space. One look around the very full conference hall made you realize IEHA is still a **very powerful and large organization!** So many amazing ladies! Because I was wearing a first timer badge, I had many people come up to me during the event to welcome me, ask for feedback, and make sure I was having a good time.



Bing Crosby's touring case. His original iconic pipe and hat are on the table at the top left.



## Indiana State Conference, Continued

For each of the main events and meals they had a First Timer table so we could get to know others. I was inspired by a young lady who was encouraged to start her own club and already have 30 steady members!

She had a sweet Kentucky accent so that might have been the **draw!**... (ba da bing! Lol!). I enjoyed getting to share the meal with her at the First Timer session.

There were many different break-out sessions to choose from, and sometimes it was difficult to choose because they all looked interesting. Throughout the conference, there were opportunities to pick up logo materials (Judy picked up a t-shirt with the new theme on it!), tons of silent auction baskets, club displays, vendors, and voting on the cultural arts exhibits.

There will be many more pictures and stories I will share during the district



ABOVE: First Timer who created a club with 30 members already!



LEFT: Gorgeous, unique blue-toned table runner which won for state.



conference – so make sure you sign up to attend the district conference! I highly recommend attending the conference. There were some ladies I met who had attended for YEARS and were wearing a sash bearing the logo pin for each year! Sue Martin commented that she enjoyed having time away from domestic obligations and being able to connect with the ladies in our club and others around the state. I would love to see you at next year's conference because I am definitely attending again!



ABOVE: Outgoing officers and incoming installation of officers. MIDDLE: In red, incoming President Linda Carunchia (She is a corker! You will love her!)

Submitted by: DeeAnna Muraski

## Fair Wrap-Up

Another fair has come and gone, and thanks to all our faithful volunteers it was another success. The new entry procedure went smoothly and with a few tweaks it will work even better next year. By working with exhibitor numbers rather than names only, we were able to have the judges comment sheets collated and ready for pick-up by Sunday late afternoon - earlier than ever before. Using numbers meant we spent much less time shuffling papers, and we finished the job with few headaches. The new entry procedure also gave us interesting data that we didn't have before. Here are a few numbers: the total number of exhibits was 764, up from 686 last year. While the Crafts Department numbers were down by 37 entries, that was made up for by increases in several other departments. Most notable were Quilts up by 23 entries, Agriculture up by 26 entries, and Photography up by 36 entries (that's double the number of photos entered last year). Other departments had smaller increases or remained nearly the same as last year. A heavy focus for us this year was trying to encourage non-extension homemaker members to exhibit. The new entry procedure allowed us to track that data as well. These 764 entries were made by 187 exhibitors—more than I anticipated. Of those 187 exhibitors, 138 were not extension homemakers, another surprise! It seems our community is much more involved than I thought, and something we hope will grow in coming years.

Fair awards were presented along with the raffle drawing since we will not have an achievement night this year. The traditional awards were presented, and we added a community award. Herscher Club was the winner of the \$50 check for the club with the highest average number of entries per member (5.9), and a \$20 cash award for the club with the most entries (41). Lee Ann Jaeger was again the individual member with the most entries (32) and received a \$20 cash award. The non-extension homemaker with the most entries was Chris Jinks (30) who also received a \$20 cash award. A recent generous donation made these cash awards possible, something we have not been able to do in the past. Congratulations to all the winners!

Our clubs were very generous this year, and we had eight baskets available for the silent auction this year. This is more than we have had in the past. All together we raised \$675 to help with our scholarships and to help fund the activities of the Home and Family Arts Building. Thank you so much to all who assembled and donated these baskets. You are much appreciated!

Once again, thank you to everyone who gave their time to hostess in the building, those who worked on entry/judging day, those who provided snacks and lunch that day, everyone who exhibited their works of art and anyone who had any other part in making the fair a success. Providing for these open class exhibits is a huge job and could not happen without each and every one of you. "Thank you" doesn't seem an adequate expression, but I can't think of another way to say it. So - THANK YOU!!!!!!

Submitted by: Sue Martin

## Camp Elko

Laughter is good for your soul and your health. Come join the laughter at this 2-day overnight retreat on the lovely shores of Waubee Lake at Camp Mack, Milford IN. September 9-10, 2024. Each of you received complete information and a registration form earlier in July. Check it out and join campers from Elkhart, Marshall, St. Joseph and Kosciusko counties and anyone else who would like to join in the fun. Relax, no cooking or dishwashing, nothing to do but learn, visit with old friends and new friends, have fun, eat great food and take time to refresh your soul.

Never been to Camp Elko and would like to attend? There is a first timer scholarship available in this newsletter and the winner will receive the full-time camping fee. Good Luck to all the applicants.

Submitted by: Judy Egolf

# 2024-25 EDUCATIONAL LESSONS



All educational lessons will be held at the Home & Family Arts Building at the Kosciusko County Fairgrounds.

All lessons will begin at Noon.

To register for these lessons, call the Extension Office at 574.372.2340.

August 28, 2024  
Milk Alternatives  
presented by Shannon Shepherd

September 25, 2024  
Cleaning the Kitchen  
presented by Karen Richey

October 23, 2024  
Reverse Mortgages  
presented by Shannon Shepherd

November 20, 2024  
Effective Communication  
presented by Shannon Shepherd

No lesson in December

January 22, 2025  
Mediterranean Diet Part 1  
presented by Karen Richey

February 26, 2025  
Mediterranean Diet Part 2  
presented by Karen Richey

March 26, 2025  
Vitamin Wisdom for Vital Aging  
presented by Chrissie Lai

April 23, 2025  
Small Container Gardening  
presented by Emily Kresca

May 28, 2025  
Keeping Track of your Medical Information  
presented by Annetta Jones

## Date Corrections for Your Program Book

Please update your Program Book with the following corrected dates. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

- November 20, 2024 Lesson: Effective Communication
- November 20, 2024 Presidents' Council
- April 15 & 16, 2025 Ag Days
- 4-H Fish Fry/Bake Sale-TBD

These dates are the correct dates for Highlights Mailer:

- August 6, 2024
- October 1, 2024
- December 3, 2024
- February 4, 2025
- April 1, 2025
- June 3, 2025

## Extension Office Closed



The Extension Office will be closed Wednesday, September 4, 2024 in observance of Labor Day. Please plan your visit to the office accordingly. We wish you all a most Happy Labor Day!

## 2024-25 Kosciusko County Extension Homemakers Officers

TITLE	ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>Co-President</b>			
Judy Egolf and Past President	3613 W Old Rd 30, Warsaw IN 46580	574-267-2226 or 574-551-5226	judyegolf@embarqmail.com
DeeAnna Muraski	4431 E. 600 S Warsaw, IN 46580	574-527-0065	deeanna@operationreadusa.org
<b>Vice-President</b>			
Currently vacant	<b>Volunteering is a beautiful thing! We need YOU!</b>		
<b>Secretary</b>			
Marsha Miller	9120 W 125 N, Etna Green IN 46524	574-858-2104 or 574-265-6562	marshamiller65@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer</b>			
Ruth Dilling, Treasurer	3418 N Old Farm Rd E, Warsaw IN 46582	574-527-3011	Rdilling23@gmail.com
Rita Irwin, Asst Treasurer	3053 N 650 W, Warsaw, IN 46582	574-527-6649	irwinwr@frontier.com



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## Meet the County Extension Staff



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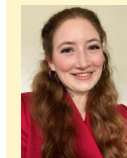
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**Open Position**  
ANR/HHS  
Administrative  
Assistant

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