

ATTENTION EXTENSION - STEUBEN COUNTY

Spring 2026 Newsletter



Health & Human Sciences

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4-H Youth Development

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Agriculture & Natural Resources

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Located at

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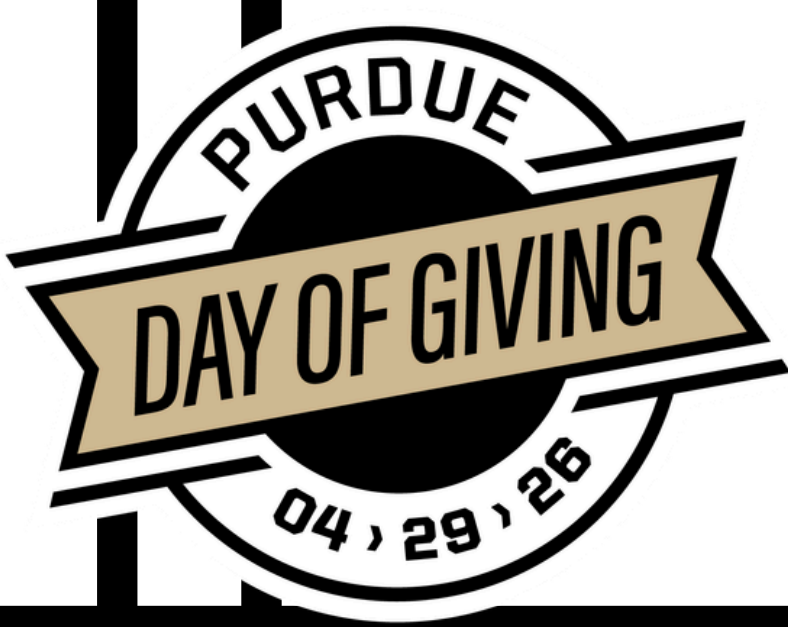
Angola, IN 46703

260-668-1000 ext. 1400

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Monday thru Friday





Help us reach
our goal of 100
\$10 donations!

dayofgiving.purdue.edu

On April 29, 2026, Boilermakers everywhere will come together for Purdue Day of giving - a 24 hour opportunity to support the Purdue programs that make a difference in our local communities.

This year, we invite you to consider supporting Purdue Extension Steuben County. Gifts made during Purdue Day of Giving directly strengthen our local Extension office.

4-H Youth Development Programs

Agriculture and Natural Resources Education

Health and Wellness Initiatives

Every \$10 donation helps us continue delivering research-based education, hands-on learning opportunities for all ages of Steuben County.

Mark your calendar for April 29 and consider making a gift to support Extension programming right here in Steuben County.

Our goal is to hit 100 \$10 dollar gifts!

Please fill out this lower portion and return to the Steuben County Extension office with your \$10 Increment donation to the 2026 Purdue Day of Giving!

Name:	_____
Address:	_____
Phone Number:	_____
Email:	_____
Amount:	_____

Please send payment with form back to
Purdue Extension Steuben County - 317 S. Wayne St. Suite 1A., Angola, IN 46703

Birding in Northeast Indiana: March & April Migration Highlights

Elysia Rodgers-ANR Extension Educator, Purdue Extension Steuben County

Spring is one of the most exciting times of year for bird watchers in Northeast Indiana. As the days lengthen and weather warms, migratory birds begin their journey north — often passing right through our backyards, woods, lakes, and wetlands. Whether you're a seasoned birder or a curious beginner, March and April offer plenty of opportunities to spot spring arrivals and enjoy the rhythms of nature.

What Birds to Look For

In early spring you'll start noticing both resident and migrating species:

Waterfowl & Early Migrants — Ducks, geese, and red-winged blackbirds begin claiming territory and resting in marshes and lakes across the region. March is a great time to scan ponds and water edges for Mallards, Blue-winged Teal, and other dabbling ducks as they move north.

Songbirds Arriving — Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallows, and Eastern Bluebirds often return by March or early April, filling the air with familiar spring calls.

Raptors & Woodpeckers — Watch the skies for migrating hawks like Red-tailed Hawks and smaller falcons. By mid-April, woodpecker species such as Northern Flickers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are moving through too.

Warblers & Flycatchers — As temperatures warm and trees leaf out later in April, warblers and other neotropical migrants begin to arrive, offering bright flashes of color in woodlands and forest edges.

Where to See Birds in Northeast Indiana

Northeast Indiana may not have a single “mega hotspot” like some Great Lakes shorelines, but it offers several excellent birding areas:

Pigeon River Fish & Wildlife Area – A birder favorite with woodland warblers, waterfowl, and even owls. Trails and lakes around Nasby Dam and Deep Lake offer diverse habitat and great viewing.

Chain O'Lakes State Park – Thirteen lakes mean lots of opportunities to scan water and shorelines for migratory ducks and early shorebirds.

Local lakes, wetlands, and roadside ditches – In March, leaves are still sparse and open views make it easier to spot warblers, sparrows, and flycatchers moving through.

Best Times & Tips for Birding

Go early morning — Birds are most active at dawn and early morning, especially during migration, as they feed after overnight flights.

Bring optics — A good pair of binoculars (or a spotting scope if you have one) helps you pick out waterfowl and distant flocks.

Use field guides or apps — Tools like Merlin Bird ID or eBird can help you identify species by sight and sound and track recent sightings in our area.

Watch wind direction — On warm days with south winds, migrants often push north in greater numbers — a great time to be out watching the skies.

Make Every Birding Moment Count

Spring migration is dynamic — one week in March may bring lingering winter sparrows and geese, while by late April you'll hear warblers singing and see swallows skim the water. Getting out regularly not only boosts your bird list but connects you with the changing seasons and the natural rhythms of our region.

Plan, Prep, Preserve

Your Path to Saving Food and Money is a University of California–affiliated educational effort designed to help households reduce food waste, improve food management skills, and stretch their food budgets. The program has been evaluated in academic settings, showing measurable benefits for participating families.

What the program focuses on

The initiative teaches practical, research-based strategies that help people make the most of the food they buy. Core themes include:

- Plan — Building meal plans, organizing shopping lists, and understanding how to buy only what you need.
- Prep — Learning proper storage, safe handling, and preparation techniques that extend the life of fresh foods.
- Preserve — Using home-preservation methods such as freezing, canning, and pickling to prevent spoilage and reduce waste. These themes align with efforts to improve food security and reduce waste through community education.

What the research shows

A study published in the *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior* found that the program:

- Reduced household food waste,
 - Improved food management skills, and
 - Helped participants adopt longer-term habits that save money and support healthier eating.
- These outcomes reflect the program's emphasis on practical, culturally appropriate, and accessible strategies for everyday households.

How it fits within food preservation work

The program complements the food preservation network. This statewide effort supports food safety, reduces waste, and helps families build confidence in preserving food at home

Why it matters

Food waste is both a financial and environmental issue. By helping households plan better, store smarter, and preserve safely, the program empowers people to:

- Spend less on groceries
- Waste less food
- Improve food security
- Build long-term skills that support sustainable living

If you're thinking about applying these ideas in your own home, what part—planning, prepping, or preserving—feels most useful to you right now?

Resource: University of California: Neelon, Schnur, Hartmann, VanCleave-Hunt, Padasas

Master Gardeners

Do you love gardening? Are you interested in connecting with others who share your passion? Do you enjoy learning new skills and giving back through volunteering?

If you would like more information about Master Gardeners please contact our office!

Parents Forever

Join us to explore practical strategies and valuable insights on how to communicate more effectively with your ex - whether your goal is to rebuild trust, maintain a healthy co-parenting relationship, or simply find closure. You'll learn helpful tips for managing emotions, setting boundaries, and having productive conversations that lead to mutual understanding.

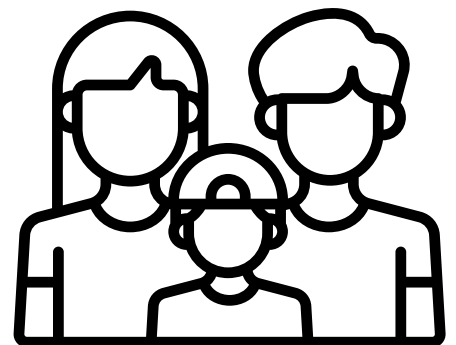
Date of Classes:

Apr. 21, 2026

May 19, 2026

June 9, 2026

July 21, 2026





ServSafe Food Manager 1- Day Class and Examination

April 20th, 2026

ServSafe educates food service workers about food safety. ServSafe Food Protection Manager is their highest certification. It satisfies Indiana requirements to become a Certified Food Protection manager and focuses on five aspects:

- Foodborne microorganisms and allergens
- Personal hygiene
- Purchasing, receiving, and storage
- Preparing, cooking, and serving
- Facilities, cleaning/sanitation, and managing pests

The full 1-day training includes a manual and proctored exam. You must score 70 percent or greater to earn the certificate. The certification is valid for five years. A photo ID with signature is required to take the exam (driver license, state ID, student ID, military ID, employee ID, U.S. green card, or valid passport).

For more information go to:

www.purdue.edu/servsafe/workshops

Register at Cvent online: <https://cvent.me/Xa3k3Z>



Registration Deadline: 4/13/2026

Street Address: 317 S. Wayne St.

City: Angola

State: IN Zip: 46703

Training, Manual & Proctored Exam: \$165

Manual & Proctored Exam: \$115

Proctored Exam: \$65

Registration Time: 8:45am

Training Time: 9am to 4pm

Exam Time: 4pm EST

Questions? Call Dana Stanley
Purdue Extension 260-668-1000x1400

Toastmasters International:

A supportive club to
build public speaking
and communication
skills.



April 10 and 24
At Noon
Purdue Extension
Office

Nonprofit Interagency Meetings at Purdue Extension

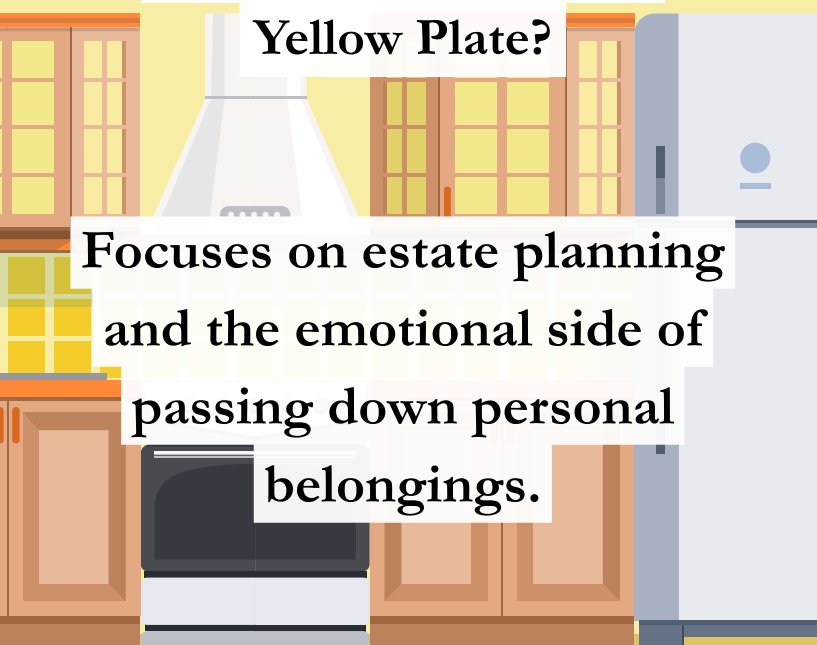
Monthly networking
for local nonprofit
members
last Wednesday
of the month
at noon.



Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Plate?

Focuses on estate planning
and the emotional side of
passing down personal
belongings.

Heritage Club,
April 22 at 8am



Fall Prevention at Terrace Ridge:
Weekly 4-week program starting
July 9.





Simple FINANCE CLASSES

Unlock the mysteries of personal finance and empower yourself with essential money management skills

- ✓ Budgeting tips & tricks
- ✓ Understanding credit scores
- ✓ Smart saving strategies



First Class : April 29, 2026



Time: 5-5:45PM



Location: Steuben County Office 317 S Wayne Street, Angola

**Classes held the last Wednesday of the month
\$3 per class**

**Contact Us to
Save Your Spot!**



260-668-1000 Ext 1400
dlstanle@purdue.edu

Summer Intern Opportunity!

Steuben County Extension is seeking an intern who is energetic, self-motivated and has a strong work ethic to assist with our county office this summer!

Qualifications

- Strong computer proficiency and effective communication skills are required.
- Working knowledge of 4-H programs is preferred.
- Demonstrated ability to work well with people, adapt quickly to changing situations, and effectively plan, coordinate, and implement activities. • Must have access to reliable transportation.
- Valid driver's license is required.
- High school diploma or GED/HSE equivalent required.

Applications available at the
Purdue Extension Office
or email
steubences@purdue.edu



April Dates to Remember!

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 - 4-H Explorers | 14 - Lucky Ducks |
| 3 - Half-Day for Purdue Extension | 15 - Horse & Pony Council |
| 6 - Quilters All day | 16 - Master Gardeners |
| 6 - Mini 4-H Night | 20 - Junior Leaders |
| 6 - Otsego | 20 - Archery Practice |
| 6 - Horse & Pony | 21 - Quilter @ 6PM |
| 7 - Conquerors | 23 - QLC |
| 10 - Toastmaster | 23 - HomeMakers |
| 11 - QLC | 24 - Toastmaster |
| 12 - Spring Clinic Poultry | 26 - Horse & Pony ID Day |
| 13 - Fair Board Meeting | 27 - Archery Practice |



May 15th, 2026

Mark your calendar!

May 15th is the final day to register your livestock. All animals must be registered by this deadline—no exceptions.

Don't wait until the last minute—get your registrations completed today!



Have all Indiana State Fair DNA turned into the Extension Office by May 15

County Park Camping During the Fair

Primitive camping is available again in 2026. Each camper/trailer space on the fairgrounds will cost \$100 for the week. These funds will be placed in a designated fund with the hopes of eventually installing electrical posts for campers in this area. We have no idea how many years it will take, but we need to start building up the funds. Payment for the current year in no way guarantees you an electric spot in the future. It just helps move us closer to that goal. Use the Google form link below to save your spot. Payment will need to be submitted on/before June 14.



Register @

<https://forms.gle/xRVGyishKb6qwXCJ8>

FairEntry

Open from
April 15 to June 3, 2026

Register @
steubencounty
indiana.fairentry.com

If you need step by step directions
please scan the QR code.



Work Sheets are Ready!

Please stop in and pick up your
Work Sheets between
Monday - Friday
from
8 AM - 4:30 PM



ATTENTION STATIC PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

The office has poster boards and plastic sleeves for sale in the office. Just stop in at the office between the hours of 8 am - 4:30 pm

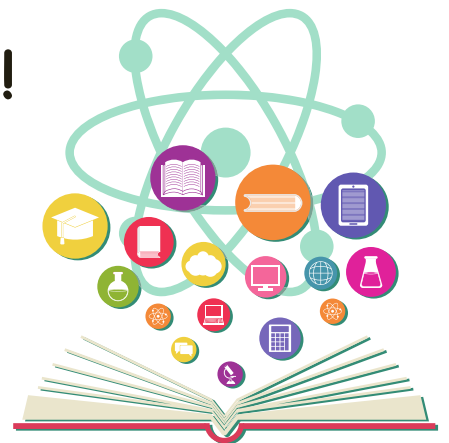
Foam board \$5.00 each
Plastic sleeves for \$1.00 each



4-H Academy and 4-H Round Up are officially open for registration!

Explore one of the many interesting career pathways available while adventuring around Purdue University Campus

Register on 4-H Online under Events



Steuben County 4-H Needs Assessment!

We are partnering with Joanna Claudy to perform a needs assessment for the overall program. This is simply to gain information to continue supporting the needs of the youth in Steuben County.

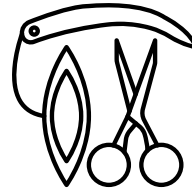


Please take a few moments
to fill out the survey !

https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eeMh8yHstZlrkrQ



Surgical Suturing Workshop for High School Students



High school students interested in healthcare are invited to join us for a free, exciting, hands-on Surgical Suturing Workshop! In collaboration with Steuben County 4-H, this interactive session will give students the opportunity to learn and practice basic suturing techniques in a supportive, educational setting. The workshop will be led by NEI-AHEC staff Kim DeOrto and Mia Reinhardt, who will guide participants through foundational skills used in medical and surgical settings. Students will gain exposure to clinical techniques, explore healthcare career pathways, and build confidence through a fun, hands-on learning activity. This is a unique opportunity for students considering careers in medicine, nursing, or other health professions to experience a practical skill used by healthcare providers every day. Space is limited – please register early!

Date: May 20, 2026

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Location: 317 S Wayne Street, Angola, IN 46703

Cost: Free

☞ Call Purdue Extension at 260-668-1000 ext. 1400



Genealogy Class at Carnegie Library

Beginning in May or June, there will be an opportunity to join a genealogy class!

If interested, email Ryan Boyer at ryanb@cplsc.org with the subject line of "Genealogy Classes".

Quality Livestock Care

Class Dates:

April 11, 2026
9:30 AM @
Carnegie Library

April 23, 2026
5:30 – 6:30 PM
Community Center



Register at: vs.4honline.com
Under Events

Steuben County - Purdue Extension

317 S Wayne St. Suite 1A
Angola, IN 46703

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Return Service Requested



DON'T FORGET



**STEBEN COUNTY 4-H
FUNDRAISER
DUE APRIL 15TH 2026**

