

Extension News in Tippecanoe County

PURDUE EXTENSION *TIPPECANOE COUNTY*



MAY 2025

[Tippecanoe County Website](#)



Extension - Tippecanoe County



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



THE INDIANA 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT MISSION IS TO PROVIDE REAL-LIFE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT DEVELOP YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WILL HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND THE WORLD.

ABC'S OF AG

On March 7th Tippecanoe County 4-H along with McCutcheon FFA welcomed over 475 third and fourth graders and adult chaperones from across Tippecanoe County to the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds! During their visit youth learned more about different aspects of the Ag industry from local businesses and organizations. A favorite of this annual event is always the variety of animals that the youth can see and learn more about during this fun filled day.



Local students petting the piglets at ABC's of Ag.
Photo credit: Amanda Graupner

CALLING ALL 4-H LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS

Join us for Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training in Tippecanoe County! This certification is a requirement for showing animals at the Tippecanoe County 4-H Fair, Indiana State Fair, and some open shows.

Training Dates:

May 15	6:30-7:30 p.m. est
June 19	6:30-7:30 p.m. est

Where: Tippecanoe County Extension Office
(1950 S. 18th St., Lafayette, IN)

Cost: \$3.00 (Cash or Check ONLY)

Deadline: Certification must be completed by June 27th!

Register today in 4-H Online under the events tab!

Have questions? We're happy to help! Call the Tippecanoe County Extension Office at 765-474-0793.

AREA 9 LIVESTOCK JUDGING

In April, sixty-four schools participated in the Area 9 Livestock Judging Contest held at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds. During this event, Livestock Judging Teams competed to earn coveted spots at the upcoming Indiana 4-H State Livestock Judging Event. Congratulations to the Tippecanoe County 4-H team of Clayton Moore, Cooper Bymaster, Levi Null, and Kylie Cox, along with Coach Craig Spray for receiving first place for the Senior Division!



Tippecanoe County 4-H Livestock Judging Team and Coach
Photo credit: Dee Nicley

JUNIOR LEADER TRAINING

Tippecanoe County 4-H Junior Leader Officers received special training from Purdue's Collegiate 4-H Team in April. The team shared tips on how to run meetings more effectively, how to set SMART goals and how to get involved if you attend Purdue University. We greatly appreciated learning from this awesome group!



Purdue Collegiate 4-H Team with our Tippecanoe County 4-H Junior Leader Officers
Photo credit: Dee Nicley



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



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JOIN US!

Can you believe it? The Tippecanoe County Fair is just a few short months away, and we are BUZZING with excitement! Whether you're building a rocket, training your dairy cow, putting finishing touches on your photography project, or sewing the last few stitches—keep going! Your hard work is what makes the fair such a fun and inspiring celebration.

Everyone is invited to experience the sights, sounds, and smiles of the Tippecanoe County Fair, happening July 18th–26th! From exciting 4-H exhibits and adorable animals to carnival rides, delicious food, and fun for all ages—there's something for everyone. Bring the whole family and make memories with us this summer at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds. You won't want to miss it!

TIPPECANOE COUNTY JULY 18-26 4-H FAIR

 **PURDUE**
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Extension Tippecanoe County



4-H participants during the 2024 Tippecanoe County 4-H Fair.
Photo credit: Amanda Graupner



4-H participants during the 2024 Tippecanoe County 4-H Fair.
Photo credit: Amanda Graupner

HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCE

PURDUE EXTENSION HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES PROVIDES EDUCATION TO INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES IN EACH OF INDIANA'S DIVERSE COMMUNITIES. WE BRING UNIVERSITY INFORMATION TO THE LOCAL LEVEL - BOTH IN PERSON AND ONLINE - TO HELP PEOPLE STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS, EAT SMART, IMPROVE HEALTH, AND ACHIEVE FINANCIAL WELLNESS.

STUDY ABROAD IN IRELAND- LEADING AND LEARNING

As a Program Leader for a Spring Break Study Abroad class to Ireland, Brock had the unique opportunity to explore environmental practices and sustainability efforts that support well-being. The trip offered valuable insights into how self-sufficiency and community-based solutions can improve quality of life—knowledge that will help inform future programming back home.

STRESS MANAGEMENT FOR TIPPECANOE COUNTY WIC

Locally, Brock presented the Stress Management session from the CREW curriculum to employees at Tippecanoe County WIC. This session focused on practical strategies to manage stress and support emotional resilience, helping staff better care for themselves as they serve others.

PERSONAL CELEBRATION

A Wrestling Champion in the Family! On a proud personal note, March brought a huge milestone: Brock's youngest son, Leo, became an Indiana State Wrestling Champion! Congratulations to him on this incredible achievement!



Brock at a sheep farm in Ireland where Border Collies train and are shipped all over the world as trained herding dogs. Photo credit: Brock Turner



HHS Educator, Brock Turner, and CWC, Betsy Coffing attending the HHS Update. Photo credit: AI Generated (Creepy right?!)

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PRESENTATIONS: NATIONAL & STATEWIDE

Brock shared his growing expertise on Artificial Intelligence with two key audiences this month. First, he presented nationally to members of the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB), offering insights on how AI can support and enhance nutrition and wellness education. Then, alongside Betsy, our Community Wellness Coordinator, they co-presented at the Purdue Extension HHS Update conference—helping Extension professionals across Indiana explore practical uses of AI in their work.

MATTER OF BALANCE PROGRAM COMPLETED

April also marked the successful start and completion of the Matter of Balance program. Participants built confidence, reduced their fear of falling, and learned strategies to stay active and independent—making a lasting impact on their overall well-being.

BLENDER BIKE FUN AT SALVATION ARMY KIDS NIGHT

In a hands-on and healthy twist, Brock and Betsy brought the Blender Bike to Salvation Army Kids Night! Youth participants learned about healthy eating, experimented with smoothie-making, and had fun learning how physical activity and nutrition go hand in hand—especially when pedal power is involved!

COMMUNITY CHILDCARE

PURDUE EXTENSION IS ENHANCING CHILDCARE SUPPORT BY ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF PROVIDERS, OFFERING RELEVANT TRAINING, AND FOSTERING CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE CHILDCARE COMMUNITY. THESE EFFORTS AIM TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF CHILDCARE, ACCESS TO RESOURCES, AND PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS. CHILDCARE PROVIDERS OFTEN WORK IN ISOLATION, FACING CHALLENGES IN IDENTIFYING AND UTILIZING AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

NEW ADDITION TO THE COMMUNITY!

Over the past six months, the Purdue Extension Community Childcare Team has been dedicated to identifying childcare needs and providing support to both providers and families across the Wabash Heartland region, including Tippecanoe County. In collaboration with key local partners — including YWCA, Tippecanoe County Extension, Ivy Tech, Lafayette Adult Resource Academy, Latino Center for Wellness and Education, Child Care Resource and Referral, INAEYC, Right Steps, and Greater Lafayette Commerce — the team has been actively engaging the community and assessing childcare needs.

On March 7th, the team took part in the Latino Business Expo, engaging with the Latino community and expanding connections. Additionally, the team has developed a proposal for a new mentoring program aimed at supporting both licensed and unlicensed childcare providers, including in-home, center-based, and ministry-based programs. This program is expected to launch by Fall of this year.



Members of the Community Childcare team attending the 2025 INAEYC Conference.
Photo credit: Childcare Team



Kids having fun crafting a community mural at Día del Niño.
Photo credit: Mari Romero

APRIL NEWS

On April 3rd, the Community Childcare team proudly hosted the first Tippecanoe County Childcare Coalition meeting. This exciting new initiative aims to bring together childcare providers to collaborate and plan events that address their unique needs. Over the next few months, the coalition will work closely with providers to ensure these events are tailored to support their growth and success. Later in the month, on April 25th, the team participated in the Regional Biannual Convening for the College and Community Collaborative. The team shared updates on ongoing projects and reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing childcare services across the region.

On April 26th, Alejandra Durán Trinidad, our Latino Community Childcare

Educator, attended Día del Niño, a vibrant event that allowed her to connect with families and share valuable resources. Wendy Collingwood, the Community Childcare Educator for Tippecanoe County, is also working directly with local childcare providers. Some have reached out for specific business resources, while others are exploring the possibility of starting their own family in-home childcare programs.

As we continue our efforts to strengthen the childcare community, we invite all childcare providers and parents of young children to stay connected with us through our social media channels on Facebook and Instagram. For more information or to get involved, please don't hesitate to reach out via email at extchildcare@purdue.edu.

COMMUNITY NEWS

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY | TIPPECANOE COUNTY EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS

GARDEN EXPO AND PLANT SALE

The Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County's annual Garden Expo & Plant Sale was a wonderful success! Despite the chilly weather, we were thrilled to see such a fantastic turnout from the community. Dozens of vendors filled the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds with vibrant plants, unique garden supplies, and expert advice, creating a lively atmosphere for all who attended. Shoppers were able to find everything from colorful annuals to hardy perennials, including high-quality plants grown with care by our very own Master Gardeners, who spent weeks and months preparing for the sale, while enjoying delicious treats from the Just Desserts Café and participating in our popular raffle.

Beyond the fun and excitement, the event plays a vital role in supporting the Master Gardener Program and the greater community. Funds raised help provide valuable education programs, scholarships, and community gardening projects throughout Tippecanoe County. This year, we are thrilled to share that we broke a record and raised \$19,114.13! Events like this not only promote sustainable gardening practices but also strengthen connections among local gardeners, vendors, and residents. Thank you to everyone who braved the chilly day to make this event a blooming success!



Local youth smiling after planting their own flowers at the Extension Homemaker's booth. Photo credit: Amanda Graupner



Members proudly showcased their colorful quilt creations during a recent club meeting, sharing tips, techniques, and inspiration with fellow enthusiasts. Photo credit: Amanda Graupner

QUILT CLUB

In March, the Tippecanoe County Extension Homemakers had an amazing Quilt Club meeting with three of their talented members—Vicki Schmidt, Kay Harris, and Patti Brouwer—leading a fantastic presentation!

They demonstrated beautiful quilts made from Fat Quarters (18" x 22" fabric pieces) and shared tips on using precut fabrics like jelly rolls (2.5" wide strips).

With 31 quilters in attendance, including two new members who joined on the spot, the club is now over 40 strong!

Love quilting? Come join the fun! Contact our extension office for more information.

COMMUNITY WELLNESS COORDINATOR

OUR COMMUNITY WELLNESS COORDINATORS HELP MAKE THE HEALTHY CHOICE THE EASY CHOICE. THEY COLLABORATE WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS ON BROADER COMMUNITY CHANGE THAT INVOLVES POLICY, SYSTEM, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES.

MARCH UPDATE

This month, 15 participants had the chance to try out the Blender Bike during Mar Lopez's Nutrition Education Program classes, a new and exciting way to promote healthy eating and physical activity. I also made some great new connections through GrowLocal Urban Garden Network and met with partners to explore future collaborations and opportunities. Lastly, I assisted with planning and preparing a healthy yogurt bowl lunch for our county Lunch & Learn, supporting nutritious choices in the workplace. Attendees also got to learn about "Mindfulness" from Tippecanoe County Health Officer, Seema Kengeri.



Participants in Mar's class had fun using the Blender Bike to whip up fresh hummus, the perfect pairing for their healthy snacks!
Photo credit: Paige Minter



Local youth enjoying the Blender Bike Program at Salvation Army.
Photo credit: Betsy Coffing

APRIL UPDATE

In April, I attended the Purdue Extension HHS Update and co-presented with Brock Turner on "Leveraging Artificial Intelligence in Community Health Needs Assessments." I also took part in Sustainability Day at Evonik, where I promoted GrowLocal to employees and encouraged local food engagement. Additionally, Brock and I brought the Blender Bike to the Salvation Army's afterschool program, providing nutrition education and making healthy smoothies with 15 K-8th grade students.



Brock Turner testing the Blender Bike before our bike program at Salvation Army
Photo credit: Betsy Coffing

NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM ADVISORS

BEST KNOWN FOR COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS AND SHARING FOOD SAMPLES AND COOKING TOOLS, OUR CERTIFIED NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM ADVISORS (NEPAS) OFFER FREE LESSONS FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, AND ADULTS THAT CAN MAKE A HEALTHY DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES.

SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

During the month of March, Tammy shared the CATCH Program with 3rd grade students at Woodland and Mayflower Elementary. Students were excited to prepare healthy snacks at the end of each lesson. Veggie wraps and fruit smoothies were among the favorites with several students trying new fruits and vegetables for the first time (Spinach, avocados, and mango). Students also learned how to "investigate" nutrition facts labels to help identify healthier food choices.

Jessica was busy sharing the Teen Cuisine Program with 7th and 8th grade students at Benton Central Jr High. Students were engaged in activities that reinforced recipe reading, kitchen equipment identification, and label reading. During snack preparation, students practiced cutting techniques and measuring skills. Slicing apples and creating a fruit dip (yogurt/orange juice) was one of their favorites.

In April, Tammy wrapped up the CATCH series with Mayflower and Woodland, and began another six lesson series with Miller, Glen Acres, and Murdock Elementary. Students not only learned how to make healthier food/drink choices, but also learn the importance of limiting screen time to ensure adequate "move" time. One the favorites snacks with this group included Eating the Rainbow (sampling fruits of all different colors: blackberries, pomegranates, mango, kiwi, cantaloupe, honey dew melon).

Jessica continued Teen Cuisine lessons with a second group of 7th and 8th graders at Benton Central and began CATCH lessons with 4th grade students at Earhart Elementary. During the beverage lesson, students were shocked after investigating the amounts of sugar in sodas. In addition, students learned the amount of fruit juice in fruit drinks is located at the top of the nutrition facts label. (Look for 100%).



Colorful veggie bowls prepped and ready for students to enjoy during Tammy Martin's CATCH nutrition lesson in Tippecanoe County Schools.

Photo Credit: Tammy Martin

WHAT IS CATCH?

CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health) is an evidence-based program designed to promote healthy eating and physical activity among children. It focuses on creating a school and community environment that encourages lifelong healthy habits. The program includes interactive lessons, hands-on activities, and family engagement to help kids develop healthier lifestyles.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM



Hello everyone! My name is William Walls, and I'm thrilled to join Tippecanoe County Extension this summer as a 4-H Intern. I'm also serving as a Next Chapter Facilitator for Indiana 4-H, where I'll be helping students build their college and career readiness skills.

This summer, I'll be leading an exciting new program called "Ag to Athletics," which highlights the many agricultural careers that make the sports world possible. From field management to sports nutrition, I'm excited to show students the important connections between agriculture and athletics.

A little about me — I'm originally from Richmond, Virginia. I completed my bachelor's degree at Oklahoma State University (Go Pokes!) and earned my master's degree in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University while working as a Graduate Research Assistant. I decided to stay here in Indiana while my lady finishes her degree. In my free time, I enjoy taking my dog on walks, fishing, golfing, cooking, and finding a good TV show to binge.

I'm really excited to be part of the Tippecanoe County team and can't wait to work with students as they explore their future career paths!

Hi everyone! My name is Dilynn Harmon, and I am thrilled to introduce myself as the new 4-H Program Assistant for Tippecanoe County.

I am currently a senior at Purdue University studying Developmental and Family Sciences. I will work part-time at the Extension Office until graduation in mid-May, then transition to working full-time. I am honored to be a part of such an amazing program and community. With a passion for youth development and community engagement, I look forward to supporting our 4-H families, clubs, and volunteers. I'm here to make your experience meaningful and fun. If you see me around, please feel free to say hello. I am extremely excited to be working with you all.



UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENTS FOR THE MONTHS OF MAY AND JUNE

May

6th- Tippecanoe County Baby Shower, Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (CC)

7th- Artificial Intelligence and Me, Downtown Public Library 6:00 p.m. (HHS)

8th- Sheep and Goat ID, Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds 5:00-7:00 p.m. (4-H)

10th- Sheep and Goat ID, Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds 9:00-11:00 a.m. (4-H)

15th- **ADD/DROP DEADLINE IN 4-H ONLINE!** (4-H)

15th- QLC Training for 4-H Livestock Exhibitors at Extension Office 6:30 p.m. (4-H)

22nd- CREW Stigma Reduction, WIC Tippecanoe County (Closed to the public) (HHS)

26th- OFFICE CLOSED

29th- Keeping Children Safe: Systems for Supervision, Tracking, and Follow Through (Mantenga a los niños seguros: supervisión y seguimiento), and Fix it Safe, Extension Office 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Delivered in Spanish** (CC)

June

Tammy and Jessica begin a new program at Purdue's PALS summer program (NEPA)

4th- Aging in Place, Downtown Public Library 6:00 p.m. (HHS)

4th-6th- 4-H Camp, Camp Tecumseh (Must Register to Attend) (4-H)

11th-13th- 4-H Academy, Purdue University (Must Register to Attend) (4-H)

19th- QLC Training for 4-H Livestock Exhibitors at Extension Office 6:30 p.m. (4-H)

19th- OFFICE CLOSED (Educator's working remotely)

21st-23rd- State 4-H Band and Choir, Purdue University (Must Register to Attend) (4-H)

23rd- Mini 4-H Camp, Extension Office (Must Register to Attend) (4-H)

24th- Mini 4-H Camp, Extension Office (Must Register to Attend) (4-H)

23rd-25th- 4-H Round Up, Purdue University (Must Register to Attend) (4-H)

27th- **FAIR ENTRY CLOSES & QLC/YQCA Due!** (4-H)

Please call the Tippecanoe County Extension Office for any further information. (765)474-0793



Extension

LET'S STAY TOGETHER.

**PURDUE EXTENSION
TIPPECANOE COUNTY OFFICE**

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