



EXTENSION QUARTERLY REPORT APRIL—JUNE 2025

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS THROUGH PURDUE EXTENSION

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Extension - Lawrence County



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



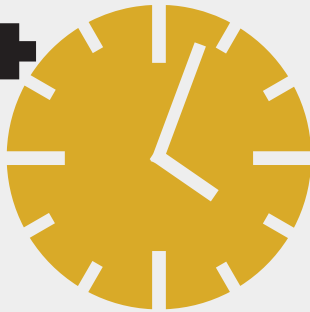
EXTENSION BY THE NUMBERS



2,716+ **Total Number**
of in-person & virtual
education participants

7,950+

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



68+ **Educational
Programming**

sessions held from April–June 2025

*Numbers illustrated here are combined from
educational efforts for all program areas
from April–June 2025.



34,927+ **Social Media**
reach from April–June 2025

Follow us on Social Media

f @PurdueExtensionLawrenceCounty

@ @purdueextensionlawrenceco

5 **Eat Smart, Move More**
lessons held April–June 2025

52 **Contacts made**
during ESMV lessons

21 **Coordinated Approach
to Child Health**
lessons held April–June 2025

378 **Contacts made**
at CATCH lessons

**Nutrition Education
Program Data provided
for April–June 2025**

*Learning events &
participation data
illustrated on this page
include monthly meetings
and activities.

April – June 2025

COMMUNITY WELLNESS

Mobile Farmers Market at Cambridge Square–Bedford

Glick Philanthropies awards annual grants to selected partners affiliated with Glick Properties. In Bedford, Purdue Extension has partnered with Cambridge Square–Bedford and has been nominated for this grant for seven consecutive years.

During the previous grant cycle, funds were utilized to support several community-focused initiatives. These included purchasing food for the on-site pantries, constructing a second pantry on the property, acquiring plants and soil for the community gardens, and providing a recumbent bicycle for resident use. A portion of the funding was also dedicated to purchasing fresh produce for residents.

In June, Purdue Extension collaborated with the Orange County Food Trust to bring the Farms to Friends mobile farm stand to Cambridge Square. Through the grant, each resident was offered \$15 in vouchers to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. The event saw strong participation, with 49 residents attending and spending an average of \$13.72 per person.

Thanks in part to Purdue Extension–Lawrence County’s Community Wellness Coordinator, grant funding for the 2025–2026 cycle was recently received and plans to host another Farms to Friends mobile farm stand visit will take place in August.

“The Learn, Grow, Eat, Go! program through Purdue Extension has been a wonderful addition to our programming at the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence County. This partnership has given our club members the opportunity to explore healthy food options and learn the basics of gardening and growing their own food. Each week, the lessons they receive are not only engaging and educational but also provide skills they can take home and continue to practice. (...) We are grateful for the opportunity to work with Purdue Extension. Their support and resources have been a great asset to our Club, helping us further our mission to promote the overall well-being of the youth we serve.”

Kristiane Baumgart–Program Director/Marketing Assistant
Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence County



Investing in Youth from the Start: 4-H Mini Day Camp Program

The Lawrence County 4-H Mini Day Camp, now in its fourth year, is a strategic investment in youth development that benefits both our youngest members and our teen leaders. Designed for youth in grades K-2, this two day-long camp introduced 32 mini 4-Hers to hands-on learning rooted in the 4-H mission areas of science, healthy living, and civic engagement. Campers rotated through engaging educational stations and completed projects, many proudly exhibited at the county fair.

The camp also serves as a leadership development opportunity for older 4-H members. This year, 16 trained teen counselors led sessions, mentored younger youth, and gained valuable skills in communication, responsibility, and teamwork. By pairing new 4-Hers with experienced role models, we are fostering lasting connections that support long-term engagement and success in the program.

Community support of this program ensures that youth in Lawrence County have access to quality, local learning and leadership opportunities. Mini 4-H Day camp is open to all Lawrence County youth and can serve as a short-term high-quality childcare program and youth development option for families. These experiences build stronger young citizens, increase civic involvement, and grow the next generation of community leaders. Mini 4-H Day Camp is not just a fun day—it's an intentional investment in the future of Lawrence County.

Digital Ambassador Volunteer

Did you know that some of Indiana's most in-demand foundational digital skills include typing, word processing, computer literacy, data entry, and proficiency in Microsoft Excel and PowerPoint?

In Lawrence County, industries like retail, healthcare, and manufacturing rely on employees with strong digital skills. Healthcare workers are expected to navigate electronic medical record (EMR) systems and radiologic technology, while manufacturers seek individuals experienced in computer numerical control (CNC), AutoCAD, and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software.

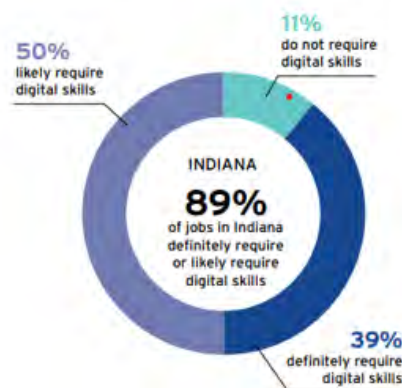
To help meet these workforce demands, Purdue Extension–Lawrence County's Health and Human Sciences Educator, in collaboration with regional partners, has developed the Digital Ambassador Volunteer Program. This initiative trains local volunteers to serve as digital experts, equipping community members with essential digital skills for work and daily life.

How does it work?

Volunteers complete a 14-hour training (in person or online) covering topics such as home networks, cloud-based applications, cybersecurity, and more. Once trained, Digital Ambassadors offer digital literacy support through demonstrations, group classes, and one-on-one sessions.

The program's goal is to build a team of trained volunteers who help increase public understanding of digital tools and platforms through personalized education and outreach.

ENDNOTE: Indiana-specific data is from an analysis by NSC.



AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Third Grade AG Day

On April 16, Purdue Extension- Lawrence County hosted the annual Third Grade Ag Day. The event was divided into two sessions, each lasting two hours, with an AM session and a PM session. A total of 476 students from various schools participated, including Shawswick Elementary, Burris Elementary, Lawrence County Independent Schools, Veritas Lawrence County Home School, St. Vincent, Dollens, Parkview Intermediate, Needmore Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, and Springville Academy.

During each session, students rotated through 12 stations. These stations provided hands-on learning experiences related to agriculture, aiming to educate the students about farm animals, crop production, natural resources, career opportunities in agriculture, and the significance of agriculture in everyday life. The stations included presentations about; Pollinating and Beekeeping, Beef Cattle, Dairy Cow, Forestry, Goats, Drones in Agriculture, Sheep, Poultry, Veterinary Medicine, Soil & Water Conservation, and Bedford North Lawrence FFA.

The event was well-received, offering a valuable and enjoyable educational experience for all the third graders involved. This program would not be possible without the support of over 60 volunteers and presenters and our sponsors including ApplAcres, RTC, Farm Credit Mid America, Lawrence County Farm Bureau, Lawrence County Fairgrounds, and Walmart. We also appreciate the support of Lawrence County 4-H and the BNL Career Center and FFA program.



NUTRITION EDUCATION

CATCH

As the school year came to a close, the Coordinated Approach to Child Health (CATCH) program also concluded its activities for the quarter. This term, CATCH was delivered to 378 including, 3rd-grade students at Needmore Elementary and Lawrence County Intermediate School (LCIS), as well as to 5th-grade students at Burris Elementary.

While physical education was offered in many elementary schools, health education was often not included in the standard curriculum. CATCH helped fill this gap by providing students with foundational knowledge about healthy habits and the ways in which those habits impact overall well-being. Throughout 21 engaging lessons and interactive activities, students learned practical strategies to make small but meaningful changes to their diets and daily routines—changes that support long-term health.

The program's influence often extended beyond the classroom. Many students shared what they had learned with their families, helping to promote healthier habits at home. Teachers frequently incorporated reflective activities into their lessons, such as assigning students to write thank-you notes to the Nutrition and Physical Activity (NEPA) educator. These notes commonly mentioned behavioral changes, including eating more fruits and vegetables, increasing water intake, being more physically active, and reading nutrition labels.

Although the program's impact varied among students, CATCH consistently served as a valuable tool for encouraging healthier lifestyles in elementary-aged children.



MEET YOUR NEW PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Kassi Shelton

Kassi grew up as a farmer's daughter and was actively involved in 4-H for ten years, cultivating a deep-rooted passion for agriculture from an early age. A proud alumna of Purdue University's Animal Sciences program, she continued her connection to the agricultural community by marrying into a family farming operation. Her husband and father-in-law raise Red Angus cattle, continuing a multigenerational tradition of livestock production.

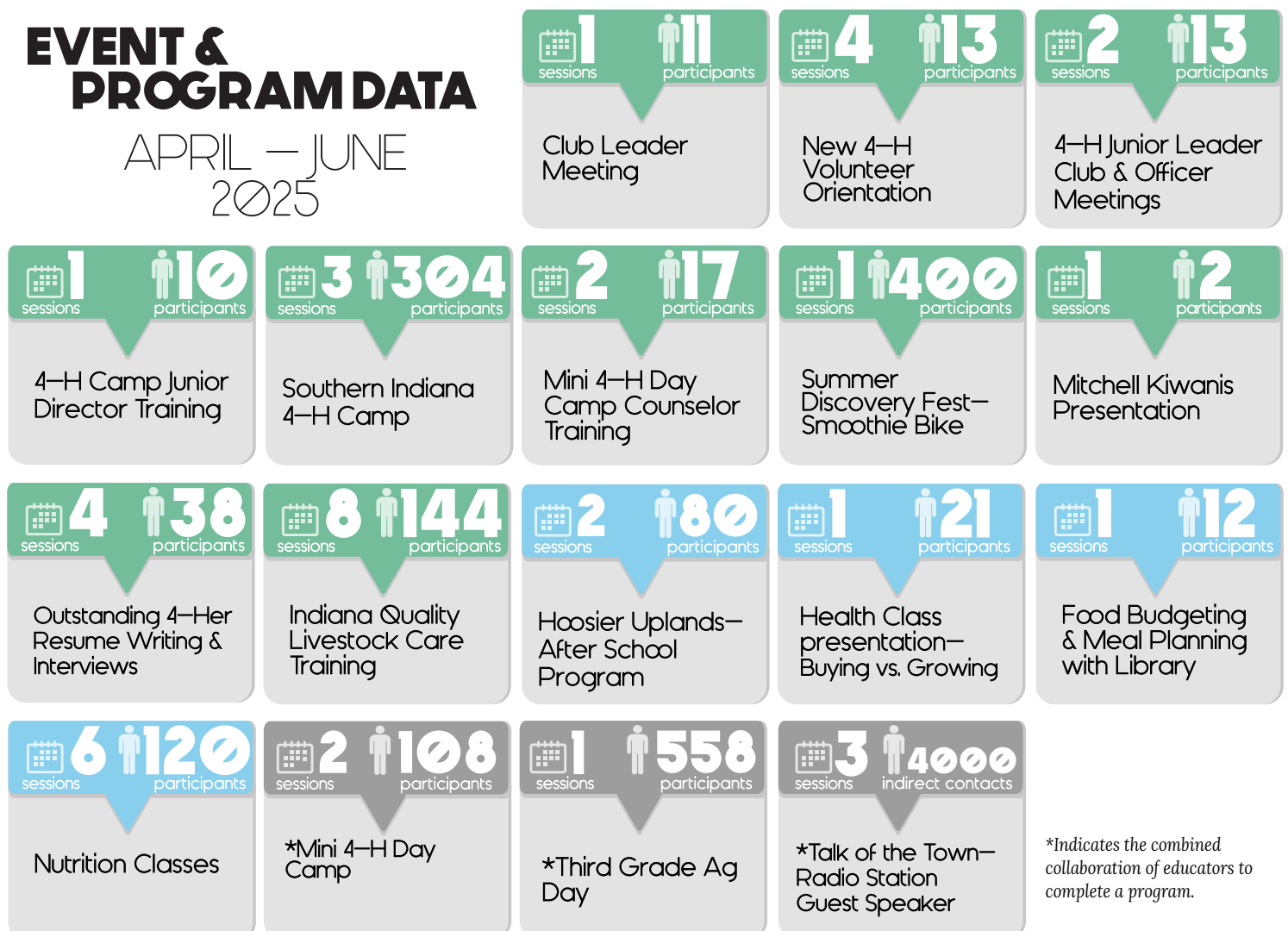
She and her family have called Bedford home for the past 13 years. Their two teenage children are also active in 4-H and Junior Leaders, carrying on the family's strong commitment to agricultural education and youth development. Outside of her professional life, she enjoys gardening, traveling, and photography.

In her role with Lawrence County Extension, she is excited to give back to the agricultural community that has shaped her life, and looks forward to supporting local producers, families, and youth through her work.



EVENT & PROGRAM DATA

APRIL – JUNE
2025



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