

# LaPorte County 4-H Thursday Tidbit



## Educator Notes ❁



Try making some elephant toothpaste this weekend! We can confirm that science is cool!

<https://bit.ly/3U5ZoMa>

It's already halfway through January, and there's no better time to start looking through the project handbook than during these cold days stuck inside. Project superintendents are busy behind the scenes planning LOTS of fun and exciting experiences for 4-H members, and we hope to see everyone come out and support all of the great workshops they are planning. If you have an idea for a workshop that you'd like to see this year, be sure to email Kelsey and I all your great suggestions!

This month's tidbit is full of a lot of new and exciting opportunities, including information about spring break camps, so make sure to take some time to read through everything!

We want to say thank you to everyone who has hit the ground running in 2024 to help make this another great year of 4-H fun. We couldn't do this without all of the amazing volunteers and youth who go above and beyond to create memorable moments for LaPorte County 4-Hers. We are so excited to see where 2024 takes us!

*"The bad news is, time flies. The good news is, you're the pilot."*  
Michael Althshuler

*Lauren Allison*

Kelsey Guadarrama | 4-H Youth Development Educator | [ksajdera@purdue.edu](mailto:ksajdera@purdue.edu)  
Lauren Allison | 4-H Youth Development Educator | [Inalliso@purdue.edu](mailto:Inalliso@purdue.edu)  
Kelly Wozniak | 4-H Administrative Assistant | [woznia11@purdue.edu](mailto:woznia11@purdue.edu)

## 4-H Volunteer Announcements

VOLUNTEERS, it is important that you get enrolled. If you are meeting and you are not enrolled you are not covered under our insurance and you are not in compliance with the our 4-H Policies. We appreciate you wanting to volunteer but until you enroll you cannot host club meetings, vote, or actively participate in activities.

Remember in order to receive fair passes, you will need to log 6 hours of professional development and/or youth programming opportunities. This does not have to be difficult or complicated, many of you are already doing this. Council and Committee meetings will count for 1 hour of professional development. Club meetings and workshops count for youth programming hours. We are not super stringent on what can count we just want you to be out there interacting with the awesome youth in the program. In order to log your hours, we need sign in sheets from club meetings or workshops. Committees, we need the minutes with those that attended listed within 2 weeks, sign in sheets are good but we need minutes anyway so we will save a step if you just send minutes.

**Want to host a workshop... Click here for more information!**

## 4-H Punch Cards

As an incentive program to encourage participation in all of the amazing workshops being offered by our volunteers and extension educators, all 4-H youth in grades 3rd-12th can pick up a 4-H punch card from the educators or from workshop hosts. Any 4-H youth who participate in 9 workshops + 1 club meeting can turn their completed cards in for a prize.



## Spring Break with LaPorte County 4-H

Kelsey, Lauren, and Chrissie (our HHS Educator) will be collaborating to host several spring break opportunities for kids in grades K-8. All spring break camps will provide learning opportunities in the areas of healthy living/cooking and STEM experiences. You must be enrolled in 4-H to attend. HS students interested in helping can email Kelsey or Lauren for more information.

4th-8th Grade Students can join us for 3 full days (8:30am-3:30pm) at the PNW Campus

- March 25th-27th or April 1st-3rd, Cost: \$45

K-3rd Grade Students can join us for 2 half days (8:30am-Noon) at the LaPorte County Fairgrounds

- March 28th-29th or April 4th-5th, Cost: \$15

Registration will open January 24th for all options!

## What's Due & What's New

Wednesday, February 7th | 6-7:30 PM | Volunteer Series- Financials & Fundraising | Extension Office

Friday, February 23rd (2024) | Appointment Only | Beef Tagging | Fairgrounds

Saturday, February 24th (2024) | 9 AM - Noon | Beef Tagging | Fairgrounds

# Ag Equipment Diagnostics

Interested Indiana 4-H or FFA students will attend a training workshop February 24 or March 16 at one of six locations throughout Indiana.

This workshop is a prerequisite to Indiana 4-H and FFA students competing in a contest hosted at the Bane-Welker Equipment training center June 8. This competitive event is designed to test student's skills as they are given a scenario and a specified amount of time to diagnose an electrical system issue and write up a work order. Students may compete individually or as a team of two.

Additional information, including the workshop schedule, workshop locations, and online registration is available at [purdue.ag/AgEquipmentDiagnostics](http://purdue.ag/AgEquipmentDiagnostics).

February 24th	March 16th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Daviess Co Fairgrounds</li><li>• Clay Co Fairgrounds</li><li>• Bane-Welker Training Center- Lebanon</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jasper Co Fairgrounds</li><li>• Churubusco High School</li><li>• Decatur Co Fairgrounds</li></ul>
Register by February 16th	Register by March 8th

**For More Information and to Register visit:**  
[purdue.ag/AgEquipmentDiagnostics](http://purdue.ag/AgEquipmentDiagnostics)



# 4-H Consumer Decision Making

This year's state 4-H Consumer Decision Making contest will be held on April 6, 2024 at Purdue University in Stone Hall. On our website you will find the registration link, the 2024 Study Guide and other study guides/resources to prepare your teams. We will be using scantron this year. Registration will close on March 29, 2024.

Who: This contest is for 4-H youth in grades 9-12. A coach can be a 4-H educator or an Approved 4-H Volunteer. Teams can be made up of 3-4, 4-H youth and individuals welcome. We want to welcome any high-school age youth who wishes to participate and join 4-H. Questions about 4-H membership, should be directed to their local county Extension Office.

# Kitchen Skillathon

The 2024 Kitchen Skillathon will be hosted as an Exhibition contest. This will be a year to showcase the Skillathon, allow youth to participate in a stress free environment, and collect feedback from participants, coaches and educators. The feedback will be used to improve the Skillathon for its inaugural kick off in 2024! This will be held the same day (April 6th), time (9:30), and location as Consumer Decision Making (Purdue- Stone Hall).

Kitchen Skillathon is an educational opportunity for 4-H members to demonstrate increased knowledge and competence with common kitchen equipment, small appliances, herbs/spices, and hazards/safety in the kitchen. Teams will be made up of 3-4 youth in grades 6-8. The contest will consist of four identification stations including small appliances, kitchen equipment/tools, herbs/spices, and kitchen hazards/safety; a written test and a skills demonstration. For the Skills Demonstration, participants can practice, and receive feedback from a judge, on an assigned kitchen/cooking type skill. Participants will complete the skill while at the judging table. All materials will be provided however youth will need to select all items needed to demonstrate the skill assigned to them.

# Mini 4-H Corner

## Mini 4-H Mondays

We had a blast at our first Mini Monday with a full class! We already have 15 kiddos registered for February. Remember we can only hold 30! If at any point you need to cancel please let the office staff know. Registration will close when we reach 30 kids or on Feb. 5th. To register you can use this [link](#) or go to 4-H Online events tab.



## Project Spotlight: My Pet & Me

Would you like to share with others information about the animals that live with you? Exhibit one of the following:

- A poster or scrapbook about your pet. Include pictures, your pet's name, when you got your pet and what you and your pet like to do!
- A poster explaining the responsibilities of caring for your pet.

# Community Happenings

## LaPorte County Public Library The Exchange

The LPCPL Exchange is full of opportunities that can help 4-H youth develop skills they can use on their fair projects this year. The library branches also have some great programming fun that you might be interested in. Check out upcoming events at their website:

<https://laporte.librarycalendar.com/events/upcoming>

### **Make It! Paper Plants for Teens**

Saturday, February 3rd 2:00pm-4:00pm  
Library Exchange Classroom

Create a little greenery during the winter months by making your own paper plant! Learn to use the Cricut to cut out leaves and assemble them into a realistic looking paper plant!

Register here:

<https://www.laportelibrary.org/event/make-it-paper-plants-4655>

### **Curious Kids Innovation Camp**

Library Exchange Classroom

March 28th 1:00pm-4:00pm (Register here:  
<https://www.laportelibrary.org/event/curious-kids-innovation-camp-7613>)

**\* OR \***

April 4th 1:00pm-4:00pm (Register here:  
<https://www.laportelibrary.org/event/curious-kids-innovation-camp-7614>)

Some of the most important inventions were made by people who were curious, challenged rules, had wild ideas, and worked together. Get ready for silly challenges that will stretch your imagination. Purdue University Youth Development Extension Educator, Lauren Allison, will help lead us through activities from the Henry Ford Foundation Invention Convention program.

## LaPorte County Soil & Water Conservation

**Climate & Coffee** | Join us for coffee & discussion on agricultural challenges and best practices in a changing environment.

**Breakfast with a Forester** | Arrow Head Country RC&D Forestry Committee would like to invite you to an informal breakfast with friends to discuss issues you may be having in your woodland areas. Foresters, including IDNR, Purdue, Consulting, and Industry Foresters, depending on the month, will be available for conversation and questions. Everyone is welcome - no reservations needed, just walk in sometime during that 1.5 hours and join us. No charge other than paying for whatever breakfast you order.

Find more information on their [Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/LPCoSWCD):  
<https://www.facebook.com/LPCoSWCD>

## LaPorte County Historical Society Museum

**Pioneer Land Spinners** | January 20th from 11:00am-3:00pm, the spinners from Pioneer Land will be spinning yarn from natural fibers at the museum. They may even give you a try!

<https://laportecountyhistory.org/event/>

## LaPorte County Fair

**Fair Dates: July 6th - 13th**

The first weekend will not have a carnival but will focus on 4-H and the exhibits we have.

Follow [LaPorte County Fair on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/LaPorteCountyFair) for more events and updates!

# RABBIT AMBASSADOR WORKSHOP

JANUARY 20, 2024 FROM 10AM - 2PM  
AT THE SMALL PROJECTS BUILDING

WE WILL BE WORKING AT INTERACTIVE  
AND HANDS-ON STATIONS THROUGHOUT  
THE DAY!

PREPARE FOR THE AMERICAN RABBIT  
BREEDING ASSOCIATION CONVENTION!  
LOUISVILLE OCTOBER 2024

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS YOU  
CAN CONTACT MINDY HEIDEL AT  
[MJHEIDEL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MJHEIDEL@GMAIL.COM)



SIGN UP IN 4-H ONLINE!

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★ **AMERICAN HERITAGE PROJECT** ★  
**WORKSHOP**

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**LOCATION: LAPORTE COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM**

**TIME: 9:30AM-10:30AM**

**2405 INDIANA AVE, SUITE 1  
LAPORTE, IN 46350**

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**FEBRUARY  
17  
SATURDAY**

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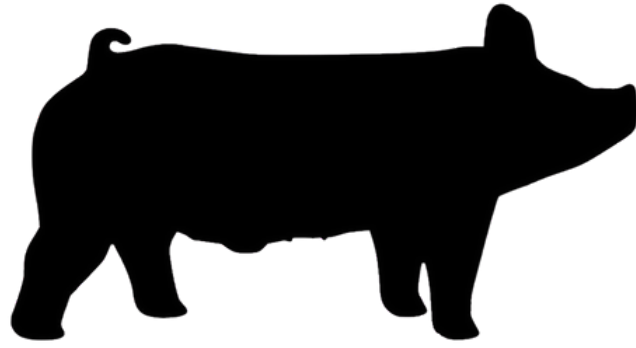
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**Take a tour of the museum with  
Museum Director and American  
Heritage project superintendent  
Danielle Adams. See some of the  
items that have been restored for  
museum exhibition and talk with  
Danielle about possible ideas for  
your 4-H Project.**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT:  
LAUREN ALLISON  
LNALLISO@PURDUE.EDU**



Laporté Co.  
**SWINE WORKSHOP**

**@ SCARBOROUGH FARMS  
21634 S. 600 W. LACROSSE, IN**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 @ 2PM EST / 1 PM CST**

SWINE HEALTH, ANIMAL SELECTION AND SHOWMANSHIP TIPS

**CALL OR TEXT RSVP TO DENISE | 219.508.1577**



# FORCES Of Nature



\$35

## January

Join us as we kick-off our Forces of Nature SPARK Club! We will be taking a deeper dive into the Wildlife and Soil & Water Conservation 4-H Projects. Come to the Goose Pond FWA property to learn about and see a restored wetland, migratory birds, and the flora/fauna of this unique Hoosier property!

**January 17th - Virtual Session 7pm-8:30pm**

**January 20th - Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area 10am-3pm**

## February

Join us at IU's Geology Learning Lab! One part each museum, lab, and classroom, you can compare thousands of rocks, minerals, and fossils, create art, and participate in interactive activities. 450 million years of Hoosier history will be at our fingertips as we explore Geology, Weather & Climate Science, and more!

**February 21st - Virtual Session 7pm-8:30pm**

**February 24th - Indiana University Geology Lab 10am-3pm**

## March

Join us as we learn more about Forestry and Weather & Climate Science! We will use tools to help with tree identification, learn about producing maple syrup, the role of slopes in microclimates and even learn about sandstone geology at Turkey Run State Park. We will also discuss career opportunities in both of these fields of study.

**March 13th - Virtual Session 7pm-8:30pm**

**March 16th - Turkey Run State Park 10am-3pm**

## April

Exploration of benthic macroinvertebrates like what is the significance of a left or right handed snail for water quality? Local limestone geology and soil formation will be discussed. From the Indiana 4-H soil and water science project curriculum, we will conduct the clod comparison activity and learn about soil health.

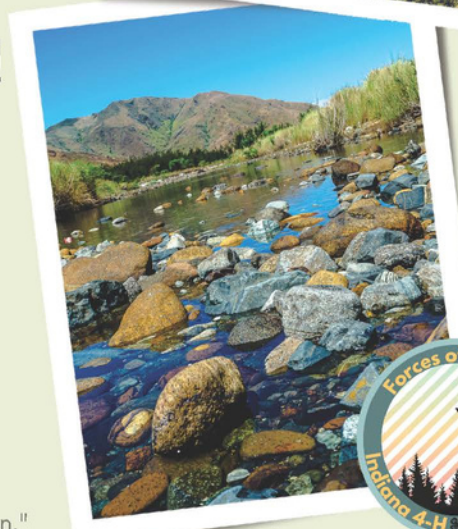
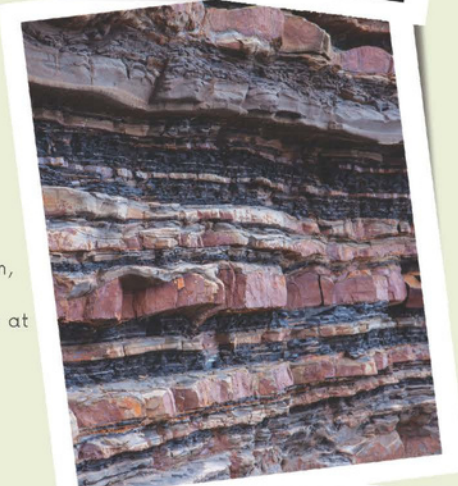
**April 3rd - Virtual Session 7pm-8:30pm**

**April 6th - DePauw Nature Park 10am-3pm**

## Lots of Ways to Participate!!

- 1 Go all in! Attend all 4 virtual sessions and all 4 in-person sessions
- 2 Attend whatever sessions that fit into your schedule!
- 3 Busy, but still crave the knowledge? All virtual sessions will be recorded & you can watch them at your leisure

**REGISTER NOW**  
**FORCESOFNATURE.4HONLINE.COM**



AG WOMEN 2024

# ENGAGE CONFERENCE

YOUNG LADIES IN AG FORUM

**February 21, 2024**

Open to Young Ladies Grades 8-12 & College

**Grand Wayne Convention Center  
Fort Wayne, IN**



Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access institution.

## Register Now!

**February 21, 2024**

**12:30– 8:00 PM EST**

**2024 Young Ladies in Ag Forum  
Grand Wayne Convention Center**

**Fort Wayne, Indiana**

**Open to all Young Ladies**

**Grades 8-12 & College!**

**Register Now:**

**[purdue.link/YLAF2024REG](https://purdue.link/YLAF2024REG)**

**Cost : \$25 per person**

**Dinner Included**

## Sessions Include

**Interviewing Skills**

**Jobs in Agriculture**

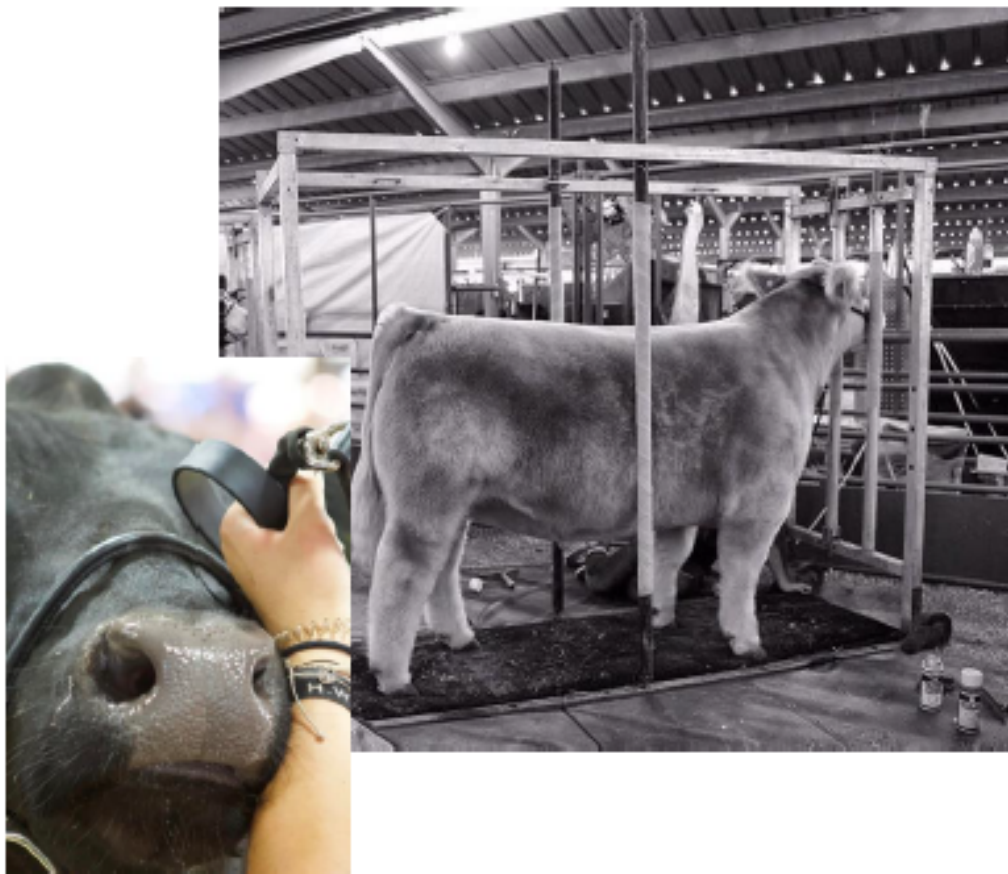
**Business Professional Dress/  
Meeting Etiquette and Attire**

**Exploring Your Next Steps:  
University Panel**

**Exploring Your Non-Traditional  
Next Steps : Trade Schools/  
Apprenticeships Panel**

**Indiana State FFA Officer**

**Entrepreneurship Keynote:  
Dirt Darlin' Emily Stewart**



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> AT 1PM**  
**4-H BEEF**  
**WORKSHOP**

**Hosted by the Porter County 4-H Beef Project  
& Richey Show Steers**

Join us for a hands-on workshop focused on helping 4-Hers learn about feeding and nutrition options as well as daily hair care to prepare for the upcoming show season.

- SULLIVAN SUPPLY trailer will be onsite with grooming supplies and equipment available for all species
- Prizes and giveaways

**4-H'ers from any county are welcome to  
attend this free workshop!**

**\*\*the SULLIVAN SUPPLY Trailer will be on site from 10AM-3PM this day. Anyone with any species is welcome to shop at the trailer during this time. Equipment can be ordered ahead of time for pickup this day as well\*\***

**Key Speakers:**  
**Wess Richey**  
**Shane Richey**

**Topics include**  
**Feeding, Nutrition,**  
**& Daily Hair Care**

**Sullivan Supply**  
**trailer will be**  
**onsite**

**Complementary**  
**food and**  
**beverages will be**  
**provided!**

**LOCATION:**  
**MORGAN TOWNSHIP**  
**SCHOOL - AG BUILDING**  
**299 East St Rd 49**  
**Valparaiso, IN 46383**

**DATE:**  
**Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Starting at 1PM**

**Deadline:  
August 2nd, 2024**



2022 Grand Champion Ethan Van Delden  
San Antonio, TX • 1965 Oliver 770

# get involved!

- Grow future leaders in the Ag Industry
- Support ag mechanics and STEM education
- Invigorate the tractor restoration community
- Competition for US High School students
  - Up to \$22,000 in prizes awarded
  - Free to enter

[ChevronTRC.com](https://ChevronTRC.com) 