



Kosciusko County  
Purdue University Extension

# Highlights



Homemakers Newsletter

August 2025 - September 2025

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

## Follow Us On



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



As summer shines on, I am reminded how much we have already grown together this year—through laughter shared at the fair, lessons learned, and the friendships that continue to deepen across our clubs.

Our theme, **Grow: Mind, Body & Spirit**, was in full bloom at the fair this year. From the creative raffle baskets and incredible displays to the celebration of our Lifetime Achievement Award winner, it was clear: the roots we have planted in this community are strong and far-reaching. Thank you to everyone who helped make the fair a success—it truly takes a village.

Looking ahead, I hope you will join us for Camp Elko, where we will continue growing in all three areas—mind, body, and spirit—through hands-on fun, learning, and camaraderie. Be sure to check the newsletter for lesson dates and upcoming events you will not want to miss.



As we grow, we also need new gardeners! We are still seeking someone to serve as **Vice President this year** and a **Fair Director for next year**. If you have been thinking about how you can give back or take that next step in leadership, this is your moment. Do not underestimate the impact you can have.

Together, let us keep growing—in knowledge, in service, and in joy.



**DeeAnna Muraski, MBA**

Kosciusko County Extension Homemakers President  
Executive Director  
Operation Read USA, Inc.  
A literacy social services non-profit agency



## Mark Your Calendar :

### Thursday July 24, 2025

#### **Highlight Mailers prepared for mailing**

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Extension Office

Club: Chit Chat

### Wednesday, September 3, 2025

#### **Extension Board Meeting**

Time: 9:30AM

Location: Martin's Upstairs Loft

Future dates: Wed Nov 05, Wed Jan 14,

Wed Mar 04, Wed May 06, Wed Jun 24



### Upcoming Lessons:

- Aug 27, 2025 9:00am Mediterranean Diet Part I (repeat)
- Aug 27, 2025 12:00pm Mediterranean Diet Session 3
- Sept 24, 2025 11:00am Mediterranean Diet Session 4 and 5
- Nov 19, 2025 12:00pm Preparing for Emergencies

### Coming Up:

- October 7 Michigan City District Conference – Lake County
- October 20-24 IEHA Week

### Upcoming Community Events: All events are free to attend, purchases may be available on-site.

August 1 - North Webster town park beach, Music in the Park: Roustabout 7p

August 8 - Warsaw Summer Concert Series, Central Park Plaza: Lake Area Community Band 7p

August 8 - North Webster town park beach, Music in the Park: Old Man Band 7p

August 9 - Village at Winona Sidewalk Sale 10a-6p

August 9 - Feria Guadalupana, 225 Gilliam Dr. Warsaw 10a-9p

August 15 - Warsaw Summer Concert Series, Central Park Pavilion: Tege Holt & The Lonesome Pines 7p

August 15 - North Webster town park beach, Music in the Park: Lake Area Community Band 7p

August 22 - North Webster town park beach, Music in the Park: Chain O' Lakes Chorus 7p

August 23 - Canal Days Winona Lake 10a-6p

August 23 - Heirloom Tomato Festival in Pierceton 10a-4p

August 29 - North Webster town park beach, Music in the Park: Old Dogs New Tricks 7p

September 13 - Family Safety Day, Central Park in Warsaw 9a-12p

September 19 - Taste of Kosciusko, Downtown Warsaw (free entry, food tickets \$2 each) 5p-8p

September 20 - Celebrating Us Festival, Downtown Warsaw 4p-8p

September 20 - Kosciusko Kettleheads Homebrew Fest, Downtown Warsaw (ticket sales) 5p-9p

**Famer's Market** Miller Sunset Pavilion in Winona every Saturday 8a-1p, May 3 through October 25

**Farmer's and Artisan Market** Downtown Warsaw every Saturday 9a-1p and Wednesdays 4:30p-6:30p in the City Building Plaza, May 3 through September 27

**Farmer's Market** Kosciusko County Fairgrounds in west parking lot on Mondays and Wednesdays 2p-5:30p and Saturdays 8a-12p, May 3 through November 1

**Farmer's Market** at the Lions Club Festival Grounds in North Webster, 2nd Saturdays 8a-1p, June 14 through October 11

**Farmer's and Artisan's Market** Veteran's Memorial Park at Crosson Mill in Syracuse every Saturday 9a-1p May 17 through August 30

## Say “I do!” to Leadership

We are currently looking for a couple people to say “*I do!*” to two important (but very manageable) roles within our county Extension Homemakers family:



### County Vice President (President-in-Training!)

This is the perfect step for someone who enjoys organizing and supporting others—and wants to grow into the President role *with help and encouragement along the way!*

#### Sample duties include:

- Helping plan and lead county meetings
- Attending board meetings (approximately 6 per year)
- Helping with President Council/Homemakers Roundtable meetings
- Learning the ropes from the current Board

Bringing ideas for lessons, speakers, and outreach No experience needed—just a willing spirit and a heart for service!

### Fair Director (for 2026 Fair)

If you enjoy fair week and want to help keep it fun and smooth, this role is for you!

#### Sample duties include:

- Helping coordinate our Extension Homemakers Home & Family Arts building - booth and displays
- Supporting the raffle or featured fair projects
- Working with other members to staff the booth or schedule shifts
- Coordinating judges for each department

Confirming Department Heads for each category You will have support from past Fair Directors and the board—it is not a one-person job!

If you are interested or even just *thinking about it*, reach out to DeeAnna Muraski. We will answer questions, cheer you on, and be right there with you!

## Holiday Program

Currently, Sally Lawlor, Carol Droke, and Clunette Crossroads signed up to work on the holiday program. If you are interested in helping with this program, which will happen in November, please contact Sally, Carol or Libby Albert (Clunette President). Sally: [Thejagger@comcast.net](mailto:Thejagger@comcast.net) 574-306-8527 or Carol: [droke.carold@yahoo.com](mailto:droke.carold@yahoo.com) 574-265-1072 or Libby: [libxango@gmail.com](mailto:libxango@gmail.com) 574-551-0759.

### Holiday Program Helpers – Thank You!

We are grateful to share that **three clubs have volunteered to help with both the breakfast and lunch for the Holiday Program: Atwood Home Study, Chit Chat, and Tippecanoe Township.**

A big thank-you to their Presidents—**Dawn Harris, Ann Kline, and Robin Shafer**—for their club’s willingness to serve. If you would like to connect with one another to coordinate plans or decide how to divide responsibilities (or even defer to one another), feel free to reach out and decide what works best for your clubs.

Your support makes events like this possible—and memorable!





## Lifetime Achievement Award



Community service and always thinking of others is what comes to mind when we think of Marvene Johnson. From being involved in 4-H for 10 years, being a junior leader and as a young person becoming the 4-H leader. Always taking on the challenges of leadership and how to best get others involved to become their best and how they could serve the community. As a young married couple, they both used their skills and talents to develop a home-based business of making crafts, banners and plaques. Some of you may have rewards made by this person, or decor items for your home or the holidays.

She also became an Extension Homemaker and helped to lead her club to be involved in many projects to benefit her club activities as well as developing and creating many county functions. Her club made many, many fleece blankets, for the Lutheran Lights program for the Lutheran Hospital in Ft. Wayne, and stuffed distributed bags for the Taste of Ag for many years. She and Joanie Younce collaborated to serve lunches to those who volunteered to present programs for Ag. Days, a project that continues to this day. She and her husband for many years chaired the very successful 4-H Fish Fry.

From serving on the county extension board, being county president of the Extension Homemakers, Superintendent of Crafts Department for Open Class at the county fair and presenting many programs for the Holiday Program this person has impacted many lives for the positive and the good of her community. This year's Lifetime Achievement is presented to Marvene Johnson.

By Marsha Miller



## 2025 Quilt Raffle Results

A big “thank you” goes out to everyone who help with this year raffle, by buying tickets, donating items to be raffled, helping with the set up, manning the Raffle table and helping with tear down of the display. I could not have done this without your help. There were 12 items in the raffle, 1 more than last year. The amount raised by the clubs was \$805.00 and the tickets sales at the fair was \$451.00 making the total amount \$1256.00.

The winner of the beautiful TREE’S UP, LIGHTS ON QUILT pieced by Sue Martin and quilted by Geneva Veasley was won by Linda Young. Thank you Sue and Geneva! The GARDEN ANGEL, donated by the Chit Chat club, which had many tickets in it’s box, was won by Peggy Beck. Marsha Miller’s PLACEMATS went home with Martha Whetstone. Jan Godshalk’s hand made GREETING CARDS were won by Alice Keirn. The crocheted LAP THROW donated by Merdena Lister was won by Phillip Whetstone. He told me he was going to give it to his Mother for her birthday! Sue Martin’s FALL WALL HANGING will be hanging on Carrie Zemanek’s wall. The WHITE WALL PLAQUE



made by Sue Martin will be on Rita Irwin’s wall and the BLACK WALL PLAQUE also made by Sue went home with Christine Coffing. The WOVEN RUG made by Kathy Schlipf was won by Diane Tiede. The family of Lynn Gross will be enjoying a FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT with the things found in the basket furnished by Alice Keirn. Connie Fribley won the EASTER BUNNY WALL HANGING made by Sandy Wise and the DOOR WELCOME MAT donated by Marvene Johnson will be welcoming people at Sue Martin’s door.

If you have something you would like to donate to the raffle at the 2026 fair, please let me know!!

By Alice Keirn



## 2025 Fair Wrap-Up

The Kosciusko County Community Fair for 2025 is officially behind us. Our number of exhibitors, entries, and visitors to the building were all down. I think the close proximity of the Fourth of July holiday played a significant role in that situation. We had 156 exhibitors, down from 187 last year, and they entered 597 items, down from 764 last year. This is a significant drop, but even though the building looked rather empty, our fantastic department superintendents made their areas neat, clean, open, and inviting. The building looked great, and we heard many positive comments. For the past couple of years we've partnered with the Leesburg Lions Club to give out ice cream coupons to those who take our little "quiz". This year we tested fair goers on their knowledge of Kosciusko County. Some thought the questions were hard, and others thought they weren't so bad, but everyone seemed to enjoy the challenge. And I'm sure they enjoyed the delicious ice cream. So, all in all, this year's fair was a very enjoyable event.

Fair awards were again presented on Friday evening, along with the raffle drawing. For the second year in a row, we presented an award to the exhibitor with the most entries who is not an extension homemaker, as well as the traditional awards. Herscher Club was the winner of the \$50 check for the club with the highest average number of entries per member (7.8), and certificates were given for second (M&M's, 5.1) and third (Atwood Home Study, 2.1). Awards for the clubs with the most entries were given to M&M's (51 entries, \$20 cash award), Herscher Club (47 entries), and Atwood Home Study (31 entries). This year's extension homemaker reporting the most entries and earning a \$20 cash award was Connie Fibley with 26 entries. June Thomas Swanson was second with 22 entries, and Darlene Lash was third with 17. The non-extension homemaker with the most entries was Cynthia Bartley (14) who also received a \$20 cash award. Congratulations to all the winners!

We raised \$350 through the silent auction this year. The three baskets, donated by Rural Neighbors, M&M's, and Clunette Crossroads, generated a lot of interest, and the number of bids was very encouraging. The silent auction is important because it contributes to the maintenance and activities of the Home and Family Arts Building as well as helping to fund our scholarships. Thank you so much to those who assembled and donated these baskets. You are much appreciated!

By Sue Martin

## "My Quilt"



My Mother gave me this quilt kit sometime in the 1980's. Back then, I was a busy mom with children at home and didn't have much time for it. Every now and then I'd pick it up and work on the cross-stitching, but progress was slow.

At the time, we were living in Marana, Arizona. I had a good friend named Thelma and together we took some quilting classes. Thelma went on to become a master quilter-but I didn't quite follow in her footsteps!

In 1994, I went through a divorce and moved back to Indiana. I don't remember touching the quilt at all during those years.

In 1997, I remarried and was busy with a full-time job, so again the quilt sat unfinished. When my husband and I retired in 2007, we began spending our winters back in Arizona. I re-

connected with Thelma, and one day she asked me about the old quilt. I told her I still had it but wasn't sure what to do with it. She insisted: "You need to finish that quilt!" With her encouragement, I finally got serious about it. And on February 13, 2014, after decades of starts and stops, I finished it at last.

My only regret is that my Mother never got to see it completed.

By Aimee Ross



## Photos from 2025 Open Class Fair





## Dates to Remember



September 17 - Newsletter items due  
September 24 - Highlights Mailers

November 19 - Newsletter items due  
November 26 - Highlights Mailers

The Extension Office will be closed:

- 07/25/2025
- 09/01/2025

## Program Book Corrections

On page 4 of the Extension program book, the emails for Cathi Zdenek and Sue Martin were incorrect. They should be as follows respectively: czcindrich@gmail.com and

martinsue822@gmail.com

On page 7 Public Relations should be Alice Keirn as she has requested to remain as PR.



## 2024-2025 Kosciusko County Extension Homemakers Officers

COUNTY EXTENSION HOMEMAKER OFFICERS 2025 - 2026			
TITLE	ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL
President			
DeeAnna Muraski	4431 E. 600 S Warsaw, IN 46580	574-527-0065	deeanna@operationreadusa.org
Vice-President			
Vacant	Volunteering helps you grow! We need YOU!		
Secretary			
Marsha Miller	9120 W 125 N Etna Green IN 46524	574-858-2104 574-265-6562	marshamiller65@gmail.com
Treasurer			
Cathi Zdenek	2310 S Southwood Dr Warsaw IN 46580	574-527-3785	czcindrich@gmail.com
Assistant Treasurer			
Sue Martin	3380 N Old Farm Warsaw, IN 46582	574-202-0938	martinsue822@gmail.com
Past President			
Judy Egolf	3613 W Old Rd 30 Warsaw IN 46580	574-267-2226 574-551-5226	egolfjudy@gmail.com



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Meet the County Extension Staff



**Emily Kresca**

- Agriculture & Natural Resource Educator
- Interim 4-H Youth Development Educator
- Co-County Extension Director
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**Shannon Shepherd**

- Health & Human Services Educator
- Interim 4-H Youth Development Educator
- Co-County Extension Director
- shephe62@purdue.edu



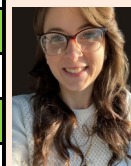
**Caroline Arnett**

- County Wellness Coordinator
- arnettc@purdue.edu



**Tami Graff**

- 4-H Administrative Assistant
- Office Manager
- graff8@purdue



**Jenna Hankinson**

- ANR/HHS Administrative Assistant
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