

4-H LINK Newsletter

March 2026



Purdue Extension - Vanderburgh County, 13301 Darmstadt Rd. Suite A Evansville IN 47725
(812) 867-4935 <http://extension.purdue.edu/vanderburgh>

**4-H Enrollment is
now open!**

**Enroll at v2.4honline.com to
stay up to date with all
things 4-H!**

**4-H Program Fee: \$25
Mini 4-H Program Fee: \$5**



NOW HIRING

SUMMER INTERNS

WE ARE LOOKING FOR CURRENT
COLLEGE STUDENTS TO APPLY TO
BE A 2026 SUMMER INTERN WITH
PURDUE EXTENSION-
VANDERBURGH COUNTY!



Contact Taylor at
tvanmet@purdue.edu for an
application or with any questions!

Purdue University is an equal access/equal opportunity institution.
If you have any special needs, please call us prior to the event at (812)-867-4935

4-H Ambassadors



Are you looking for new ways to improve your leadership skills? The Indiana 4-H Ambassador Program is for youth in grades 9-11 that have been a 4-H member for at least 2 years. Don't miss out on the chance to mentor younger 4-H'ers and help conduct statewide 4-H events. Learn more at purdue.ag/ambassadors4h, and apply at purdue.ag/4HAmbassador26 by April 15.

HANDBOOK

The 4-H Handbook is now available online! Click to access it. All 4-H families will receive a hard copy of the 4-H Handbook from their primary club leader.

Graduating Senior Survey



2026 4-H grads, Indiana 4-H wants to hear about your 4-H experience! Please complete a survey to capture the culmination and impact of your 4-H activities. Information from your survey will be used to feature you as a 4-H graduating member for the county via newsletters, bulletin boards, social media posts, etc. Those who complete the survey will receive a 4-H graduation tassel."

puext.in/2026_4H_Graduating_Member_Survey



7-12 graders, do you have a community service project you would like to implement in your hometown? Apply for a YES Grant through the Indiana 4-H Foundation to help fund your idea at in4h.org/grants.

Volunteer Opportunity

The Indiana Association of Fairs is hosting a FREE "You Make the Difference" Tour with Ian Hill this April. This opportunity is designed to inspire and support fair leaders, volunteers, and partners.

April 8 6:00 - 9:30 pm, Vanderburgh 4-H Center
Register [here](#).

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for caring adults that can serve as Assistant Superintendents for Arts & Crafts - Help organize during project check-in and check-out
Contact Megan Hoffherr at mkron@purdue.edu if you're interested in learning more

4-H CAMP

4-H Camp will be held on June 1-3 at the Historic Santa Claus Campground for youth in grades 3-6. Registration will be open soon and emailed to all 3-6 graders. Be on the lookout!

2026 TRIP WINNERS

WE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 4-H ACADEMY, ROUND-UP AND TEEN LEADERSHIP WEEKEND! CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO 4-H!

4-H Academy

MADDIE BEDEL
JACK BOSSMAN
ALYSSA COOMES
BRANDT COOMES
AUSTIN GROENINGER
ISABEL KROFT
ELISE LOUSIGNONT
ABIGAIL PFAFFLIN
KATHERINE ROEMKE
SAMANTHA SHRULL
DIMITRI STRAUB
SEANAN WALKER
KYLIE WEISS
ANNA WESSELMAN
BRADEN WHEELER
BLAKE WOODARD

4-H Round Up

AVERY CARR
LYDIA COOMES
CAROLINE CREAMER
EVERLEIGH CRESWELL
BREYDON CURTIS
KAELA HUBER
JARRETT KEIL
SAVANNAH KING
VIVIAN KROFT
KAYLA SAPP
TANNER WADE
ELIJAH WILSON



4-H Teen Leadership Weekend

ALYSSA COOMES, BRANDT COOMES, LYDIA COOMES, BREYDON CURTIS, ASHLEY KROFT, ELISHA KROFT, ISABEL KROFT, ELISE LOUSIGNONT, MAXWELL RICKETTS, KAYLA SAPP, SAMANTHA SHRULL, KYLIE WEISS, BRADEN WHEELER



New 4-H Projects!

4-H My Way

Show how you live the pledge in any activity! Bring a notebook, poster, display or video showing what you like to do outside of 4-H. Ideas include video gaming, welding, sports, academic super bowl, etc. How has 4-H helped you succeed in other areas? We'd love to see!



4-H Pass It On

Do you have a parent, grandparent, or other mentor that has helped you learn a new skill? Bring a notebook, poster, display, or video showing what they taught you that isn't already another 4-H project. Topics could include cooking, garage skills, etc.

Why 4-H?

Show us why you love 4-H! Create a video showing a 4-H activity/project you participate in. Ideas could include showing an animal, being a club officer, going to State Fair, going on a 4-H trip, participating in a contest. Why do you love 4-H?

Want to add one of these projects? Add it to your project list in 4-H Online or contact the Extension Office to add it. We can't wait to see the new projects!

Project Changes

The following changes were made to the 4-H handbook for 2026. Please review the 2026 handbook to ensure you are meeting all project guidelines. Please reach out to the project superintendent or the Extension Office with questions.

Non-Animal Projects:

- Addition to state poster projects: "The poster must be mounted on a firm backing to add stiffness to the exhibit, for example: a foam core board."
- Updates were made to the Computer Science project and the Shooting Sports Contest - see handbook for more details

Animal Projects:

- Animal Identification: In 2026, Rabbits will be identified in 4-H Online and Poultry must complete an online Google Form by May 15 (more details will be sent out in March)
- Update to grooming policy: "At the Vanderburgh County Fair, anyone can assist with grooming as long as the 4-H member is involved in the process"
- Updates were made to Dairy Goat project - see handbook for more details.
- Horse & Pony addition: "For the safety of all participants, Junior members in grades 3-7 must have a parent, guardian, or approved caregiver present on the Vanderburgh 4-H Center grounds during participation in all 4-H Horse and Pony activities."

Animal News

TAGGING DAY

Saturday, May 2
9:00 - 11:00 am

Vanderburgh 4-H Center Animal Barns

Beef, Meat Goat, and Sheep exhibitors are required to attend a Tagging Day to receive tags for your animals.



Please complete the survey at <https://tinyurl.com/26> Tagging to help us plan for Tagging Day



Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access University. If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program or need a translator or interpreter, please contact Megan Hoffherr at mkron@purdue.edu

Animal Identification

Plan ahead to complete your animal ID information before the deadline below:

May 15, 2026

Beef, Dairy, Dairy Goats, Horse & Pony, Llamas, Meat Goats, Pygmy Goats, Rabbits Sheep, and Swine via 4-H Online

Poultry via Google Form

Animals not enrolled by these deadlines cannot be exhibited at the County or State Fair.



Extension - Vanderburgh County

INDIANA 4-H QUALITY LIVESTOCK CARE

To exhibit BEEF CATTLE, DAIRY CATTLE, SWINE, SHEEP, MEAT GOATS, DAIRY GOATS, PYGMY 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) by **July 1, 2026**.

This certification must be done an annual basis. Members must be registered BEFORE attending a training. Members may attend any training dates listed on this flyer OR a training in another county OR complete the online YQCA training

Tues, Mar 17
6:15 pm (After
Livestock Club)
Salem Church

Thurs, May 28
3:00 pm
Purdue Extension
Office

Wed, June 17
3:00 pm
Purdue Extension
Office

Mon, June 29
6:00 pm
4-H Center
Conference
Room

Visit <https://qlc26.4honline.com> to register. The cost is \$3.

To be certified through YQCA, register at www.yqcaprogram.org and present completion certificate to 4-H Educator.



Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access University. If you are in need of accommodations or an interpreter or translator to attend this program, please contact Megan Hoffherr at (812) 867-4935 or mkron@purdue.edu 2 weeks before the program.

VANDERBURGH COUNTY 4-H

AG DAYS

APRIL 7 & 8 AT THE
VANDERBURGH
4-H CENTER



We are looking for older 4-H members (7th - 12th grade) willing to speak and/or bring animals to Ag Days! At this event, nearly 500 4th graders come to learn about agriculture by rotating through 15 minute hands-on stations about animals, crops, tractors, beekeeping, plant science, and more. This is a great opportunity to practice your public speaking skills and share your passion and knowledge of agriculture with 4th grade students!

Sign up for one or both days at <https://tinyurl.com/AgDays26>. Presenters need to be there from 8:30 am - 3:00 pm. Help is also needed with set-up at 1:00 pm on April 6 and clean-up.

Questions? Contact Taylor at tvanmet@purdue.edu or Megan at mkron@purdue.edu.



Vanderburgh County 4-H

AG DAYS



Join our Vanderburgh County 4-H members for an informative and exciting afternoon of all things ag!

Vanderburgh County 4-H is hosting Ag Days for homeschool students and the community!

Participants will have the opportunity to see, touch, hear, smell and taste the wonders of our local agriculture!



Tuesday April 7th or
Wednesday April 8th



Vanderburgh 4-H Center
201 Boonville New Harmony Rd.
Evansville IN 47725



1-3pm both days

SIGN UP HERE!



Purdue University is an equal access/equal opportunity institution. If you have special needs, please call us prior to the event at (812) 867-4935.

Swine Pen Fundraiser



We are raising money for new swine and goat pens to ensure members and animals have a safe and functional environment at fair. We have secured enough funding to purchase goat pens and are raising money for new swine pens. If you know of any businesses or families willing to donate, please share this with them.

Sponsorship Levels:

- Sweepstakes Sponsor: \$5,000+
- Grand Champion Sponsor: \$2500 - \$4999
- Reserve Grand Champion Sponsor: \$1,000 - \$2499
- Honorable Mention Sponsor: \$300 - \$999
- Honorable Mention Sponsor: Up to \$299

Find out more details with the fundraising letter found [here](#). Your donation, no matter the size, will have a significant impact on our 4-H community. Thank you for your consideration!

Swine Tags

The USDA's APHIS is offering no-cost RFID tags to swine exhibitors to enhance disease response. We have these free tags available based on our swine exhibition number from last year. 4-H members can pick up a tag for each of their 4-H swine while supplies last.



JR. PORK DAY

Mark your calendars! Jr. Pork Day at Purdue is Saturday March 7th. It is a fun day for 4-Hers and their parents to come to campus get a chance to see live pigs, go into the meats lab to judge pork products, and have hands-on swine focused activities. The program runs from 9-3 ET, with sign-in starting at 8:30 am ET in the lobby of the Purina Pavilion attached to the Creighton Hall of Animal Sciences.



4-H & Club News

Scott Achievers

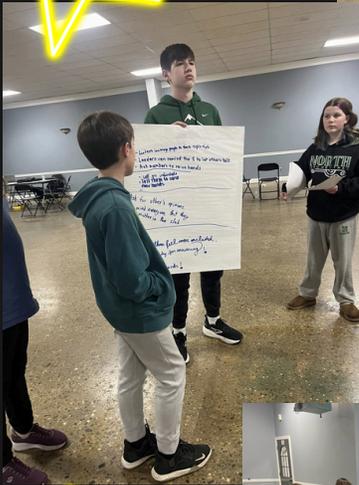
The Scott Achievers 4-H club met on Feb 15th at Bluegrass Church. We had a short business meeting and then took turns presenting our demonstrations. We had demonstrations ranging from how to shoot a bow, how to hit and pass a volleyball to making brownies.

Submitted by: Hadley Jackson

4-H Officer Training
Congrats!
THESE CLUBS HAD ALL FOUR MAIN OFFICES PRESENT AT 4-H OFFICER TRAINING AND WILL RECEIVE A CASH PRIZE FROM THE JUNIOR LEADERS!
STAR
ARMSTRONG HI-LIGHTERS
GERMAN GEMS

LIGHTS, CAMERA, LEADERSHIP! 4-H OFFICER TRAINING

We had 32 4-H'ers join us at the Officer Training. Include clubs that won
Special thanks to Amy Woodard for leading the New Member Night during Officer Training!



4-H Adult Leaders Fundraiser

<http://4hadultleaders.fpfundraising.com/>

Start planning your summer garden while helping us continue the important work of providing scholarships, supporting 4-H events, and advancing our mission. This fundraiser has been very successful for German Gems and the Horse & Pony clubs, and we're excited to offer it.

Shipping starts April 1

Why Flower Power?

- High-quality seeds and bulbs
- Backed by a 100% grow guarantee
- Shipped directly to your home
- (Tip: Combine orders with friends to save on shipping!)



Vanderburgh County Fair Pageants

The following Pageants will be held during the Vanderburgh County Fair 2026:

1. Miss Vanderburgh County Queen Pageant

The deadline for entering the Vanderburgh County Pageant is June 26, 2026.

For rules and to enter, go to vanderburghcountyfair.com (Events, Contests, Pageants, Queen Pageant)

Contestants chosen as Queen and First Runner Up must be at least 18 years of age and cannot have reached their 22rd birthday on or before June 1, 2027. Younger contestants and other members of the Queens Court must be 16 years of age by July 20, 2026.

The 2026 Queen will compete in January 2027 at the Indiana State Fair Queen Program competition.

The 2026 1st Runner Up will have the opportunity to compete at the Indiana State Festivals Association Scholarship Queen Pageant on November 7, 2026.

For information, contact: Beth Schmitt (812) 550-3487, baschmitt53@gmail.com; Rhonda Klueg-Slater at (812) 459-4662, rjkslater@gmail.com; or Alyssa Welte (812) 483-1389, alyssa.l.welte@gmail.com

2. NEW for 2026: Miss Vanderburgh County Teen Pageant

The deadline for entering the Miss Vanderburgh County Teen Pageant is June 26, 2026.

For rules and to enter, go to vanderburghcountyfair.com (Events, Contests, Pageants, Teen Pageant)

Contestants must be at least 13 years old by July 20, 2026 and not had her 16th birthday as of November 7, 2026.

The Miss Vanderburgh County Teen 2026, will have the opportunity to compete at the Indiana State Festivals Association Scholarship Princess Pageant on November 7, 2026.

For information, contact: Chairperson - Laura Duncan (812) 449-3709, mlchdunc@gmail.com or Assistant Chairperson - Rachel Pohl (812) 664-9572, rachelelizabethpohl@icloud.com

3. Vanderburgh County Young Miss Pageant

The deadline for entering the Miss Vanderburgh County Young Miss Pageant is June 26, 2026.

To enter, go to vanderburghcountyfair.com (Events, Contests, Pageants, Young Miss Pageant)

Each contestant must be at least 10 years old and not had her 13th birthday as of July 20, 2026.

For information, contact: Abbey Riggs, Chairperson (812) 306-1744, abbey.j.duval@gmail.com or Audrey Creel, Assistant Chairperson (812) 205-5454, audlcreel@gmail.com

4. Miss Golden Pageant (Pageant for Females with Special Needs)

All contestants must be at least 10 years old and cannot have reached their 35th birthday on or before June 1, 2026.

The deadline for the Miss Golden Pageant is July 3, 2026.

To enter or for questions, contact Lauren Durchholz at (812) 664-8152 laurenziliak@gmail.com or Robin Lax at (812) 459-8971 rclax67@gmail.com

5. Little Miss and Mister Contest

Contestants must be at least 5 years old and cannot have reached his/her 8th birthday as of July 21, 2026

The deadline for entering the Little Miss and Mister Contest is June 26, 2026.

For information to enter, go to vanderburghcountyfair.com (Events, Contests, Pageants, Little Miss and Mister)

For more information, contact Sara Coomes, (812)455-8363 saracoomes@gmail.com or Katie Barnes, Assistant (812)480-0936 katierhs63@hotmail.com

New Members

Are you new to 4-H and have questions? Click [here](#) for a new member guide and video or reach out to the office with questions and we're glad to help! We're glad you've joined 4-H!



Vanderburgh County 4-H

Performing Arts Contest

An Evening of Talent, Creativity & 4-H Spirit!

April 29 | 6:00 PM
4-H Center Auditorium

Participate in the musical, non musical, or group division
Register using the QR code or by visiting:
<https://tinyurl.com/4hperformingarts2026>



Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access University. If you are in need of accommodations or an interpreter or translator to attend this program, please contact Megan Hoffherr prior to the meeting at (812) 867-4935 or mkron@purdue.edu by April 15



MARCH 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 6:00 Armstrong Hi-Lighters	4	5 6:30 Jr. Leaders	6	7
8	9 6:30 Horse & Pony 5:00 Star 4-H 6:00 Centerrific	10 7:00 Shooting Sports	11	12	13	14
15 6:00 Scott Achievers	16	17 6:15 QLC with Livestock Club	18 6:00 Tractor Club 6:00 St Wendel All-Stars 6:00 Mini 4-H	19 6:30 4-H Council	20	21
22	23			26	27	28
29 4:00 Green River Clover Crew	30	31 5:30 Tech Club				



2026 4-H DATES

All dates and locations are subject to change.

January

- 1: Holiday, Office Closed
- 8: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 15: 4-H Council Meeting, 6:30 pm, Extension Office
- 19: Holiday, Office Closed
- 25: 4-H Scholarships Due in 4-H Online
- 31: 4-H Trip Applications Due

February

- 5: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm, Banquet Hall
- 15: 4-H Camp Counselor Applications Due
- 16: Holiday, Office Closed
- 18: Mini 4-H, 6:00 pm, Expo Hall
- 19: Livestock Committee, 6:30 pm, Extension Office
- 23: 4-H Officer Training/Adult Leader Meeting, 6:00 pm, Expo Hall

March

- 5: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm, Banquet Hall
- 17: Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training (After Livestock Club Meeting), 6:15 pm
- 18: Mini 4-H, 6:00 pm
- 19: 4-H Council Meeting, 6:30 pm, Extension Office
- 23-27: EVSC Spring Break

April

- 2: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm, Banquet Hall
- 3: Holiday, Office Closed
- 7-8: Ag Days, 4-H Center
- 15: 4-H Camp Applications Due
- 15: Mini 4-H, 6:00 pm
- 23: Livestock Committee, 6:30 pm, Extension Office
- 29: 4-H Performing Arts, 6:30 pm, Auditorium

May

- 2: Tagging Day for Beef, Meat Goats, Sheep, Small Animal Barns
- 5: Holiday, Office Closed
- 7: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm, Banquet Hall
- 15: ANIMAL ID DEADLINE
- 20: Mini 4-H, 6:00 pm
- 22: EVSC - School's out for summer
- 25: Holiday, Office Closed
- 28: Quality Livestock Care Training, 3:00 pm, Extension Office

June

- 1-3: 4-H Camp, Santa Claus, IN
- 4: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm, Banquet Hall
- 7: County Tractor Contest, 4-H Center
- 10-12: 4-H Academy at Purdue AND 4-H Round-Up at Purdue
- 17: Quality Livestock Care Training, 3:00 pm, Extension Office
- 17: Mini 4-H, 6:00 pm

June cont.

- 18: 4-H Council, 6:30 pm, Extension Office
- 19: Holiday, Office Closed
- 25: Livestock Committee, 6:30 pm, Extension Office
- 29: Quality Livestock Care Training, 6:00 pm, Conference Room

July

- 1: Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Deadline & Fair Entry Deadline
- 2: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm, Banquet Hall
- 3: Holiday, Office Closed
- 8: 4-H Speech & Demo Contest, 6:00 pm, Banquet Hall
- 8-9: Mini 4-H Day Camp, 4-H Center
- 9: 4-H Council, 6:30 pm, Extension Office
- 13: Fashion Revue (Judging in Expo Hall - AM, Show in Auditorium, PM)
- 15-16: Fair Set-up
- 18-19: Enter 4-H Projects
- 20-25: Vanderburgh County Fair
- 26: Projects Released

August

- 6: Jr. Leader Banquet, 6:00 pm, Banquet Hall
- 7-23: Indiana State Fair (closed Mondays)
- 20: Livestock Committee, 6:30 pm, Extension Office

September

- 3: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm, Banquet Hall
- 7: Holiday, Office Closed
- 15: Achievement Records, 4-H Club Secretary & Treasurer Books, Club Scrapbooks, & Honor Club Apps Due
- 16: Mini 4-H, 6:00 pm
- 17: 4-H Council, 6:30 pm, Extension Office
- 26-27: Extension Homemaker Craft Show

October

- 1: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm, Banquet Hall
- 21: Mini 4-H, 6:00 pm
- 22: Livestock Committee, 6:30 pm, Extension Office

November

- 3: Holiday, Office Closed
- 5: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm, Banquet Hall
- 11: 4-H Achievement Banquet, Auditorium
- 18: Mini 4-H, 6:00 pm
- 19: 4-H Council, 6:30 pm, Extension Office
- 26-27: Holiday, Office Closed

December

- 2: 4-H Adult Leaders Holiday Party
- 3: Jr. Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm, Banquet Hall
- 16: Mini 4-H, 6:00 pm
- 24, 25, 31 - Holidays, Office Closed

