



Kosciusko County
Purdue University Extension

Highlights

WAS THE
SUMMER
OF '25

Homemakers Newsletter

June 2025 - July 2025

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Long Live the Homemakers!

Dear Extension Homemaker Friends, It is with great excitement and gratitude that I take up the royal reins as your 2025–2026 County President! After serving as County Vice President and then County Co-President, I am thrilled to continue this journey with all of you—my loyal court of capable, caring, and creative homemakers!

Lately, you may have heard whispers—rumors, even—that Extension Homemakers is “dying out.” I am here to tell you **that is simply not true!** At a recent District Meeting, our bubbly and ever-encouraging **State President, Linda Carunchia**, reminded us that **IEHA is not just alive—it is thriving!** She shared a heartwarming story of a brand-new club formed inside a nursing home. The members’ dues were sponsored, and their enthusiasm lit up the room. Growth looks different everywhere—but it is happening!

Let us not forget: **Indiana Extension Homemakers Association is part of a statewide, national, and international network.** We are not going anywhere. While we value our partnership with our Purdue Extension, our organization stands strong on its own.

This year’s State theme is: **“Planting Seeds That Grow Forever.”** What a powerful reminder that the work we do—whether through service, friendship, or education—creates ripples for generations.

Building on that, our **County** theme is: **“GROW: Together in Mind, Body, and Spirit.”**

This year, we will focus on how we can grow:

- **Mentally** – through learning, discussion, and skill-building.
- **Physically** – through wellness, activity, and nourishing habits.
- **Socially and Spiritually** – by uplifting one another, welcoming new members, and strengthening each club and our county as a whole.

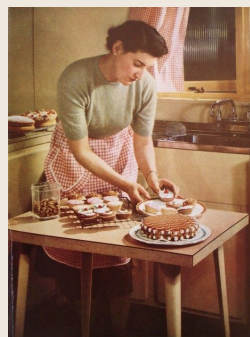


In that spirit, our previously named President’s Council meetings **will be open to all members which includes Mailbox Members!** These are now known as **Homemaker’s Roundtable** – it might take us a bit to remember but will help our brains grow!! We still ask that at least one representative from each club attend, but the more the merrier! These gatherings will be about fellowship, direct communication, and the joy of being together. (And yes—I will personally provide the coffee and cookies. Queens should be hospitable, after all!). Everything else will stay the same, just name change and attendees: **YOU!**

So let us be clear: **we are not disbanding—we are building.** We are not fading—we are **flourishing.** Our purpose, our history, and our potential are too important to let go. We are planting seeds of leadership, laughter, and legacy—together. So bring a friend. Invite a neighbor. Let us GROW together—in wisdom, strength, and joy.

DeeAnna Muraski, MBA

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



Extension Web Page
www.extension.purdue.edu/county/kosciusko

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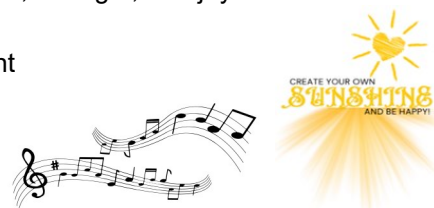


Kosciusko County
Indiana Extension
Homemakers

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

Hours

Monday thru Friday
8:00am—4:30pm



Mark Your Calendar :

Wednesday May 28, 2025

- **Lesson: Keeping track of your medical information by Annetta Jones**
Time: 12:00-1:00 PM
Location: Home and Family Arts Building
- **President's Council/Homemakers Roundtable**
Time: 1:15 PM
Location: Home and Family Arts Building
Assignments:
 - Pledge & Creed: Better Homes
 - Thought for the Day: Herscher Extension Homemakers
 - Highlight Mailers: Tippecanoe Township
 - New program books handed out
 - Alice Keirn will have Quilt Tickets at roundtable meeting

Friday May 30, 2025

- Highlights mailers prepared by Tippecanoe Township

Wednesday June 25, 2025

- Extension Board Meeting
Time: 9:30AM
Location: Martin's Upstairs Loft

July 06 – 12, 2025

- Kosciusko County Community Fair

Wednesday July 16, 2025

- Newsletter Items due

Thursday July 31, 2025

- Highlights mailers prepared

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



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

June 4 Community Paddle Boarding & Canoeing at Pike Lake Beach-Warsaw 11AM-5PM

June 5-7 Mentone Egg Festival - Mentone, IN

June 6 Summer Concert Series, Chris Golden (Country Gospel), Center Park Plaza-Warsaw 7PM

June 7-8 Village at Winona Art Fair (700 Park Avenue) Saturday 10AM-5PM, Sunday 11AM-4PM

June 13 Summer Concert Series, The DeeBee's, Jimmy Buffett Night, Lucerne Park Amphitheater, Warsaw 7PM

June 16 Community Paddle Boarding & Canoeing at Pike Lake Beach-Warsaw 11AM—5PM

June 17 Summer Concert Series, Ok Boomer Band, Lucerne Park Amphitheater, Warsaw 7PM

June 18-21 Mermaid Festival in North Webster (June 18 - Kickoff 5PM, Cutie Parade 6:30PM)

June 20 Downtown Warsaw, 3rd Friday Main Street festival

June 20 Rockin' For Riley Concert, Center Park Glover Pavilion, Warsaw. Recess, starts at 6:30PM, Steve Adler of Guns N' Roses at 8PM

June 28 Community Paddle Boarding & Canoeing at Pike Lake Beach-Warsaw 9AM-3PM

June 28 Salute to America Concert (Wagon Wheel Symphony) at Winona Lake Park 8PM

June 28 Fireworks Festival – The Village at Winona

June 29 Patriotic Pops Concert (Fort Wayne Philharmonic Orchestra), Oakwood Resort lawn, Syracuse 7:30 PM-9PM

July 2 Community Paddle Boarding & Canoeing at Pike Lake Beach-Warsaw 11AM-5PM

July 6-12 Kosciusko County Fair

July 11 Summer Concert Series, Seymour, John Mellencamp night, Central Park Plaza, Warsaw 7PM

July 18 Downtown Warsaw, 3rd Friday Main Street festival

July 18 Country Concert for St. Jude, Central Park Glover Pavilion, Warsaw Confederate Railroad at 7PM
Kentucky Headhunters at 8:30PM

July 25 Summer Concert Series, The Resurrection Blues Band, Lucerne Park Amphitheater, Warsaw 7PM

July 26 Community Paddle Boarding & Canoeing at Pike Lake Beach - Warsaw 9AM-3PM

July 26 Dixie Day Festival – North Webster 9AM– 4PM

July 26 Village Jazz Festival – Rodeheaver Auditorium, Winona Lake 11:30AM-4PM

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

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

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

2025 District Meeting



Our spring District Conference was held at the St. Joseph County 4-H Fairgrounds with attendees Marsha Miller, Sue Martin, Alice Keirn, Judy Egolf, and DeeAnna Muraski representing our county. Current County Presidents had the opportunity to meet incoming District President Cathy Wilkymacky, a retired children's librarian. DeeAnna proudly led the Pledge, and the Treasurer's Report by Brenda Mestach reflected a healthy balance of \$2,046.89.

The group learned about *A Rosie Place for Children*, a cause we supported with both tangible and monetary donations. A highlight of the day was a lively and practical session with Kristen Sharpe of Sharpe Realty on "How to Declutter Your House." Her best advice? Start with an *area*, not your whole house. Begin with easy

items to avoid analysis paralysis—and absolutely do *not* start with photo albums! Kristen also reminded us that "your kids do *not* want your stuff." Do not guilt them into taking it—give them an out, set a deadline, and if they do not claim it, feel free to let it go!

A delicious potato bar lunch was enjoyed alongside entertainment from the Prairie Bells hand chorus. State President Linda Carunchia inspired attendees with updates on IEHA's growth, including the launch of 10 new charter clubs—one of which began in a nursing home thanks to sponsored memberships. The facility recognized the importance of keeping residents socially engaged, and every interested member had their fees covered. Inspiring indeed!

Looking Ahead to Fair 2025

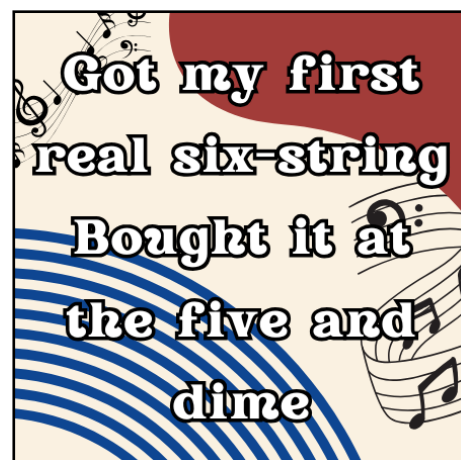
Fair Time is Coming - Are you working on your fair entries for this summer? It'll be here sooner than you think! We are hoping for a good number of beautiful and interesting entries in spite of the inconvenient timing. We have scheduled the Superintendent's meeting for June 18 at 1:00 at the Home and Family Arts building, and things will progress quickly after that. Building cleaning and set-up is still undecided and will need to be worked out with 4H. Timing may be tight, and I'm sure we will be able to use all the help we can get. Speaking of help, workers are needed for check-in and judging as well. Some of those who have helped for many years are unavailable this year, so we could use some replacements. If you are interested and available to help on Saturday, July 5, please let me know.

Building hostess assignments have been given to the club presidents. As you know, we have lost a club this year. Knitting Together has decided to withdraw from Kosciusko County Extension Homemakers, so that means we are another club short for helpers. Other clubs will be picking up the slack, but if any mailbox members would be willing to help hostess, please let me know. You will be provided with an entry ticket to the fairgrounds in exchange for your hostessing talents.

Five baskets have been promised for this year's silent auction – just the perfect number. Thanks so much to those who have provided these baskets. You can bring them to the Home and Family Arts Building during check-in time on July 5. If that's not convenient, please contact me and I will make other arrangements.

So far no one has expressed any interest in taking over for Robin and me as next year's Director and Assistant Director. But it's not too late! Lots of details are still to be settled, and it would be wonderful for our replacements to work with us in these last weeks before the fair. Please volunteer. The future of open class exhibits depends on finding our replacements. Thanks so much for all you do in making the open class exhibits a success. We are hoping for a great fair, and looking forward to working with you again this year.

-Sue Martin



Spring Fling 2025: A Right Royal Celebration – Queen for a Day

There was no mistaking it—royalty reigned supreme at this year's **Spring Fling: Queen for a Day** event, and every attendee brought the glamour and grandeur worthy of a palace garden party! With **67 elegantly adorned guests**, our spring gathering was one for the royal history books.

The event was held in high style, complete with majestic decor, sparkling crowns, and a true sense of community. The County Extension graciously covered ten meal costs for scholarship recipients and speakers, and we proudly raised **\$432.00** to support our programs and efforts. The feast was nothing short of a culinary coronation, thanks to our very own extension **award-winning fair chefs and cooks** who continue to outdo themselves with every dish. Definitely a Queen's Feast!



A highlight of the day was the audible gasp from the crowd when **Kamila Sanchez**, having just turned fifteen, made her stunning entrance in her breathtaking **quinceañera gown**—a modern-day princess moment that added even more sparkle to the occasion.



One of the most heartfelt moments came when **Sue Martin** delivered a deeply moving tribute to our members who have passed, reminding us all that their presence continues to grace our memories and hearts.

Music filled the air thanks to our beloved **Extension Chorus**, who were recognized with their annual thank-you gift. **Dan Beam** led the group with heart, and **Amy Miller**, a gifted teacher from Warsaw Community Schools, accompanied beautifully on piano. Their voices lifted the spirit and added a musical touch of regality.

We also paid tribute to two quilting queens—**Geneva Veasey** and **Sue Martin**—who for years have stitched love into every raffle quilt, generating vital support and adding warmth to our cause. **Alice Keirn** was rightfully recognized for her service as our **public relations contact**, a role she fulfills with great dedication and charm.

The court welcomed a most entertaining royal visitor as **Jan Chupp** took the stage for a humorous and thoroughly engaging **impersonation of Queen Elizabeth**, complete with a historical nod to Her Majesty's lasting legacy. Jan's performance had us all in stitches and curtsying with laughter.

In true ceremonial fashion, **Past County President Julia Frush** installed our new royal court of officers:

President: DeeAnna Muraski

Treasurer: Cathi Zdenek (in absentia)

Assistant Treasurer: Sue Martin

Secretary: Marsha Miller

Past President: Judy Egolf



Continued...



DeeAnna Muraski, our newly installed President, presented **Past President Judy Egolf** with a hanging basket of **begonias**—a symbol of gratitude for Judy’s unwavering leadership in many presidential roles over the years. It was a moment of heartfelt appreciation for a reign well-served.

We were honored by the presence of **IEHA State President Linda Carunchia** (pronounced Crunch-uh) and **District Representative Michelle Blough**, whose attendance lent the event an extra royal sparkle. DeeAnna presented each of them with a potted begonia—personally donated as a token of thanks for their continued support and presence.

The royal court was honored to present this year’s **Lifetime Achievement Award** to the incomparable **Marvene Johnson**, whose decades of service to county extension, the fair, 4-H, and beyond have made her a living legend. The award was presented by **Marsha Miller**, who poignantly received the same honor years ago from Marvene herself—a full-circle moment filled with admiration and grace.

Our immense gratitude goes out to the **planning, decorating, and clean-up committee**: Judy Egolf, Marsha Miller, Dawn Harris, Marilyn Kennedy, Alice Keirn, Julia Frush, Carol Droke, and the faithful members of **Atwood Home Study, Herscher Homemakers, and Rural Neighbors**. You turned our gathering into a regal affair fit for queens.

Finally, let it be said: it truly **takes a village** to plan an event of this scale. If you would like to help plan, decorate, or tidy up at our next affair, we welcome your royal service with open arms.

As several guests said on their way out the door, “**I had the best time—it was so much fun!**” And indeed, the day was a perfect blend of **friendship, elegance, laughter, and just the right royal cup of tea.**

Long live Spring Fling!

DeeAnna Muraski



Scholarship Recipients



Lucas Wilkinson of Milford is a ten-year 4-H member with a strong background in agriculture, having worked in four different farming operations. A graduate of Wawasee High School, Lucas has also been active in community service and 4-H Swine and Dairy projects. He will attend Huntington University to major in Secondary Agriculture Education, with plans to become an ag teacher and FFA advisor to help educate and inspire future generations about the importance of agriculture. Parents are Darren and Karena Wilkinson.

Eva Everest, from Warsaw, is a dedicated ten-year 4-H member and president of her club. She has also been involved in Junior Leaders and the National Honor Society. A graduate of Warsaw Community High School, Eva has been accepted to Huntington University, where she will study Animal Health and Veterinary Nursing. Her lifelong love for animals and leadership experience have shaped her goal of working in veterinary care. Parents are Keith and Lori Everest.

Caleb Lechlitrer of Nappanee is a sophomore at Purdue University studying Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. A ten-year 4-H member and former 4-H Ambassador, Caleb has also served six years in Junior Leaders. He remains active on campus through the Purdue Livestock Judging Team, Farmhouse Fraternity, and Ag Week Task Force. As a repeat scholarship recipient, Caleb continues to demonstrate leadership and a strong commitment to agriculture. Parents are Fred and Heather Lechlitrer.

2025 4-H Fish and Chicken Fry Bake Sale: Recap

Thank you to everyone who contributed baked goods and time to support this year's Bake Sale in conjunction with the 4-H Fish Fry.



- We noticed a decrease in the number of baked items donated this year, as well as lower attendance at the event. As a result, sales were also lower than in past years.
- Per guidance from Alice Keirn, funds were securely stored in the cash box and locked in the cupboard. (No board officer was available to collect the money at the close of the event.)
- An exact total of the funds raised was not recorded at the time, but please remember that proceeds from the bake sale are traditionally split evenly between 4-H and Extension Homemakers.

It has been mentioned that this may have been the final year for the 4-H Fish Fry. If that is the case, we support that decision and are grateful for the years of collaboration and community it provided.

If the event is held again next year, the Clunette Crossroads Club will not be able to organize or manage the Bake Sale. We encourage any other interested clubs or members to consider stepping in, and we are happy to share helpful notes or suggestions from past years if needed.

Thank you again for your continued support and involvement!

-Lorraine Anglin, President- Clunette Crossroads

Wrapping up Ag Day 2025

I would like to take this time to say **THANK-YOU** to those that donated cookies, bottled water and volunteered to pack the lunches for the Ag Day Booth Volunteers. Your generous hearts to donate food items and time to feed the volunteers for the 2 days of Ag Days does not go unnoticed. The volunteers repeatedly tell the 2 of us that take the bag lunches to the show barn Thank you and how much they appreciate the sack lunches and the delicious home baked cookies and brownies. There were a few cookies left over after we packed 65 lunches both days and these cookies were sold at the bake sale at the 4-H fish fry.

Once again, Thank you for your donation and time.

-Marvene Johnson



Volunteer Community Service

Thank you for all you and your clubs accomplish to support community projects. The following was reported to the district and state: 1,504 hours donated and many more that did not get recorded, \$6,565.21 for various organizations and holiday gifting projects. You also constructed and donated over eighty bags to Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center and eighteen dresses to Dress a Girl Around the World. Your club presidents have received additional information and a support reporting form at Presidents Council for this year's activities. The time span for this report does not run with the club year and is confusing therefore we need to read the dates carefully.

Open Class Fair Food Dept. - Help Needed

When viewing the display cases in the Foods Department have you ever wondered why this cookie received a blue ribbon and others did not. Here is your opportunity to be present for the judging and see and hear comments from the judges about the various baked goods.



The Foods Department is in great need for volunteers to participate on Saturday July 5, an entry day from 7:30 AM until items are judged and placed in cases for display. Due to illness and the Holiday weekend some volunteers from past years are unable to participate this year. If you would like to have a new learning experience and a greater understanding of the Open Class program, please contact Judy Egolf at egolfjudy@gmail.com.

Port-A-Pit Fundraiser



The Kosciusko County Extension Homemakers held their Nelson's Chicken BBQ Fundraiser on May 9th, 2025. The clubs sold 537 chicken presale tickets and 180 presale potatoes. This was down from last year in both categories. We decreased the number of cases of potatoes, but decided to order 1000 chickens once again.

It was a beautiful but chilly day, which we were thankful for, although a few of us went home sunburned. Due to our traffic cones, and our own personal traffic cop (DeeAnna) we were able to end the day without any vehicular accidents.

We were there the latest we have ever been, cleaning up after 5:30, but gone by about 6:00. Several of us there were planning and willing to purchase additional chickens and potatoes at the end of the day if there were extra, which we did.

Presale ticket money and donations collected equaled \$6395.00, the day of the sale we took in \$6375.00 for a total deposit of 12,770.00, minus the \$7534.00 invoice from Nelson's, minus \$300.00 to start the cash box left us with a total of \$4936.00. This total is a little over what we made last year, but day of sale we were gifted 190.00 in donations, which accounts for some of the increase.

I want to thank all of you that worked that day for a 2 hour shift, Shannon Shepherd and especially Sue Martin and our awesome board. They were there all day with me and I depend on them and their individual strengths.

I enjoyed working with all of you, and look forward to doing it again next year on May 1st, a week earlier than in past years due to Nelson's already having someone on their schedule for the second Friday in May. I know! Don't they know that's OUR Friday?? The nerve! Anyway, remember to thank J. B. Furniture for sharing their parking lot with us and other groups in our community for these sales.

-Ann Kline



Dates to Remember

July 16 - Newsletter items due
July 31 - Highlights Mailers

September 17 - Newsletter items due
September 24 - Highlights Mailers

The Extension Office will be closed:

- 07/04/2025
- 07/25/2025



**THOSE
WERE THE
BEST
DAYS
OF MY
LIFE**



**PURDUE
UNIVERSITY**

Extension

Meet the County Extension Staff



Emily Kresca

- Agriculture & Natural Resource Educator
- Interim 4-H Youth Development Educator
- Co-County Extension Director
- eluc@purdue.edu



Shannon Shepherd

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



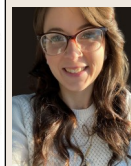
Caroline Arnett

- County Wellness Coordinator
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Tami Graff

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

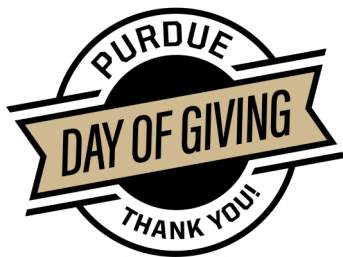


Jenna Hankinson

- ANR/HHS Administrative Assistant
- hankinson@purdue.edu

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Purdue Day of Giving



On behalf of Purdue University and the Kosciusko County Extension Office, we extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who contributed during Purdue Day of Giving 2025. Your generosity and enthusiasm helped make this year's event a tremendous success. We are thrilled to share that Kosciusko County ranked 6th in the entire state for donations—a remarkable achievement that reflects the strength and spirit of our community.

Even more inspiring is the growth we've seen in participation: we received an incredible 93 gifts this year, a dramatic increase from just 1 gift in 2024. This surge in support not only demonstrates your belief in the mission of Purdue Extension but also empowers us to expand our programs, reach more individuals, and make a lasting impact in our county. Thank you for standing with us and for being such an integral part of our success!

2024-2025 Kosciusko County Extension Homemakers Officers

COUNTY EXTENSION HOMEMAKER OFFICER 2024 - 2025		
TITLE	PHONE	EMAIL
Co-President		
Judy Egolf And Past President	574.267.2226 or 574.551.5226	egolfjudy@gmail.com
DeeAnna Muraski	574.527.0065	deeanna@operationreadusa.org
Vice-President		
Currently Vacant	Volunteering is a beautiful thing! We need YOU!	
Secretary		
Marsha Miller	574.858.2104 or 574.265.6562	marshamiller65@gmail.com
Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer		
Sue Martin, Interim Treasurer	574.202.0938	martinsue822@gmail.com
Cathi Zdenek, Treasurer, voted on 1.29.2025	574.527.3785	czindrich@gmail.com
Past-President		
Sue Martin	574.202.0938	martinsue822@gmail.com