



Extension - Vermillion County

PURDUE EXTENSION VERMILLION COUNTY

2024 - 2025

ANNUAL

REPORT

**Purdue Extension
Vermillion County
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Purdue Extension

Mission Statement

**We deliver practical,
research-based information
that transforms lives and
livelihoods.**

Vision Statement

**We will be a leader in providing
relevant, high-impact
educational programs that
transform the lives and
livelihoods of individuals and
communities in Indiana and
around the world.**

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Phil Cox, Extension Educator

2024-2025 ANR Program Highlights Extension educators with agricultural and natural resource specialties offer programs and information on agricultural production and financial management for farmers, food and fiber processors, manufacturers and consumers. We also provide expertise in environmental issues, natural resource conservation and land use.
Highlights for 2024 - 2025 for Vermillion County (and beyond) programs included:

Agriculture Education

- Bi-State Crops Conference (also a PARP (Pesticide Applicator Recertification Program))
- Vermillion County Virtual Crop Management Workshop (and PARP)
- Vermillion County Agronomic Outlook Meeting (and PARP)
- Statewide Virtual PARP
- Vermillion Co. Ag Breakfast Program
- 13th Indiana Small Farm Conference & Trade Show
- Bi-State Homesteading Conference
- Virtual Women in Ag Succession Planning Program (4 classes)
- Beekeeping Program

Gardening Education

- Bi-State Garden Conference
- Arbor Day Celebrations & Educational Programs (2 programs)
- Purdue Extension Master Gardener Basic Training (Clay, Putnam, & Montgomery Counties)
- Purdue Extension Master Gardener "Plant Info to Go Booth" at Indiana Flower & Patio Show and Indiana State Fair
- Parke-Vermillion Master Gardener Association (5 classes)
- Purdue Extension Nutrition Education Program "Growing Together" Grant
- Buckeye & Horse Chestnut Landscaping Program

Natural Resources Education

- Native/Invasive Species Flora & Fauna Educational Hikes (5 hikes)
- Cayuga Park Tree ID Walks (2 walks)
- Experience Otter Creek Event
- Pond Management Workshop
- Herbicide 101 Program
- Pollinator Conservation Program

Youth Education

- Vermillion County 4-H Conservation Day
- 4-H Wonder of Wetlands Day (2 days)
- Vermillion County Kindergarten Conservation Day
- Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training (3 classes)
- North Vermillion High School College & Career Fair Presentation

Other

- 4-H Science & Conservation Center Pollinator Planting Project
- Wrote 17 articles for *Vermillion Parke On The Level* - 83/61/365 Fb page
- 17 WITY (980AM/99.5FM) radio broadcasts

Community Teamwork

- Indiana Small Farm Conference State Committee
- Indiana Master Naturalist State Advisory Council
- Indiana Invasive Plant State Advisory Committee
- Advisor for Parke-Vermillion Master Gardener Association
- Purdue Extension Invasive Species Working Group
- Purdue Extension Natural Resources and Land Use Focus Group
- Bi-State Extension Ag Programs Team
- Vermillion Co. 4-H Council
- Vermillion Co. ANR Advisory Committee
- Watershed Project Steering Committees for Mill Creek & Otter Creek

Community Efforts Involving Vermillion County ANR Educator

- Vermillion Trails Alliance Board of Directors
- Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission
- Ouabache Land Conservancy Board of Directors
- Wabash Valley Audubon Society Board of Directors
- Vermillion Co. Area Plan Commission



4-H Youth Development



Morgan Lutz, Extension Educator

2024-2025

Year in Review

- 260 youth enrolled in 4-H
- 72 youth enrolled in Mini 4-H
- 12 Ten Year 4-H Members
- 52 approved 4-H adult volunteers
- 194 youth reached at Vermillion County Conservation Day - learning the importance of conservation in our everyday lives
- 380 youth reached at Wetlands Day at Duke Energy - exploring wetland ecosystems, native plants and animals, water quality
- 6 youth participated on the 4-H Forestry Judging Team with a new coach, 4 advanced to the state competition at Purdue University
- 1 youth attended the Area V Junior Leader Social
- 43 youth participated in the Indiana Great Apple Crunch - statewide celebration of Indiana agriculture where students learn about local food systems and enjoy fresh, locally grown apples together
- 3 4-H adult volunteers attended the Indiana 4-H Affiliate Summit
- Held 5 sessions of Mini 4-H Monthlies at each elementary school, averaging 15 youth per session, providing hands-on 4-H experiences
- 5 youth attended the Area V Bridges to Adventure Spark Club - an outdoor skills and team-building experience designed to spark interest in nature and outdoor activities
- Reached 88 youth through a new program, Class to Clover, offered at Central and to a local homeschool group. Youth learned the basics of CPR & First Aid, then assembled their own first aid kits, which could be entered in the county fair as part of the Health project
- Hosted a 4-H Cake Decorating Workshop - 11 youth learned basic cake decorating skills in partnership with Sweet and Sourdough Bakery
- Hosted a 4-H Gingerbread Workshop - 8 youth created gingerbread houses to exhibit at the county fair
- 74 youth completed Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training
- 26 youth attended 4-H Camp Shakamak and 10 youth served at 4-H camp counselors
- 52 youth attended Mini 4-H Camp across two locations
- 3 youth attended 4-H Round-Up at Purdue University
- 1 youth attended the Area V 4-H Junior Leader Completion Trip
- 4-H Junior Leaders served over 900 hours of community service
- Offered the Power of Produce program at the Eugene Station Farmers Market - engaging youth with fun tastings and physical activities to receive tokens to spend on fresh produce
- Vermillion County 4-H represented at the Indiana State Fair in livestock shows, static building projects, and performing arts

Health and Human Sciences

Lori Bouslog, County Extension Director, Extension Educator

Health and Human Sciences Extension delivers educational programs, applied research and resources to your community, with a focus on issues related to food, family, money and health.

- **Captain Cash** financial literacy program reached 114 3rd grade students at Central and Van Duyn Elementary Schools, and Dana Christian School. Students learned about earning, saving, spending and borrowing money. I am currently the statewide contact for Captain Cash, and oversee sale of the curriculum beyond Indiana.
- **Where Does Your Money Go?** was offered one time. Four participants, with three attending both sessions of the program, and completing their household budget.
- **Dining With Diabetes** was offered two times, in collaboration with the Vermillion County Health Department. Twenty-three individuals registered for the four-session series, which also included a reunion session. CADI funds were used to provide the program at no cost to participants.
- **A Matter of Balance** was offered two times, in collaboration with the Vermillion County Health Department. Fourteen participants completed the program, which includes eight 2-hour sessions.
- **Health and Human Sciences programs** also included: Strategies for Estate Planning, Including Your Digital Assets (5 presentations); Curb Your Urge to Splurge During the Holidays; financial education program for 4-H Junior Leaders; Work Ready programs for South Vermillion High School JAG classes; Money Smart for Older Adults (2-program series); Coupon Craze; Empower Me to Be Clutter Free (3-program series); New Ideas for Holiday Leftovers; Food Allergies 101
- **Vermillion Parke Health Coalition** continues to meet regularly, with five working groups, discussions and guest speakers. Hosted the Oxfam Hunger Banquet, with 53 participants. Hosted "Spring Into Wellness: Nourishing Mind and Body Summit", focusing on mental health and food insecurity, with 30 individuals registered.
- **Health and Human Sciences efforts** also included: Vermillion County Extension Homemakers Advisor; four programs during Vermillion County Fair, including "Strategies for Estate Planning, Including Your Digital Assets"; 5d Diamond Dots during Home & Family Day; "Dare to Be Aware" Personal Safety presented by Vermillion County Sheriff's Department; and Fire Blanket Demonstration, presented by Vermillion County 4-H member Matthew Howard, with a grant funded by the Indiana 4-H Foundation
- **Leadership Vermillion County** graduated fourteen individuals, after their investment attending twelve sessions, time spent completing homework, and a visit to the Indiana Statehouse. The graduation included an LVC alumni networking event. "Atomic Habits" virtual book club will launch Fall 2025.
- **Myers-Briggs Type Indicator** workshops facilitated in 4 counties, reaching 62 individuals.
- **Financial Resource Management Retirement and Estate Planning Committee Chair**
- **VPCHC Clinical Standards Committee member**
- **Real Colors and Myers-Briggs Type Indicator** certified facilitator
- **Professional memberships include:**
 - IEEA-Indiana Extension Educators Association, Past State President
 - NEAFCS-National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, Past State President, Current Chair of Finance and Fundraising Committee
 - NAE4-HYDP-National Association of Extension 4-H and Youth Development Professionals
 - ESP - Epsilon Sigma Phi Extension Honorary, Past State President, Current Chair

Nutrition Education Program : Vermillion County

Chloee Hurst, RDN, Community Wellness Coordinator

The Clinton Chateau Growing Together project was a collaboration between the Parke-Vermillion Master Gardeners, the Vermillion County ANR Educator, Phil Cox, the Clinton Chateau residents, and the Nutrition Education Program (NEP), led by Community Wellness Coordinator (CWC), Chloee Page. The project was funded through a multi-state grant through SNAP-education federal funding, with a focus on nutrition education and addressing food insecurity through an edible gardening project. There was a large focus on sustainability to ensure that the project could go on after the initial financial and time investment.

The NEP CWC managed the grant and bought and transported all materials. Mindy Johnson, the NEP Advisor in Parke County, joined the initiative to provide nutrition education and healthy recipes for the gardening club, she came monthly to meet with residents. The Master Gardeners provided education and support to ensure the success of the garden and help plan the layout. The garden has had a wonderful yield the first year with over 100 pounds of produce harvested in green beans, tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, and squash as of the end of July. They are looking forward to their harvest of radishes and more zucchini as the summer winds down. There were over 10 Master Gardeners involved in the project who provided support and education. Thank you to everyone who was involved in the success of this project! Pictures below of the Vego[®] Beds and some residents of the Chateau.



The Nature of Teaching

Margie Allee, Program Assistant, shares **The Nature of Teaching**(TNT) in Vermillion County Schools. The Nature of Teaching is an informal educational program designed to teach youth ways to explore the outdoors, connect with nature, and strengthen family relationships. There are four 30-minute lessons including gardening, bird and tree identification, and habitat diversity education.

During the 2024-2025 school year, 132 fourth grade students participated in TNT from Central, Van Duyn and North Vermillion Elementary schools; and Dana Christian School.

Community Teamwork and Efforts Involving Vermillion County Extension Staff

- Purdue CARET (Purdue Council on Agriculture, Research, Extension, and Teaching)
- Vermillion County Fair Board
- Vermillion County Local Coordinating Council
- Vermillion Parke Health Coalition
- Vermillion County 4-H Council
- Vermillion County ANR /HHS /4-H Youth Development Program Area Advisory Committees



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