

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Address:

525 W Beech Street
Osgood, IN 47037

Phone:

812-689-6511

Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:00am-4:00pm

Website:

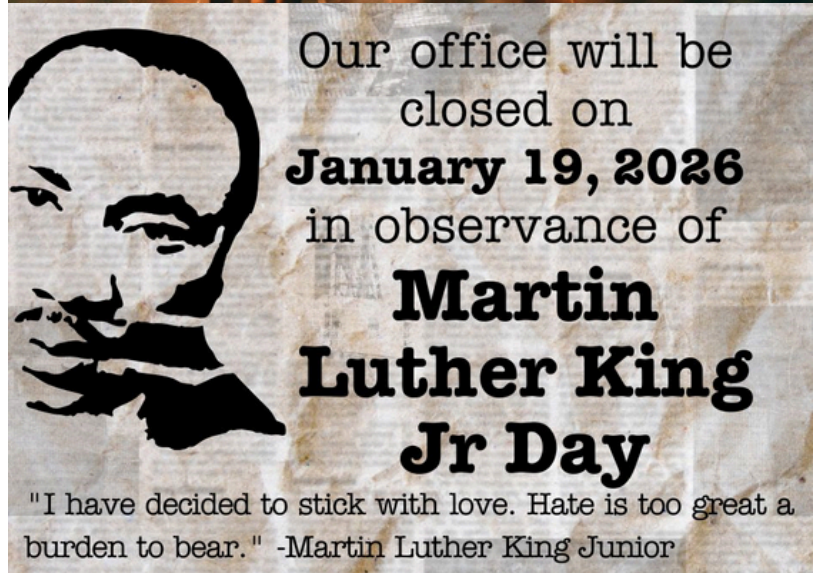
extension.purdue.edu/ripley

Facebook:

Purdue Extension - Ripley County
&
Ripley County 4H Fair

Instagram:

@ripleycountypurdueextension



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Calendar of Events



JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
-	-	-	-	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2	3
4 4:00 Pierceville Haypals Mtg 5:00 4-H Pioneers Mtg	5 12:00-5:00 Scholarship Help Session 7:00 Country Bees Meeting	6 6:30 Ripley Wranglers Mtg	7	8	9	10
11 2:00 Shooting Sports Mtg 5:00 Napoleon Country Club Mtg 5:00 Faithful Workers Meeting	12 7:00 Morris Shamrocks Mtg	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20	21 6:30 Jr. Leader Meeting	22	23	24
25 4-H Scholarships Due! 1:00 Dream Seekers Meeting	26 7:30 4-H Board Meeting	27	28	29	30	31

Can you find the four H's hidden in the newsletter?



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH

Ripley County 4-H Newsletter



Club Meeting Resources:

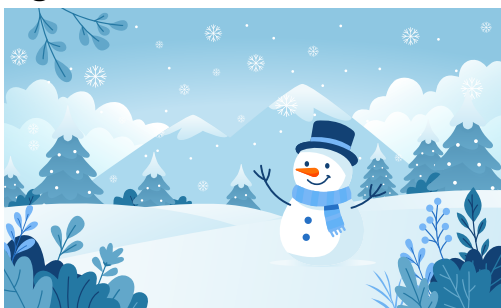
Song: Winter Wonderland by Bing Crosby

Sleigh bells ring, are you listening?
In the lane, snow is glistening
A beautiful sight, we're happy tonight
Walking in a winter wonderland
Gone away is the bluebird
Here to stay is a new bird (Ooh)
He sings a love song as we go along
Walking in a winter wonderland

In the meadow, we can build a snowman
And pretend that he is Parson Brown
He'll say, "Are you married?" We'll say, "No man"
But you can do the job when you're in town

Later on, we'll conspire
As we dream by the fire
To face unafraid, the plans that we've made
Walking in a winter wonderland

Sleigh bells ring, are you listening?
In the lane, snow is glistening
A beautiful sight, we're happy tonight
Walking in a winter wonderland
Gone away is the bluebird
Here to stay is a new bird
He sings a love song as we go along (Ooh)
Walking in a winter wonderland



Inspiration:

"Life is what happens to us while we are making other plans."
- Allen Saunders

Health & Safety

Hand washing and germ prevention: Wash Away Germs! Stay Healthy!

Washing your hands is one of the easiest and best ways to stay healthy and stop the spread of germs! Make sure to wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, that's about the time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice. Scrub your palms, between your fingers, under your nails, and the backs of your hands. Always wash after using the bathroom, before eating, after playing outside, and after coughing or sneezing. If soap and water aren't available, hand sanitizer is a good backup. Germs can make you and others sick, even if you don't feel sick yourself. Keeping your hands clean helps protect you, your family, and your friends. Healthy habits like handwashing keep everyone feeling great and ready for school, sports, and fun!

5 Germ-Busting Rules

1. Wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water.
2. Cover coughs and sneezes with your elbow.
3. Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
4. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't around.
5. Stay home when you're sick to help others stay well!



Ripley County 4-H Newsletter

4-H Project Books



For any 4-Her that would like their project books for the 2025-2026 4-H year, please let the office know by January 15th. Please be aware, we may not have certain books available in the office if not requested by that time.



Quality Care Class

4-Hers must complete Quality Assurance Training to exhibit or auction beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, meat goats, dairy goats, poultry and rabbits. This is an annual program that must be completed. 4-H members may also complete the online \$12 Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) program. The website is <https://yqcaprogram.org>. 4-H members must be certified through the in-person Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care training or the online YQCA program by July 11th.

INDIANA 4-H QUALITY LIVESTOCK CARE & PARENT MEETING

To exhibit **BEEF CATTLE, DAIRY CATTLE, SWINE, SHEEP, MEAT GOATS, DAIRY GOATS, POULTRY, and RABBITS**, 4-H members must be certified through the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care training **OR** the online Youth for the Quality Care of Animals program (YQCA).

1. This certification must be done on an annual basis
2. Members must be registered **BEFORE** attending a training
3. Members may attend any training dates listed on this flyer
OR a training in another county
OR complete the online YQCA training (**Proof of YQCA completion must be submitted to the Extension Office by July 11!**)

Training Dates

Training Locations



March 28, 2026 1:50pm - Jefferson Co.

(During the Area 1 4-H Beyond Ready to Show Livestock Workshop)

May 2, 2026 10:00am - Extension Office

(May Animal ID Day)

June 20, 2026 12:30pm - Extension Office

(Mini 4-H Day)

To register for the IQLC program, please use <https://v2.4honline.com>.

Those planning to be certified through the YQCA program, will register at www.yqcaprogram.org and will present their completion certificate to the Extension Office by July 11, 2026.



If you need to request special accommodations, please contact the Extension office.

Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution.

Ripley County 4-H Newsletter

Area 4-H Opportunity



Area 1 4-H: ***Beyond Ready to Show Livestock***

March 28, 2026 10:00am - 3:00pm
Jefferson County 4-H Fairgrounds: 3767 W SR 256 Madison, IN 47250



Want to perfect your showmanship skills with advice from livestock industry leaders, professionals, and judges? Need to get your Quality Care training done for fair? If so, we invite you to a 1-day animal science and showmanship workshop! The event will be divided into 2 age-appropriate traveling groups.

\$10 Registration Includes:

- Catered Lunch
- Door Prizes
- Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Registration
- Educational Resources

Agenda

Time	Junior	Seniors/Int.
10:00	Welcome	
10:10-10:35	Beef	Swine
10:35-11:00	Swine	Beef
11:00-11:10	Break	
11:10-11:35	Sheep	Goat
11:35-12:00	Goat	Sheep
12:00-12:30	Lunch	
12:30-1:00	Career Exploration	
1:00-1:25	Poultry	Rabbit
1:25-1:50	Rabbit	Poultry
1:50-2:50	Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training	
3:00	Check-out	

Registration Required in 4-H Online Event by March 20th

Register at: <https://Area1LivestockWorkshop.4honline.com>

Event costs \$10 (pay at the door)

Families are encouraged to stay on fairgrounds.

Additional lunches may be purchased for \$5 per person. Please RSVP on the youth 4-H Online registration to reserve a lunch.

Ripley County 4-H Newsletter



4-H Enrollment is Open!

It's that time of the year again! 4-H Enrollment for the 2025-2026 year is now open. Please enroll as soon as possible - you must be enrolled to sign up for events, camps, etc. Once January 15 arrives we will begin only sending information to those of you who have enrolled for the new program year. Below you can find links that lead to the step by step 4-H Online help guides to assist you with enrollment.

Once again we will be utilizing 4-H Online as our enrollment platform. You can access your account by visiting v2.4honline.com If you need further assistance please give us a call or stop by the office, we are happy to help. 812-689-6511 or 525 W Beech St Osgood, IN 47037.

4-H Online Help Guides:



Enrolling in 4-H Online as a NEW 4-H member or mini 4-H member:

https://extension.purdue.edu/county/ripley/_media/enrolling-in-4-h-online-as-a-returning-youth-member.pdf

Enrolling in 4-H Online as a RETURNING 4-H member or mini 4-H member:

https://extension.purdue.edu/county/ripley/_media/enrolling-in-4-h-online-as-a-returning-youth-member.pdf



Join us for another fun-filled year of 4-H!

**Enrollment Opens on 4-H Online
October 1st!**

4-H Online Web address: v2.4honline.com

For more information or the enrollment help guide contact
Purdue Extension Ripley County:
812-689-6511
525 W Beech St. Osgood, IN 47037
website: www.extension.purdue.edu/county/ripley/4h-ripley-county.html



EA/EOU

Ripley County 4-H Newsletter

4-H Scholarships



All 4-H members who are currently in grades 10-12 are eligible to apply for Indiana 4-H Scholarships sponsored by the Indiana 4-H Foundation. Ripley County 4-H members who apply for the state Senior Year Scholarship or Accomplishment Scholarship will automatically be submitted for the six county scholarships as well. Information about Scholarships can be found on the [State 4-H Scholarship Web Page](#) or by contacting the Extension Office.

**Scholarships are due
January 25, 2026!**



4-H Scholarship
Help Sessions:

- Monday 1-5-2026
Noon-5:00pm

Help Sessions are drop in office hour style, stop in to ask questions, get help editing and polishing your scholarship, or whatever you may need. Bring a laptop and your green 4-H record book with you to help during the help session.

Senior Year Scholarship

Available to 4-H members in their senior year of high school

Club Scholarship

Available to 4-H members entering Purdue University majoring in the College of Agriculture or select majors in the College of Health and Human Sciences

Purdue Horticulture & Landscape Architecture Scholarship

Available to a 4-H member majoring in horticulture or landscape architecture at Purdue University and studied plant science in 4-H.

Accomplishment Scholarship

Available to 4-H members in grades 10-12 of high school and the year immediately following high school graduation. The purpose of the 4-H Accomplishment Scholarship is to recognize youth who have excelled in life skills development through their 4-H activities and involvement.

Categories: Animal Science—Meat and Milk Production; Animal Science—Companion and Small Animal Production; Citizenship; Communications; Engineering and Technological Science; Healthy Living, Food and Nutrition Science; Leadership Development; and Plant and Environmental Science. Three additional categories are reserved for applicants demonstrating life skills development in more than one of the previously listed categories. Those are Premier Achievement, Premier Citizenship, and Premier Leadership.

Eligibility: Applicants must be in grade 10, 11, 12, or their first year immediately following 4-H enrollment eligibility at the time applications are due. While an applicant does not have to be a current 4-H member, they must demonstrate multiple years of involvement in Indiana's 4-H Youth Development Program.

Youth who have previously been awarded a \$1,000 accomplishment scholarship are only eligible to compete in the Premier Achievement, Premier Citizenship, and Premier Leadership categories. Youth who have previously been awarded a \$2,000 scholarship are no longer eligible to compete in any category.

Awards: A minimum of thirty \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to youth based on their demonstration of life skills development in these eight categories: Animal Science—Meat and Milk Production; Animal Science—Companion and Small Animal Production; Citizenship; Communications; Engineering and Technological Science; Healthy Living, Food, and Nutrition Science; Leadership Development; and Plant and Environmental Science.

A minimum of one \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded in each of these categories: Premier Achievement; Premier Citizenship; and Premier Leadership.

Visit bit.ly/4hscholarship to download applications.



Applications due to County 4-H Educator January 25.
Contact your county's Purdue Extension Office to learn more.

\$174,250 AWARDED IN 2025



Ripley County 4-H Newsletter

State 4-H Opportunity



INDIANA 4-H

TEEN LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

Where: Camp Tecumseh

When: March 27-29, 2026

Ages: Grades 7-12



CONFERENCE INFO

The Teen Leadership Weekend is an exciting opportunity for 4-H members to build their leadership skills, connect with peers from across the state, and prepare to make a positive impact in their communities. Held annually, this conference is designed for youth in grades 7-12 who are ready to take their leadership journey to the next level. Participants engage in hands-on workshops, interactive team activities, and inspiring sessions led by experienced mentors and fellow 4-H members. With a focus on personal growth, teamwork, and service, the weekend empowers youth to step into leadership roles, develop practical skills, and create lasting memories!



CONTACT YOUR
LOCAL PURDUE
EXTENSION OFFICE
TO LEARN MORE
AND REGISTER



Ripley County 4-H Newsletter



We Are Hiring!

PURDUE EXTENSION -
RIPLEY COUNTY OFFICE



WE'RE HIRING

2026 SUMMER INTERNS

The Ripley County Extension office is looking for college students who (preferably) have 4-H experience and are looking for summer work. You will gain valuable experience with organizational management, administration, customer service, and get to learn more about extension program, like 4-H, ANR & HHS. ***Must be EARN eligible.** Contact the Extension Office with questions.

Go to www.workandlearnindiana.com and create an account to see if you are EARN eligible.

Macy Young



The Extension office had the great opportunity to work with 10 year 4-H member Macy Young during her High school Work Based Learning. A big thanks to Macy for working with us during her Work Based Learning this semester and good luck with the rest of your senior year!

"I was here during my first semester of my senior year (August-December). I worked on lots of exciting things from working on the Mini 4-H handbook (coming soon!), helping extension educator Baylee with Captain Cash, and helping wherever I was needed. I have learned more about the roll of what all the extension office does. Other than just 4-H, they also can help with other needs like soil sampling packets. After my semester here I am more excited to help out more after finishing my 10th year in 4-H."

Wreaths Across America

On December 14th, Ripley County 4-Hers had the privilege to place a veteran's wreath at the headstone of servicemen in 9 different cemeteries around Ripley County to ensure that no one is forgotten. We are grateful to the [Ripley County Community Foundation](#) for allowing our community to Remember, Honor and Teach. Thank you to the 4-H Pioneers, Faithful Workers and Piercesville Haypals 4-H clubs for taking part in the [Wreaths Across America](#) program. If your 4-H Club would like to help next year, contact the extension office!



Ripley County 4-H Newsletter





TRACTOR KICK OFF MEETING

FEBRUARY 24TH @ 6:30PM

RIPLEY COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
525 W BEECH ST, OSGOOD

Other Tractor Dates

March 10 th @7PM Napoleon Fire Dept	June 20 th @9AM Ripley Co fairgrounds Fun Day & Driving Practice	June 27 th @7:30AM Ripley Co fairgrounds County Tractor Contest	July 25 th @TBD Decatur Co fairgrounds Area Tractor Contest
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Contact a leader with questions:

Harry Weber 812-216-6021	Steve Meyer 812-662-4303
Josh Weber 812-525-0676	Tanner Volz 812-212-6225

Shooting Sports 2025-2026



Ripley County Shooting Sports



Shooting Sports Leaders

Gun & Archery 2025-2026

Date	Location	Time	
January 11, 2026	Sunman Fish & Game	2:00-4:00 PM	Archery & Guns
February 15, 2026	Sunman Fish & Game	2:00-4:00 PM	Archery & Guns
March 8, 2026	Sunman Fish & Game	2:00-4:00 PM	Archery & Guns
April 12, 2026	Sunman Fish & Game	2:00-4:00 PM	Archery & Guns
May 17, 2026	Sunman Fish & Game	2:00-4:00 PM	Archery & Guns
June 14, 2026	Sunman Fish & Game	2:00-4:00 PM	Archery & Guns

Contest and Family Fun Day: July 11th, 2026
Time: Noon-4pm @ Coon Hunters Lodge

Michael Luers

Pistol

812-756-2999

Luers48@gmail.com

Mike Weiler

Archery

812-569-0533

mikeweiler@etczone.com

Bill Jordan

Marksmanship

317-525-1102

whjordan333@gmail.com

Jim Luers

Rifle

812-852-2178

Luers48@gmail.com

Daren Sarringhaus

Shotgun

812-212-1060

dsarringhaus1975@gmail.com



facebook.com/RipCoShootingSports

Ripley County 4-H Newsletter



RIPLEY WRANGLERS 2025-2026 CLUB CALENDAR

Watch Facebook, Remind and come to meetings to get the latest info!

Dates and activities are subject to change.

January 6, 2026- CLUB MEETING- Extension Office- Explanation of Folders and Club Paperwork **Demonstrations:** Kearney and Henley Simon

January 2026- Ripley Wranglers Philanthropy Fundraiser: Details to Come!

February 3, 2026- CLUB MEETING- Extension Office- **Demonstrations:** Maddy Menchhofer, Kinley Menchhofer, Adalyn Placke and Chesney Placke

March 3, 2026- CLUB MEETING- Extension Office- Spring Flower Fundraiser **Demonstrations:**

April 7, 2026- CLUB MEETING AND VACCINE CLINIC- Horse Barn- Vaccine Clinic before the Meeting: Watch for Details! Spring Flower Fundraiser **Demonstrations:**

April 18, 2026- CLINIC- Horse Barn & Arena- Open Ride and Clinic (TBD)

May 5, 2026- CLUB MEETING- Horse Barn- **Work Detail,** Barn/Stall Clean Up, 1st of 3 Safety Meetings **Demonstrations:**

May 10, 2026- POSSIBLE CLINIC (MOTHERS DAY)- Horse Barn & Arena- Open Ride and Clinic (TBD if enough interest)

May 28, 2026- CLINIC- Horse Barn & Arena- Open Ride and Clinic (TBD)

June 2, 2026- CLUB MEETING- Horse Barn 2nd of 3 Safety Meetings, Area 1 4-H Prep, STALL RESERVATION, STALL FEES AND FAIR SHOWBILL DUE! **Demonstrations:**

June 13-14, 2026- SPRING SHOW CLINIC AND SLEEPOVER- Horse Barn & Arena- Judge Alex Dewitt will be here to put on the Clinic and Practice Show BOTH Days! Watch for more information to come out in the Spring!

June 23, 2026- CLINIC- Horse Barn & Arena- Open Ride and Clinic (TBD)

July 7, 2026 CLUB MEETING- Horse Barn- Pre-Fair Meeting: ENCOURAGED to ATTEND!! Last of 3 Safety Meetings, Fair Week Prep and Job Duty Sign Up. **Demonstrations:**

July 11, 2026- CLINIC- Horse Barn & Arena- Open Ride and Clinic (TBD)

July 2026- FAIR ENTRY ENROLLMENT: (Watch for dates to be posted) Please make sure you ENROLL ALL OF THE PROJECTS AND CLASSES YOU WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN AT FAIR on www.fairentry.com.

July 18-25, 2026- RIPLEY COUNTY 4-H FAIR Horses are at the Fairgrounds starting Friday July 18th evening through Friday July 25th.

Feel free to reach out with any questions to the Club Superintendent and Leaders:
Greg Bonfer (812)621.1015, Jason Young 812.212.7662,
Sarah Young 812.212.1405 and Monica Hansen (812)756.0200.

Ripley County ANR Newsletter



FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR THE PRIVATE WOODLAND OWNER

Workshop Information

Forests cover nearly 20% of Indiana, and approximately 85% is in private ownerships like farms and families. Less than 20% of those owners have a forest management plan to guide them in the sustainable management of their property. Forests provide multiple ecologic, economic, and societal benefits, but may not be realizing their potential due to poor or no management activity, and threats like invasive plant species and pests. Indiana forests also support an important forest products industry, employing thousands of people and supporting many rural communities. Private forestland owners are often unaware of the resources and assistance available to them for realizing their property management goals. Forest Management for the Private Woodland Owner provides 8 evening indoor sessions and 1 field tour providing information on the biology and management of Indiana woodlands. Instruction is provided by Purdue Extension specialists and natural resource professionals. Sponsored by Purdue Forestry and Natural Resources Extension and Indiana DNR Division of Forestry.



The workshop will be held Tuesdays, from 5:30-8:30 PM Eastern, from February 10 to March 31, 2026 at the Franklin Co. Public Library - Brookville, 919 Main Street, Brookville, IN 47012

Field Tour at Southeast Purdue Agriculture Center - 4425 County Road 350 North, Butlerville, IN 47223
Saturday, March 21, 2026 from 8:00AM-12:00PM



FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR THE PRIVATE WOODLAND OWNER

FRANKLIN COUNTY Course Schedule

Franklin Co. Public Library - Brookville,
919 Main Street, Brookville, IN 47012 from
5:30-8:30 PM Eastern

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

- Forest Resource & Tree Identification

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

- Forest Biology & Ecology

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

- Forest Management Planning

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

- Forest Management Practices

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

- Marketing Timber

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

- Wildlife Management

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

- Managing the Woodland Investment

Saturday, March 21, 2026

- **Field Tour Southeast Purdue Agriculture Center** - 4425 County Road 350 North, Butlerville, IN 47223 from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

- Management Resources & Assistance Available to Forest Landowners
- Course Wrap-up



Continued

Registration Information

Advanced registration is required by February 3, 2026. Regular registration includes all learning sessions, a flash drive containing information supporting the sessions, handouts, and a tree measuring stick.

\$50 each

Guest registration includes all learning sessions and handouts at the sessions.

\$30 each

To register visit the link below or the QR code above:

<https://tinyurl.com/ForestMPWO2026>

Once registered, please follow the instructions to pay by check at the end of the registration survey.

Please contact the Purdue Extension Franklin County Office with any questions at 765-647-3511 or email Veronica at bullockv@purdue.edu.

PURDUE EXTENSION

MASTER GARDENER BASIC TRAINING

THURSDAYS NOON- 3 PM FEBRUARY-MAY

JOIN OUR 2026 COHORT OF LOCAL HORTICULTURE ENTHUSIASTS

CLASSES HELD IN MADISON & SURROUNDING HORTICULTURE VENUES
3767 W SR 265 MADISON, IN 47250

ARE YOU READY TO **APPLY TO JOIN THE 2026 COHORT?**
EMAIL COPELANB@PURDUE.EDU OR CALL (812) 265-8919



Our local Purdue Extension Master Gardener Program will be returning this spring on February 5th and will run weekly through May 7th.

The course includes an in-depth text book and a chance to network with local and state horticultural presenters on topics ranging from soil health and vegetable gardening to invasive species control and fruit tree management. This course is designed to accommodate all gardeners no matter the shade of green on their thumb. The 40 hour course & textbook costs \$175. There is a discount for anyone wishing to share a textbook.

If you are in need of accommodations, an interpreter or a translator to attend this program please reach out to copelanb@purdue.edu by January 15, 2026. Purdue University is an equal access/equal opportunity institution.