



February 2025

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Purdue Extension LaGrange County Office

Open Monday- Friday
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Educators Corner...

Dear Friends,

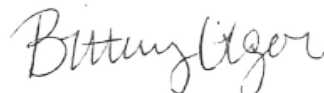
I'm excited to share our new newsletter format, designed to highlight all the wonderful things Purdue Extension is doing in LaGrange County. While many know me from 4-H, our office also includes Health and Human Sciences (HHS) and Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Educators, each offering valuable programs for our community.

As part of Purdue's Land-Grant mission, our goal is to provide research-based knowledge that helps improve lives and strengthen our community. Whether through 4-H, health and wellness programs, or agriculture, we are here to support you.

We know that many of you may not realize how Extension is funded. Our work is made possible through a mix of federal, state, and local support, including the continued backing of the LaGrange County Council and Commissioners. Their support allows us to continue offering programs and resources that are important to you.

This new format aims to make all of Extension's work more visible and accessible. Thank you for being a part of our Extension family—we look forward to continuing to serve you!

Warmly,



Brittany Gilger
County Extension Director - 4-H Youth Educator
Purdue Extension – LaGrange County

2025 4-H Calendar

February

1: Camp Counselor Application Deadline

- 4: Stroh Sunny Spotlighters Meeting - 7:00 pm - Stroh Church of Christ - Door#5
- 11: 4-H Day at the Statehouse - Indianapolis
- 11: Fair Association Meeting - 7:00 pm - Community Building- Fairgrounds
- 11: Springfield Sidewinders & Panther Pack - 7:00 pm - Prairie Heights High School
- 12: Livestock Club Meeting - 6:00 pm - Community Building - Fairgrounds
- 13: STEAM Event - Canvas Painting - 5:30 pm - Fairgrounds - Community Building
- 16: Horse and Pony General Meeting - 3:00 pm - Community Building - Fairgrounds
- 17: Quality Livestock Care - QLC - 11:00 am - Fairgrounds - Community Building
- 20: Quality Livestock Care - QLC - 5:30 pm - Fairgrounds - Community Building

March

- 4: Stroh Sunny Spotlighters Meeting - 7:00 pm - Stroh Church of Christ - Door#5
- 11: Fair Association Meeting - 7:00 pm - Community Building- Fairgrounds
- 11: Springfield Sidewinders & Panther Pack - 7:00 pm - Prairie Heights High School
- 12: Livestock Club Meeting - 6:00 pm - Community Building - Fairgrounds
- 13: STEAM Event - Macramé - 5:30 pm - Fairgrounds - Community Building
- 16: Horse and Pony General Meeting - 3:00 pm - Community Building - Fairgrounds
- 17: Quality Livestock Care - QLC - 5:30 pm - Fairgrounds - Community Building
- 31: Air Rifle - 6:00 pm - Community Building Fairgrounds

April

- 1-4: Air Rifle - 6:00 pm - Community Building Fairgrounds
- 1: Stroh Sunny Spotlighters Meeting - 7:00 pm - Stroh Church of Christ - Door#5
- 8: Quality Livestock Care - QLC - 5:30 pm - Fairgrounds - Community Building
- 8: Fair Association Meeting - 7:00 pm - Community Building- Fairgrounds
- 8: Springfield Sidewinders & Panther Pack - 7:00 pm - Prairie Heights High School
- 9: Livestock Club Meeting - 6:00 pm - Community Building - Fairgrounds
- 10: STEAM Event - Macramé - 5:30 pm - Fairgrounds - Community Building
- 17: **NEW MEMBERS MEETING** - 6:00 pm - Community Building - Fairgrounds
- 19: Dairy Beef/Started Calf Weigh-In and ID Day
- 19: Horse and Pony Vaccination/Measurement - 2:00 pm Horse Barn - Fairgrounds
- 19: Clean Up Meeting - 3:00 pm - Fairgrounds
- 20: Quality Livestock Care - QLC - 11:00 am - Fairgrounds - Community Building
- 21: Drill Team Tryouts - Workout - 6:00 pm - Arena - Fairgrounds

2025 4-H Calendar

May

1: 4-H Camp Enrollment Due

6: Stroh Sunny Spotlighters Meeting - 7:00 pm - Stroh Church of Christ - Door#5
13: Fair Association Meeting - 7:00 pm - Community Building- Fairgrounds
13: Springfield Sidewinders & Panther Pack - 7:00 pm - Prairie Heights High School
14: Livestock Club Meeting - 6:00 pm - Community Building - Fairgrounds
10: STEAM Event - Macramé - 5:30 pm - Fairgrounds - Community Building

15: 4-H Online Animal Identification Deadline

17: Fuzzy Fun Show/Family Night - Arena - Fairgrounds
18: Show Clean UP and Meeting - 9:00 am - Arena - Fairgrounds

June

3: Stroh Sunny Spotlighters Meeting - 7:00 pm - Stroh Church of Christ - Door#5
4-6: Northeast Indiana 4-H Camp
5: Set up/Clean up Meeting 6:00 pm - Arena - Fairgrounds
6-8: IBRA/NBHA/NPRA/BOTB Open Speed Show - Arena - Fairgrounds
10: Fair Association Meeting - 7:00 pm - Community Building- Fairgrounds
10: Springfield Sidewinders & Panther Pack - Pool Party - Debbie Lewis's House
11: Livestock Club Meeting - 6:00 pm - Community Building - Fairgrounds
21: Spring Riding Clinic - Meeting to follow - Arena - Fairgrounds
2-24: Fair Entry Enrollment

July

3: Static Project Judging & Fashion Revue
5-12: LaGrange County 4-H Fair

August

1-17: Indiana State Fair



SAVE THE DATE: April 30, 2025 – Purdue Day of Giving!
Thank you to everyone who supported Purdue Extension LaGrange in 2024! We proudly ranked in the top 15 of 92 Indiana counties in funds raised for Extension programming. This year, we're aiming even higher! Every donation made through the LaGrange County link goes directly toward innovative programs benefiting our local community. **Mark your calendars for April 30, 2025, and help us make an even bigger impact.** Together, we can reach new heights and **continue creating meaningful opportunities for LaGrange County youth and families!**

Upcoming Events

Beyond the Barn: Ag Career Tours

Teens, explore the diverse world of agriculture with Beyond the Barn: Ag Career Tours! Our first tour kicks off on **Monday, February 17, at Culver Duck**, where you'll get a behind-the-scenes look at one of the nation's top duck producers. This program also includes visits to local ag businesses and a special tour of Purdue University's College of Agriculture, where you'll experience cutting-edge technology, meet industry experts, and learn about pathways to success in agriculture. Whether you're interested in animal science, crop management, or agri-business, this program is designed to inspire and help you discover your future. **Register at <https://bit.ly/Culverduck25> by February 12.**

Beyond the Barn

Agriculture Career Tours

Tour Date:
February 17, 2025
8:30 a.m.



Culver Duck strives "to provide the best value to our customers through quality products, honest people, industry-leading practices and a commitment to excellence in animal-care and all we do."

Register by
February 12, 2025



Extension - LaGrange County



Canvas Painting Night – February 13

Unleash your creativity at our **Canvas Painting Night on Thursday, February 13**, at 5:30 PM! Whether you're a beginner or an experienced artist, this fun and relaxing evening is perfect for everyone. Guided by a local instructor, you'll create a unique painting to take home while enjoying the company of fellow art enthusiasts. All materials are provided, so just bring your enthusiasm! **Register at bit.ly/canvasSTEAM25 by February 3, 2025.**

Indiana Quality Livestock Care



Trainings

- February 17, 2025 – 11:00 AM
- February 20, 2025 – 5:30 PM
- March 17, 2025 – 5:30 PM
- April 4, 2025 – 11:00 AM
- April 8, 2025 – 5:30 PM
- April 11, 2025 – 11:00 AM

Cost:
\$3 per person

Location:
LaGrange County 4-H Fairgrounds

Register At:
LaGrangeQLC2025.4honline.com



Extension - LaGrange County EA/EOU



Cattle, Goats, Poultry, Rabbits, Sheep & Swine are required take a quality assurance training to show.



Indiana Quality Livestock Care Trainings
Youth showing cattle, goats, poultry, rabbits, sheep, or swine must complete a quality assurance training to exhibit. Trainings are offered February 17, February 20, March 17, April 4, April 8, and April 11. Cost: \$3 per person. **Register at LaGrangeQLC2025.4honline.com.** Don't wait—complete your training early!

CANVAS PAINTING

Calling all young artists! Come join us for a fun painting adventure! Whether you're an experienced artist or picking up a brush for the first time, our step-by-step instruction will guide you through creating your own version of this stunning scene



Who: Best suited for 3rd grade and up; adults also welcome!
When: February 13, 2025
Time: 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Where: LaGrange County 4-H Fairgrounds
Cost: \$15 per participant
Registration Closes: February 3
Register at:
<https://bit.ly/canvasSTEAM25>



Extension EA/EOU

If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program, please contact Brittany Gilger prior to the meeting at 260-499-6334 or bgilger@purdue.edu by [date.]

Upcoming Events & Information



Beef: March 1, 8-9 a.m.

Dairy Beef & Started Calves: April 19

Dairy Goat: April 26, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Sheep: May 3, 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Meat Goat: May 10, 11:00-12:00 p.m.

Location: LaGrange County 4-H
Fairgrounds

Animals (except rabbits and poultry) must be identified and **entered into 4-H Online by May 15t to be eligible to show** at the LaGrange County 4-H Fair and in the Indiana State Fair 4-H Shows.

TEEN LEADERSHIP WEEKEND



Beyond the Barn: Ag Career Tours

Miller Poultry Tour – April 2, 2025

Join us for a behind-the-scenes look at Miller Poultry as part of the Beyond the Barn Agriculture Career Tours. This family-owned business has been raising all-natural chicken for over 40 years. **Learn about their "egg to table" process, including egg production, hatching, and processing.**

Open to youth in 8th grade and above. Spots are limited, so register now:

Register here:

<https://bit.ly/MillerPoultryTour25>

Beyond the Barn
Agriculture Career Tours

Spotlight: 
Tour Date: April 2 - 8:30 a.m.

Miller Poultry states: "Raising all-natural chicken has been our passion for over 40 years! We are family-owned and always have been, dating back to 1974 when we made the switch from raising turkeys to raising chickens. Over the decades, we have grown, but we still maintain the hands-on approach and family values we are known for. We carefully monitor every step, from the production of the eggs to the hatchery, all the way to the processing facility – making Miller Poultry truly an "egg to table" operation."

Register by March 21  *Scan me*
 *Extension - LaGrange County*


millerpoultry.com

The **Teen Leadership Weekend**, held at **Camp Tecumseh** from **March 28–30**, offers **4-H members in grades 7–12** an **exciting chance to enhance their leadership skills, connect with peers statewide, and prepare to make a positive community impact.** Through hands-on workshops, interactive activities, and inspiring sessions led by mentors and fellow 4-Hers, participants will grow personally, build teamwork, and gain practical skills—all while creating lasting memories!

Register at:

<https://teenleadershipweekend.4honline.com>

Ag & Natural Resources

Bird Flu is Nearby: Be Ready!

If you have a hobby poultry flock, consider signing up for Indiana Board of Animal Health Alerts! These alerts are very helpful with the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenzas (HPAI) creeping around the area. How to sign up?

First, if you do not have a Premise ID for your flock, sign up here: <https://www.in.gov/boah/traceability-and-premise-id/>. This will send you an alert when new outbreaks are announced.

Second: You can adjust your preferences to include poultry, dairy, swine, and other livestock disease issues at <https://cloud.subscription.in.gov/signup?depid=546006767>



Produce Grower Programs for Winter 2025

Two meetings are scheduled for area produce and fruit growers in February.

Because we have seen an uptick in serious disease issues in the region, we will be hosting a **Disease Control Program on Feb 17 from 6 to 9 pm at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds**. Growers will learn about techniques to limit disease issues both before and after planting the crop. PARP credit will be available for those with a Private Pesticide License.

The second meeting on **Feb. 25 is the Produce Safety Alliance Training. Also known as FSMA (pronounced FIZ-ma) this is important if you sell produce to the public**. If you have taken the training before, you may want to attend because the rule has been updated. The food safety laws require growers to follow specific steps, including the ability to trace produce back to the farm of origin. The training includes worker safety, using manure and compost around vegetables, sanitation, water use for both irrigation and post-harvest. **The cost is free!** Normally it is \$125/person, however, grant funding is paying for the training. Locally it will be held at the David Fry farm southeast of Lagrange from noon until about 8 pm. **Call our office at 260-499-6334 for more info and to make a reservation.**



Health & Human Sciences



NORTHEAST INDIANA YOUTH ART GALA
HOSTED BY PURDUE EXTENSION

**MARCH 8
1:00-4:00 PM
CHECK-IN AT NOON**

Whether you are new to art, an amateur artist, or aim to be a professional artist, a great way to build your portfolio is to exhibit art to your peers and professionals in the industry. Our goal is to give youth the skills and knowledge on how to pursue a career in the art world successfully!

GROUP REGISTRATION
<https://bit.ly/GroupNEINArtGala>

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION
<https://bit.ly/IndNEINArtGala>

PRIZES FOR WINNERS
GROUP AND INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES
LOCATION: PURDUE UNIV. FORT WAYNE
REGISTER BY MARCH 3

 Extension • Health Development  **EA/EOU**

North East Indiana Art Gala!

Join us for the **NE IN Youth Art Gala on March 8th from 1:00-4:00 pm at Purdue University Fort Wayne!** Whether you are new to art, an amateur artist, or aim to be a professional artist, a great way to build your portfolio is to exhibit art to your peers and professionals in the industry. **Prizes will be awarded to the top artists and groups in each category. Register before March 3.** Contest Guidelines are listed in the registration.

Group/School Registration:

<https://bit.ly/GroupNEINArtGala>

Individual Registration:

<https://bit.ly/IndNEINArtGala>



10,800+
youth and adults reached
through LaGrange County
Extension Programming

**Providing Practical
solutions to local issues
-2024 Impact-**

330+ Hours

of education provided to
youth & adults
within the community

