



EXTENSION QUARTERLY REPORT
OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2024

COMMUNITY
CONNECTIONS
THROUGH PURDUE EXTENSION

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Extension - Lawrence County



EXTENSION BY THE NUMBERS



1,566+ **Total Number**
of in-person & virtual
education participants

7,125+

Total Minutes
of education
provided to youth
and adults within
the community



82+ **Educational
Programming**

sessions held from Oct.–Dec. 2024

*Numbers illustrated here are combined from educational efforts
for all program areas from Oct.–Dec. 2024.



45,952+ **Social Media**
reach from Oct.–Dec. 2024

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4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



4-H Members Lead Service Learning Initiatives

Service to the community is a major cornerstone of 4-H and its values. This fall, Lawrence County 4-H members showcased their commitment to making a positive impact in our community through a variety of service-learning projects. Youth across the county participated in the annual Trick or Treat for Canned Goods, collecting nearly 300 non-perishable food items to support LIFE food pantries. Their efforts directly benefited families facing food insecurity as we approached the holiday season.

More than five clubs helped members bring joy to children and families by volunteering at multiple safe trick-or-treat events, ensuring everyone

could celebrate Halloween in a fun and secure environment. Additionally, 4-H Junior Leaders embraced creativity and community connection by painting and distributing kindness rocks throughout public spaces, spreading uplifting messages and brightening residents' days.

As the holidays approached, 4-H youth extended their giving spirit by supporting holiday angel tree programs, collecting and distributing gifts to children in need. Additionally, the 4-H Council spearheaded a collection effort to supply filled stockings to people in need, around our community. They distributed 63 filled stockings.

Through these activities, our 4-H members not only developed valuable leadership and teamwork skills but also strengthened their ties to the community. Their dedication exemplifies the 4-H motto, "To Make the Best Better," while reinforcing the importance of youth-driven community service.



AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Building Strong Connections

In the months of October through December, the Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) educator hosted two impactful programs that engaged diverse audiences in agricultural education. Back again this year, the Cattle and Canvas painting program welcomed 16 adults for an evening of creativity and learning. Over 180 minutes, participants painted holiday-themed artwork. This hands-on program fostered both community connections and a deeper appreciation for agriculture.

Additionally, the ANR educator attended and aided with the Grand View School to Farm field trip which provided a unique learning experience for over 50 students. Maned by extension educators, the station titled, "Did Dirt Make My Lunch?", was a rotating 20-minute interactive session that allowed students to explore the critical role of soil in food production. Through engaging activities, students discovered how agriculture supports their daily meals and the importance of soil health in sustainable farming. In total, this station delivered over 100 minutes of direct educational engagement, leaving a lasting impression on the importance of agriculture.

Together, these programs collectively provided impactful educational experiences while learning to strengthen agricultural literacy and foster community connections.



HEALTH & HUMAN SCIENCES

Captain Cash

Captain Cash is an interactive financial education program designed to teach basic money management skills to students. In November and December, the HHS Educator delivered the program to approximately 25 third graders at Lincoln Elementary.

The curriculum includes four 45-minute sessions focusing on earning, saving, spending, and borrowing money. Each session introduces key economic vocabulary and concepts, along with engaging activities and take-home materials. The lessons align with Indiana Academic Standards for math and social studies.

Captain Cash helps students understand how childhood money behaviors shape future financial habits. It highlights the influence of financial messages from home, community, and media and teaches essential money management skills to prepare families for economic challenges.

Students also develop valuable life skills, such as communication, decision-making, problem-solving, and resource management, promoting long-term self-sufficiency. Contact Purdue Extension Lawrence County at 812-275-4623 or rrpayne@purdue.edu if you would like to schedule or learn more about this program.



COMMUNITY WELLNESS

Hope Resource Center Food for Health Program

To end 2024 Purdue Extension-Lawrence County collaborated with the Lawrence County Health Department and Hope Resource Center to offer a 4 week nutrition education program for pregnant and new moms. The program, Hope Resource Center Food for Health, took place at Hope Resource Center on Thursday nights from November 14-December 5. Sixteen people registered for the program with space and funding for 10 people. Funding for food and incentive items was provided by the Lawrence County Health Department with Health First Indiana funds. Unfortunately, bad weather resulted in low attendance at these classes.

However, we were able to learn from our experience and will offer more classes in 2025 for families with babies and toddlers. Looking forward the plan is to provide knowledge about nutrition education for parents including how to make your own baby food.

Eat Smart, Move More

In collaboration with Hoosier Uplands, Lost River Market, Purdue Extension Nutrition Education Program(NEP), and Cambridge Square, a nutrition program was offered to 20 seniors living at Cambridge Square Apartments, with the help of Hoosier Uplands Glick Grant funding. The residents were able to attend monthly lessons in which the NEP Advisor utilizes the “Eat Smart, Move More” curriculum. Lessons were focused on eating healthier and cooking for one to two individuals. During the lesson, a meal was prepared and available for residents to sample. The residents who attended, left each lesson with a meal kit provided

NUTRITION EDUCATION

by Lost River Market & Deli. Residents appreciated the meal kits as well as the tips and tricks to cooking smaller meals.



CATCH

School time is always a wonderful time of the year in which CATCH is taught in several local schools. During this quarter, the NEPA visited Parkview Intermediate, Lincoln Elementary, and Burriss Elementary. CATCH gives students a hands-on experience to learn new healthy habits. During a 40-45 minute time allowance, students were able to engage in lessons, participate in activities, and sample healthy snacks.

For example, one lesson focused on the importance of reducing screen time. During this lesson, students made a list of activities that would help to eliminate screen usage. Many students worked together with the NEPA to create a list of ideas such as: reading a book, playing outside, making a craft, learning to play an instrument, practicing skills for a particular sport, etc. During the collaboration, students were also able to sample a healthy snack alternative. It is always a joy to venture into schools and offer these important lessons that are so vital to youth and their growing health needs.

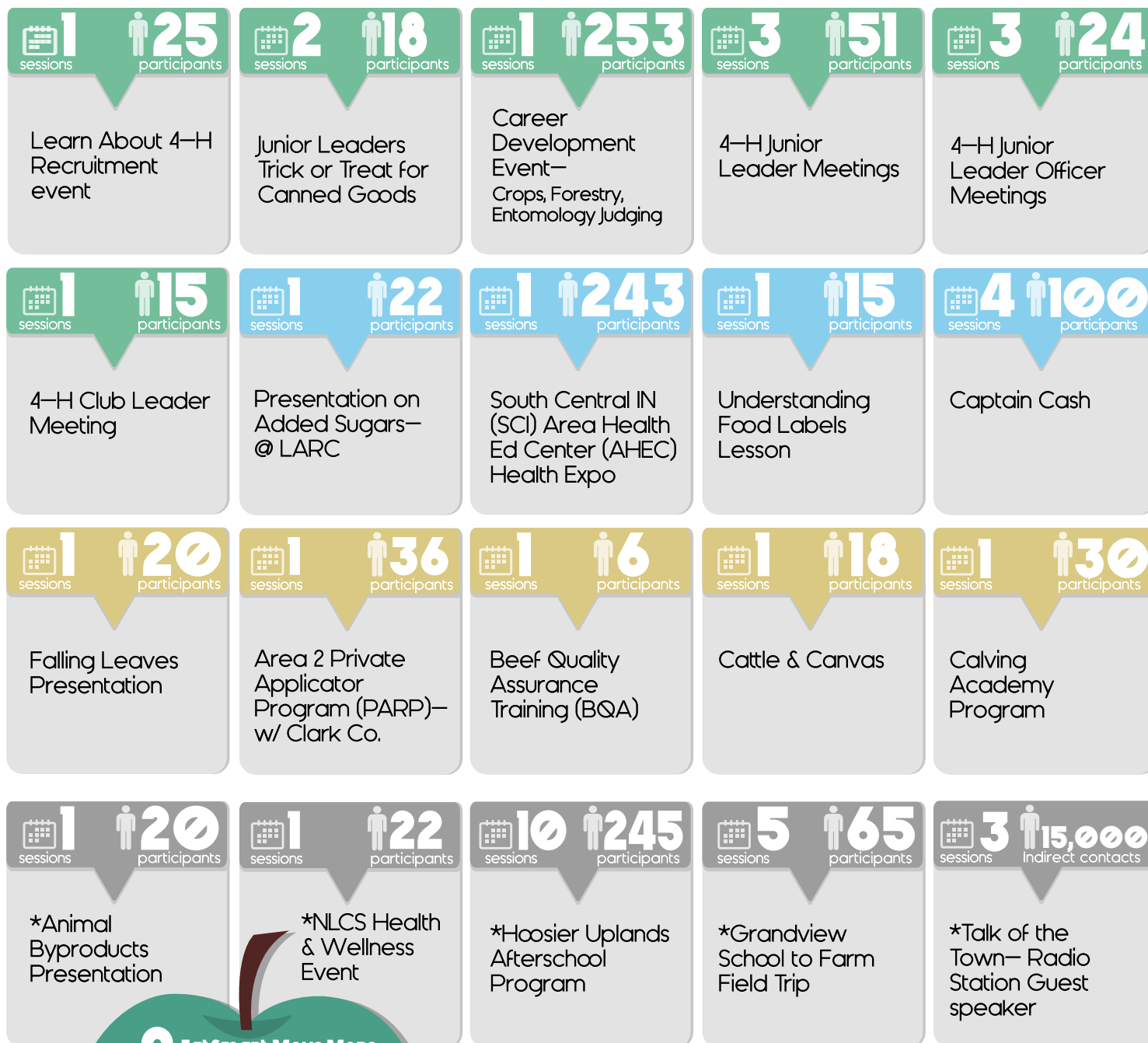
My students look forward to Miss JJ visiting and learning more about healthy eating habits and Go activities at each visit. Students are engaged during every lesson and enjoy the yummy snacks they have sampled!

Michelle McHenry, 3rd grade teacher
at Parkview Elementary



EVENT & PROGRAM DATA

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2024



*Indicates the combined collaboration of educators to complete a program.

9 Eat Smart, Move More lessons held Oct.–Dec. 2024

60 Contacts made during ESMM lessons

30 Coordinated Approach to Child Health lessons held Oct.–Dec. 2024

530 Contacts made at CATCH lessons

Nutrition Education Program Data provided for October–December 2024

Additional learning events & participation data is included on the first page. Items highlighted here include featured programming, not including monthly meeting and activities.

Find out more about Purdue Extension-Lawrence County's current and upcoming programs by visiting their website or by scanning the QR code.

www.extension.purdue.edu/lawrence

