



Kosciusko County
Purdue University Extension

Highlights



Homemakers Newsletter

October 2025 - November 2025

Inside This Issue:

DeeAnna's Deep Dish	1
Mark Your Calendar	2
Community Events	2
Memorial Gifts	3
Camp Elko	3
Extension Homemaker Week	3
National Volunteer Program	4
Holiday Program	5
Office Announcement	5
Dates to Remember	6
Volunteers Needed	6
Homemakers Officers	6
Meet Extension Staff	6
"Wrapping up the Holidays" Registration Form	7



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



Homemakers,

This year our theme is *Grow: Mind, Body, and Spirit*. Growth often comes from sunshine and joy, but growth sometimes also comes from storms.



The past month has been heavy for many, as we have witnessed, and reminded us of the fragility and preciousness of life. In moments like these, it becomes clear that *our greatest treasure is one another*.

As Homemakers, we have the opportunity to grow together in ways that matter most:

- **Mind** – by listening, learning, and sharing wisdom with each other.
- **Body** – by caring for ourselves and extending kindness in practical, everyday ways.
- **Spirit** – by choosing to lift up and encourage, even when the world feels unsettled.

Let us lean into what makes our organization strong: **fellowship, compassion, empathy**, and the desire to leave our homes, families, and communities better than we found them.

This month, I encourage you to take one small step of growth—whether it is reaching out to someone who needs a kind word, learning something new, or simply taking a moment to pause and appreciate the people around you. Together, we can continue to grow stronger, and help our communities do the same.

Warmly,

DeeAnna Muraski
County President
Kosciusko



Mark Your Calendar :

Highlight Mailers:

Friday, November 21, 2025

- 9:00 AM
- Extension Office
- Happy Homemakers Club

Extension Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

- 9:30AM
- Martin's Upstairs Loft

Upcoming Lessons:

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

- 12:00 PM
- Preparing for Emergencies
- Home & Family Arts Building, Fairgrounds

Coming Up:

Tuesday, October 7

- Michigan City District Conference
- Lake County

October 20-24, 2025

- IEHA Week

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

- "Wrapping up the Holidays" Program
- 9:00 AM
- Home & Family Arts Building, Fairgrounds
- See page 7 for Registration Info



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

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

October 3—Downtown Warsaw Fashion Weekend, 5p-7p

October 4—Fall Harvest Festival, Syracuse Community Center, 10a-2p

October 24—Downtown Warsaw Spooktacular, Trick or Treating will begin at 5pm, 5p-7p

October 25—Trick or Treat on The Trail, Winona Lake Limitless Park, 3p-5p

November 1—Christmas Shopping Extravaganza, The Village at Winona, 10a-6p

November 22—Tree Lighting Ceremony, The Village at Winona, 3:30p-6:30p

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

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



Memorial Gifts

The Kosciusko County Extension Homemakers award \$3,000 in scholarships each year to local students. To help sustain this tradition, we welcome memorial gifts to the Extension Homemakers Scholarship Fund. Contributions in memory of a loved one will be directed to scholarships for deserving students in our community.

Please note: Because our county Extension Homemakers are a volunteer organization under the umbrella of the Indiana Extension Homemakers Association (IEHA) and Purdue Extension, we are not a stand-alone 501(c)(3) nonprofit. This means that while every dollar given is used for scholarships, *memorial contributions may not qualify as charitable tax-deductible gifts for IRS purposes.*



Gifts may be mailed to Cathi Zdenek at 2310 S Southwood Drive, Warsaw, IN 46580, payable to "Kosciusko County Extension Homemakers," with "Scholarship Fund" noted on the memo line.

Anyone may contribute to this fund, they do not need to be an Extension Homemaker.

Submitted by: DeeAnna Muraski

October 20-25 is Extension Homemaker's Week

Here are some guidelines from the State Public Activity Committee

1. Monday-wear blue and gold. Take blue and gold balloon "Bouquets" to visible locations and have the Kosciusko County Extension Homemakers information available.
2. Tuesday-Giving Day-Give "survival kits" to people in need. Donate to a charity.
3. Wednesday-Education Day-Offer a "thank you" to Teachers and Bus Drivers. Remind people we give scholarships!
4. Thursday-Community Support Day-Volunteer! Donate!
5. Friday-Member day- ask a friend if they would like to join. Share what Extension Homemakers do.
6. Make a Difference Day-Volunteer, share a SMILE with a stranger, say "thank you", take treats or nice notes to firefighters, police officers, jail workers and other community helpers!

If we don't share what we do, others will not know! If you have anything you like to share on our Facebook Page, email it to- amkeirn@centurylink.net and I will post it for you. This could be a picture of a Club Trip, Club Anniversary Celebration or even the History of your Club.

Submitted by: Alice Keirn

Camp Elko

Our 2 days of Camp Elko was filled with crafts, mediation and lots of meeting new people. We had Shannon there on how to recognize stress and how to relieve it, then Rock Art in afternoon. That night we had a PJ party with Queen Elizabeth what fun. We had snacks galore and what a great time. The next day we had a Flower project on gift cards and then Roxie Clawsen a massage therapist who showed us about the Lymph Drainage system and how to improve your health with massage.

Submitted by: Marsha Miller

National Volunteer Program

The National Volunteer Outreach Network, Inc. was organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. Club members need to be willing to volunteer to promote friendship and understanding in the world. To promote the Extension Homemaker involvement in Local, County, District and State projects that impact family life and support the community and beyond.

There are several State projects available along with several local programs available for the Extension Homemaker Club to donate to or volunteer for.

Some of the possibilities are:

- The Backpack Program
- Riley Children's Hospital
- Ronald McDonald Houses
- Food Pantries
- Baby Stores
- Clothing Banks
- Shelters
- IOPO Shawls
- The Cancer Research



Rural Neighbors has created Book Blankets for Operation Read's Book Boogie program (reading incentive program) and bookmarks for the same program with a "made by an Extension Homemaker" label on them. We also donated gently used adult/children books for Operation Read's Reading While You Wait program. I have a list of several volunteer projects or programs if you are interested, you can let me know if you would like to see the list.

The State also has a "Bloomers" initiative to provide new underwear and socks for children and adults in homeless shelters as that is the most coveted item.

In our Extension Homemakers book for each month, there is a line to keep track of your volunteer hours, items donated and value of items. Please keep track each month of your time and donations. This will make it much easier to remember at the end of the year when we need to report our totals.

If you are doing something in the name of extension but only you show up to do it - that still counts (but hopefully there are others who help!). If there are one or more doing the project in the name of extension - it counts.

Our goal is for every club to participate in at least one volunteer activity for the year. Maybe it is the same project all year or you pick a different cause for each month! Grow!!

Remember the mission statement: *To strengthen families through continuing Education, Leadership Development and Volunteer Community support.*

Martha Whetstone

Chair

Volunteer Community Support

marthawhetstone47@gmail.com

574-268-7378

“Wrapping Up Christmas”

The calendar reads middle of September and that makes us think about Thanksgiving and Christmas preparations. This year the Holiday Program committee has decided to help you with “Wrapping Up Christmas”.

Check in and light refreshments will start at 9AM on Wednesday, November 5th, compliments of the Tippecanoe Township and Atwood Home Study. At 9:30 we will all take our seats and learn unique ways to wrap up you Christmas presents. We will be having a fun little contest for everyone to participate in as teams. Stocking stuffer ideas and more fun things will happen before we enjoy a lovely lunch prepared by the Chit Chat ladies. 1PM finds us heading to the craft tables and making 1 of the following items.



A Repurposed Sweater Christmas Tree, Gift Bags or Ornament Collection (Santa/Elf, Ribbon Tree and a Glitter foam tree).

The Holiday Program is open to anyone, we welcome Kosciusko County Extension Homemakers and all your friends ! Registration is due by October 22, please make checks payable to Kosciusko County Extension Homemakers and mail registration and \$12 registration fee to Marvene Johnson, 3295 W 200 S, Warsaw, IN 46580. Any questions you may call 574-453-1606.

Submitted by: Marvene Johnson



Extension Office Announcement

We are absolutely delighted to announce that our team is growing! Please join us in giving a big welcome to **Amy Rumschlag**, our new 4-H Youth Development Educator.

Amy brings with her an incredible **18 years of experience** serving as a 4-H Youth Development Educator with Purdue Extension. Her passion, knowledge, and dedication to youth development will be such a gift to our program and community.

She'll officially be joining us on **November 3rd**, after enjoying some much-deserved vacation time this fall. We couldn't be more excited to have her on board and can't wait for you to meet her!



Dates to Remember

November 19 - Newsletter items due
November 21 - Highlights Mailers

The Extension Office will be closed:

- Tuesday, November 11, 2025—Veteran's Day



- Thursday & Friday, November 27 & 28, 2025—Thanksgiving Break

Volunteer Needed

Our Extension Homemakers is in need of an assistant treasurer. Duties include chairing the Fundraising committee and assisting the Treasurer. If you are interested in volunteering to take this position, please let one of the officers know.



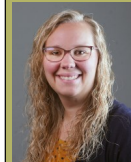
2024-2025 Kosciusko County Extension Homemakers Officers

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			
Vacant			
Past President			
Judy Egolf	3613 W Old Rd 30 Warsaw IN 46580	574-267-2226 574-551-5226	egolfjudy@gmail.com



Extension

Meet the County Extension Staff



Emily Kresca

- Agriculture & Natural Resource Educator
- eluc@purdue.edu



Shannon Shepherd

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



Tami Graff

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



Position Open

- ANR/HHS Administrative Assistant



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KOSCIUSKO COUNTY EXTENSION HOMEMAKER HOLIDAY PROGRAM

9-9:30 AM

CHECK-IN &
REFRESHMENTS

9:30 AM

WRAPPING DEMO
STOCKING STUFFERS
& MORE

12PM

LUNCH AND
FELLOWSHIP

1PM

LET'S CRAFT
CHOOSE BETWEEN:
• SWEATER CHRISTMAS TREE
• CLOTH GIFT BAGS
• ORNAMENT FUN

Wrapping Up the
HOLIDAYS

**NOVEMBER
5**

\$12

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
HOME AND FAMILY FARMS BUILDING



REGISTER BY: OCTOBER 22

2025 Holiday Program Registration

Name: _____

Make Checks Payable to Kosciusko
County Extension Homemakers

Send Registration and \$12 Fee to:
Marvene Johnson
3295 W 200 S, Warsaw, IN 46580

Craft Choice:
(Select One)

- ☐ Sweater Christmas Tree
☐ Cloth Gift Bags
☐ Ornaments

