

Extension News in Tippecanoe County

PURDUE EXTENSION *TIPPECANOE COUNTY*



NOV 2025

[Tippecanoe County Website](#)



Extension - Tippecanoe County

MEET YOUR *EXTENSION* TEAM



Dee Nicley
4-H Youth Development



Will Walls
4-H Youth Development



Dilynn Harmon
4-H Youth Development



Emily Ade
4-H Youth Development



Ashlee Merryman
4-H Youth Development
Health & Human Sciences



Brock Turner
Health & Human Sciences



Amanda Graupner
Digital Programming



Jon Charlesworth
Ag & Natural Resources



Adam Tyler
Ag & Natural Resources
4-H Youth Development

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.

SUPPORTING FUTURE PROFESSIONALS

Brock hosted a Purdue University student, Sarah, during their Community Nutrition rotation, offering an immersive experience focused on understanding local needs and addressing food insecurity. This partnership not only supported student learning but also contributed valuable insights into how nutrition professionals can work at the community level to make a difference.

BE HEART SMART PROGRAM

With the generous support of the Tippecanoe County Health Department and Health First Indiana (HFI) grant funding, Brock brought the Be Heart Smart program directly to the community. Participants learned practical, evidence-based strategies to reduce their risk of heart disease and improve cardiovascular health through diet, lifestyle, and behavior change.

COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

Brock also participated in a local Community Health Fair, where he shared helpful resources and tips related to health, nutrition, and



Brock speaking to community members during the Community Health Fair!

Photo credit: Amanda Graupner



Brock Turner and Ashlee Merryman conducting the "A Matter of Balance" class series.
Photo credit: Amanda Graupner

wellness. This outreach helped connect community members with valuable information.

A MATTER OF BALANCE

Fall Prevention Program: Thanks to support from the Tippecanoe County Health Department, Brock and Ashlee brought the Matter of Balance class to the community. This program empowers adults to reduce their fear of falling, stay active, and maintain their independence through practical strategies and exercises.

EXTENSION OUTREACH TO INDIANA CARE CIRCLE

As part of their mission to promote health education, Brock presented to the Indiana Care Circle organization, showcasing the ways Purdue Extension supports health education and wellness throughout the area.

STAYING SCAM SAFE

With a focus on safety and awareness, Brock delivered the Staying Scam Safe program, equipping community members with tips and strategies to recognize, avoid, and report scams.

SLEEP ON IT

At a regional TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meeting, Brock presented the Sleep On It program, emphasizing the vital connection between healthy sleep habits and overall wellness. Attendees left with actionable steps for improving their rest and recovery.

YOUTH COACHING

Supporting Active Lifestyles: Outside of formal programs, Brock continues to make a difference in the community by volunteer coaching youth football and basketball. He hopes to build confidence, teamwork, and a lifelong love of physical activity among youth.



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.

JOIN US!

BECOME A 4-H MEMBER IN TIPPECANOE COUNTY

Enrollment for Indiana 4-H begins October 1st and members are encouraged to be enrolled by January 15th to receive important updates. Drop/Add deadline for livestock and non-livestock projects will be May 15th.

The 4-H program fee is \$15 per child, and \$45 max per family. The program fees cover insurance, project curriculum development, and club enrichment activities.

The same enrollment dates will apply to Mini 4-H(K-2). However, there is no county program fee for Mini 4-H.

Please click on the following link for further instructions to enroll in 4-H for the 2024-2025 program year.

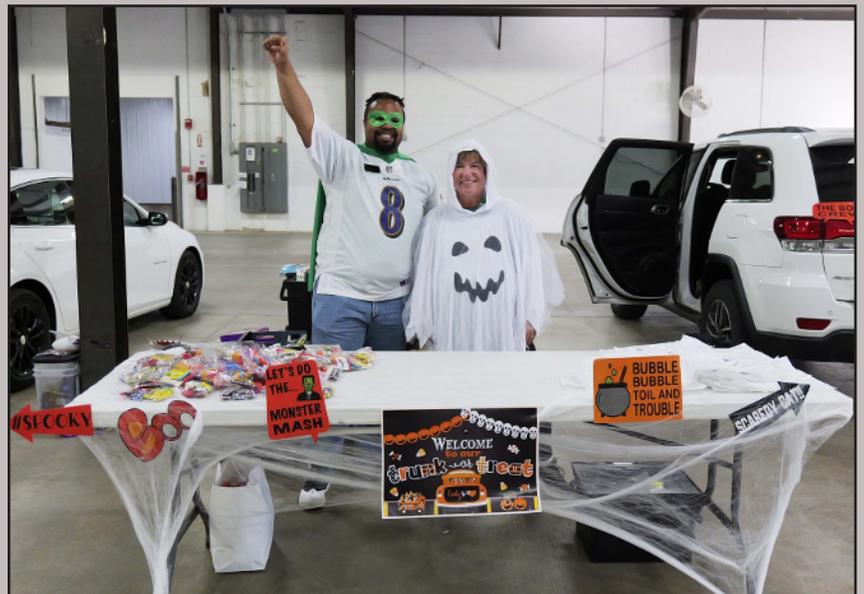
[Tippecanoe County 4-H Online Enrollment](#)

In September, 23 Junior Leaders attended their annual Completion Trip for 2025. This year they spent the day at King's Island in Mason, OH. The Junior Leaders work diligently all year long participating in community service activities, fun activities, and work assignments. During the Tippecanoe County 4-H Fair, the youth worked in the Junior Leader Pop Stand which helps raise money for their meetings, trips, and activities. The group is already looking forward to planning next year's trip!

On October 16th, Purdue Extension Tippecanoe County partnered with the Tippecanoe County Health Department to host the Annual Trunk or Treat at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds. Over 450 youth, along with their adults, came out for this fun filled evening. Many thanks to the 23 "Trunks" that joined us in giving out goodies to the families of Tippecanoe County!



Dee Nicley takes a picture with Tippecanoe County Health Department's Stacie Rees at the annual Trunk or Treat. Photo credit: Amanda Graupner



4-H Educators, Will Walls and Dee Nicley, hanging out at their table at our annual Trunk or Treat. Photo credit: Amanda Graupner



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4-Hers exploring the Elcona Country Club to ID trees.
Photo credit: Will Walls

Will attended a couple of conferences in September to continue refining his skills as an educator. He spent a day in Indianapolis at the Indiana Youth Institute Conference, where he listened to speakers talk about AI in education and even got some hands-on experience with a few AI applications. Later in the month he attended the state 4-H Youth Staff Conference in Muncie, where he got to connect with 4-H Youth Educators and learned about all of the great 4-H programs happening around the state. If the Tippecanoe county 4-Hers want, he would love to replicate a couple like the "Golf Academy" and "NFL in the Classroom". He finished up the month helping with a soils contest in Montgomery county, and doing an Ag to Athletics program at Prairie Crossing Elementary School. Along with Benton County's 4-H Educator Dilynn Harmon and Regional 4-H Extension Administrator Laura

Johnson, the team worked with Prairie Crossing's 6th grade classes. They introduced them to a Turf Management Football Relay to show the students how agriculture is used in the sport of football.

Will's October has been full of outreach programming. He started going to Bauer Family Resource's afterschool program, doing his Ag to Athletics program with the students introducing them to physics, marketing, football, and agility. He went back to Benton County to do an Ag to Athletics program with Otterbein Elementary's 3rd graders. There, he and Dilynn Harmon (Benton County's 4-H Educator) led the students in a "design their own mini golf hole" activity. The 3rd graders ended the day creating a classroom sized mini golf hole, using items brought by the educators and others found in the classrooms, and each student got a chance to putt for a hole-in-one. He also got to do a craftier Ag to Athletics program with White County's Junior Leaders after they finished their tour of Purdue's campus. The Junior Leaders were able to plant some grass seed, design their own soccer socks, and sew together a paper-balloon football while learning about the jobs of a Collegiate Superintendent of Turf Management and the factory that makes the NFL's footballs in Ada, OH.

Will is also spending some time traveling for professional development this month. He took a trip to attend the Elkhart County 4-H Golf Management Academy and learn from Corey Sharp and Sthele Greybar about the partnership they formed with Ryan Cummings and Elcona Country Club. At the end of the month he will fly out to Atlanta, GA to attend the National 4-H Conference.



Will helping the 3rd graders at Otterbein Elementary design their team mini golf hole.
Photo credit: Amanda Graupner



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BECOME A JUNIOR LEADER!

Junior Leaders is a project that is offered through 4-H for any member that is in Grade 7 or above. Junior Leaders is based on community service opportunities, especially related to the 4-H program and the county fair. Junior Leaders also serve as mentors and role models for younger 4-H members by interacting with them and sharing their experiences with them.

In order to complete the Junior Leaders project, you need to gain 100 points or more. Junior Leaders earn points by volunteering at different events and attending meetings, approximately one hour of time equals 10 points. Additionally, if a Junior Leader earns more than 125 points, they qualify for the Junior Leader Achievement Trip.

If you or someone you know might be interested in this project, please reach out to our office at (765) 474-0793 to get involved today.



AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

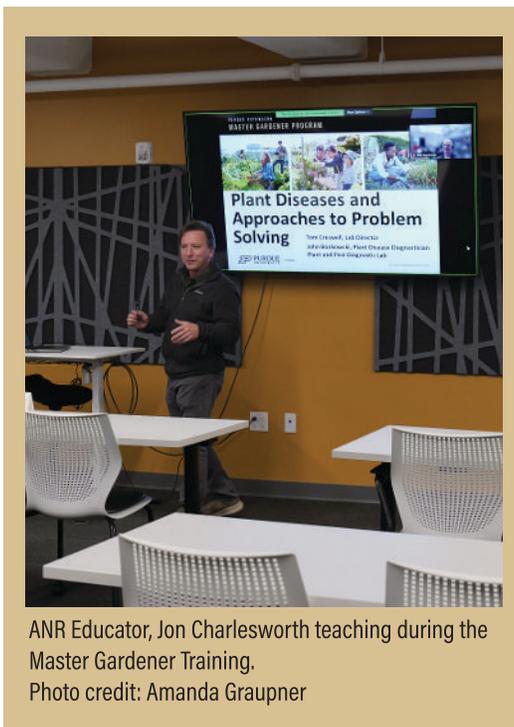
PURDUE EXTENSION'S AG AND NATURAL RESOURCES (ANR) EDUCATORS SERVE AS A RESEARCH BASED, UNBIASED INFORMATION SOURCE FOR COUNTY AND STATE CONSTITUENTS ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS INCLUDING: CROPS, AG BUSINESS, LIVESTOCK, NATURAL RESOURCE, HORTICULTURE, SMALL FARMS, URBAN AG, PESTICIDE USE, AND LAND CONSERVATION. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PURDUE UNIVERSITY SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS, ANR EXTENSION EDUCATORS CAN PROVIDE RELEVANT AND PROVEN BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO ADDRESS MANY CLIENT'S SITUATIONAL NEEDS.

Growing Knowledge and Community Through Gardening

Extension Educators across Tippecanoe County have been hard at work cultivating both plants and people this fall. 4-H Youth Development Educator Dee Nicley, along with Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Educators Adam Tyler and Jon Charlesworth, have been leading training sessions for a group of 25 Extension Master Gardener interns.

Classes, held Thursday evenings from 6–9 p.m. since August 28th, will continue through December 18th. So far, participants have explored topics such as plant and soil science, vegetable and fruit gardening, herbaceous ornamentals, insects, weeds, and pesticide safety. Upcoming sessions will cover plant disease, invasive species, woody ornamentals, lawn care, and animal pests. Interns will take their final exam on December 11th, followed by a graduation ceremony on December 18th to celebrate their hard work and dedication.

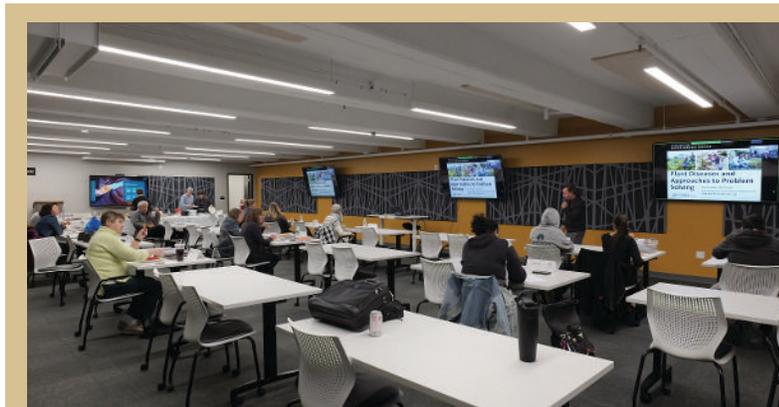
Meanwhile, Adam Tyler, one of Tippecanoe County's ANR Educators and a member of the Western Extension team, has been actively engaging with the community this fall. "This past month was busy with questions coming in as we approach the season," Adam shared. He visited several homeowners to assist with habitat and tree selection, herbicide damage on fruit trees, and other plant health concerns. "It's been great to interact with the residents of Tippecanoe



ANR Educator, Jon Charlesworth teaching during the Master Gardener Training.
Photo credit: Amanda Graupner

County, and I'm looking forward to continuing to work with Jon to bring valuable resources and education to our community."

Together, these educators are growing more than gardens, they're cultivating knowledge, collaboration, and a stronger connection between Purdue Extension and the residents of Tippecanoe County.



Participants in the Master Gardener Training listen while having some dinner during an evening class.
Photo credit: Amanda Graupner

2026 Virtual Master Gardener Training

Looking ahead, the statewide virtual Extension Master Gardener Intern Training will begin after the first of the year. This course will be conducted via Webex every Tuesday evening from 6:30–8:30 p.m., February 3 through May 5, 2026. Participants will also join a weekly Local Connection Zoom meeting lasting one hour per week, with the specific day and time to be determined.

Interested applicants must complete a brief application, due by January 14, 2026. Those seeking more information or wishing to receive an application form can contact Jon Charlesworth at charles6@purdue.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENTS FOR THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

November

- 3rd- A Matter of Balance (Must Register to Attend), Warren Co. 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (HHS)
- 5th- A Matter of Balance (Must Register to Attend), Warren Co. 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (HHS)
- 5th- Ag to Athletics (Closed Class), Bauer Family Resources 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (4-H)
- 6th- Ag to Athletics (Closed Class), Bauer Family Resources 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (4-H)
- 6th- Master Gardener Basic Training (Closed Class), Extension Office 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. (ANR)
- 10th- A Matter of Balance (Must Register to Attend), Warren Co. 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (HHS)
- 11th- OFFICE CLOSED
- 12th- A Matter of Balance (Must Register to Attend), Warren Co. 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (HHS)
- 13th- Ag to Athletics (Closed Class), Bauer Family Resources 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (4-H)
- 13th- Master Gardener Basic Training (Closed Class), Extension Office 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. (ANR)
- 17th- A Matter of Balance (Must Register to Attend), Warren Co. 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (HHS)
- 17th- Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (Closed Class), ESP Conference
- 19th- A Matter of Balance (Must Register to Attend), Warren Co. 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (HHS)
- 20th- Master Gardener Basic Training (Closed Class), Extension Office 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. (ANR)
- 24th- A Matter of Balance (Must Register to Attend), Warren Co. 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (HHS)
- 25th- CEF Contest, Beck Agricultural Center All Day (4-H)
- 26th- A Matter of Balance (Must Register to Attend), Warren Co. 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (HHS)
- 27th- OFFICE CLOSED
- 28th- OFFICE CLOSED

December

- 3rd- Ag to Athletics (Closed Class), Bauer Family Resources 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (4-H)
- 4th- Ag to Athletics (Closed Class), Bauer Family Resources 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (4-H)
- 4th- Master Gardener Basic Training (Closed Class), Extension Office 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. (ANR)
- 9th- Who Get's Grandma's Pie Plate?, Tippecanoe County Public Library- Downtown 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (HHS)
- 10th- Ag to Athletics (Closed Class), Bauer Family Resources 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (4-H)
- 11th- Ag to Athletics (Closed Class), Bauer Family Resources 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (4-H)
- 11th- Master Gardener Basic Training (Closed Class), Extension Office 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. (ANR)
- 16th- PARP & CCH Program, Extension Office 9:00 a.m. (ANR)
- 17th- Ag to Athletics (Closed Class), Bauer Family Resources 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (4-H)
- 18th- Ag to Athletics (Closed Class), Bauer Family Resources 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (4-H)
- 18th- Master Gardener Basic Training (Closed Class), Extension Office 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. (ANR)
- 24th- OFFICE CLOSED
- 25th- OFFICE CLOSED

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

Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access University.

LET'S STAY TOGETHER.

**PURDUE EXTENSION
TIPPECANOE COUNTY OFFICE**
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Extension



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