



Highlights Happening Here at Headquarters

September/October 2026

Hello Everyone! I'd like to start by saying congratulations to all of the White County 4-H youth, who did a great job at the White County 4-H Fair and at the Indiana State Fair! A huge thank you goes out to everyone who helped to make the 2026 White County 4-H Fair a success! Thanks to everyone's hard work we had a very successful week, and words cannot express how grateful we are. We hope that everyone enjoyed their week at the Fair and we can't wait to see what the next year brings!

Now that Fair is over, it's almost time to start a new 4-H year! The 2026- 2027 4-H year will begin on October 1st, 2026. Be sure to read the enrollment information in this newsletter and watch for additional information to come in September.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the Extension Office at (219) 984-5115 or send me an email at childer9@purdue.edu.

Sincerely,

Molly Childers

Molly Childers

Extension Educator- 4-H Youth Development

Connect with us:
12 N 25 E Reynolds, IN 47980
219-984-5115

Open Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Follow us on Social Media for the latest news and photos!

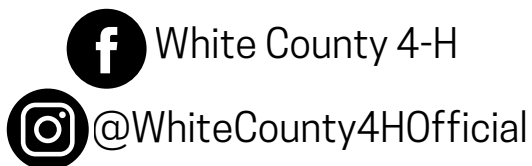
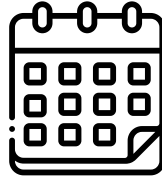


Photo: Braylon Rhoda and Isaac Davis display their champion ribbons received for their Jr. Demonstration team project at the Indiana State Fair

4-H Calendar



September

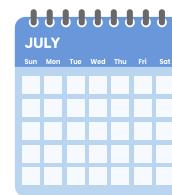
- 2nd**- 6 p.m., 4-H Building, Fair Committees Meeting
- 2nd**- 7 p.m. 4-H Building, Ag Association Meeting
- 3rd**- 6 p.m. Jr. Leaders Decorating Belstra Hay Bale
- 7th**- Extension Office Closed (Holiday)
- 10th**- 6:30 p.m., (Shooting Sports-Camp Buffalo) Fun Shoot
- 12th**- 8 a.m., (Horse and Pony) End of year Fuzzy Show
- 14th**- 6:30 p.m. Jr. Leaders tour at the Farmstand
- 19th**, (Prairie) Apple Popcorn Festival – Caramel Apple Booth
- 24th**, 6:30 p.m., (Shooting Sports-Camp Buffalo) Fun Shoot
- 30th**- 2027 Rule Changes due to Extensin Office

October

- 1st**- 4-H Enrollment Opens
- 4th-10th**- National 4-H Week
- 5th**- 6:30 p.m., Jr. Leaders Meeting @ 4-H Building
- 8th**, 6:30 p.m., (Shooting Sports-Camp Buffalo) Fun Shoot
- 12th**- Extension Office Closed (Holiday)
- 12th**, (Prairie) 4-H Pizza Party
- 22nd**, 6:30 p.m., (Shooting Sports-Camp Buffalo) Fun Shoot
- 31st**- 3 p.m.-5 p.m., Jr Leaders at Monticello Trunk Or Treat

Mark Your Calendars!

2027 White
County 4-H Fair
will be July 17th-
23rd, 2027



Added an
extra day!

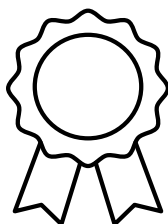
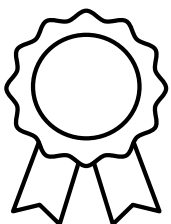
Remember to Say "Thank You!"

Attention 4-H members!

Did you receive a trophy, trip, or special award this year, or did you sell an animal in the 4-H Livestock Auction? Did someone help you with your 4-H project this year? This may include parents, siblings, 4-H Leaders, auction buyers, Ag Association members, other 4-Hers, or 4-H Volunteers. If so, please remember to write your sponsor, donor, buyer, or helper a thank you - even if you thanked them at the time you received the award. Individuals and businesses donate to the 4-H program because they believe in you and in what 4-H offers. Without this support, our program would not be as successful. Let's show White County 4-H Supporters that we really do care about all of the things they do for us in the White County 4-H Program!

State Fair Results

Congratulations to all of the White County 4-H members who participated in the 2026 Indiana State Fair. Everyone did a fantastic job and represented White County well! Check out the Indiana State Fair 4-H results online at the Indiana State 4-H webpage at: <https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/about/state-fair-results.html>



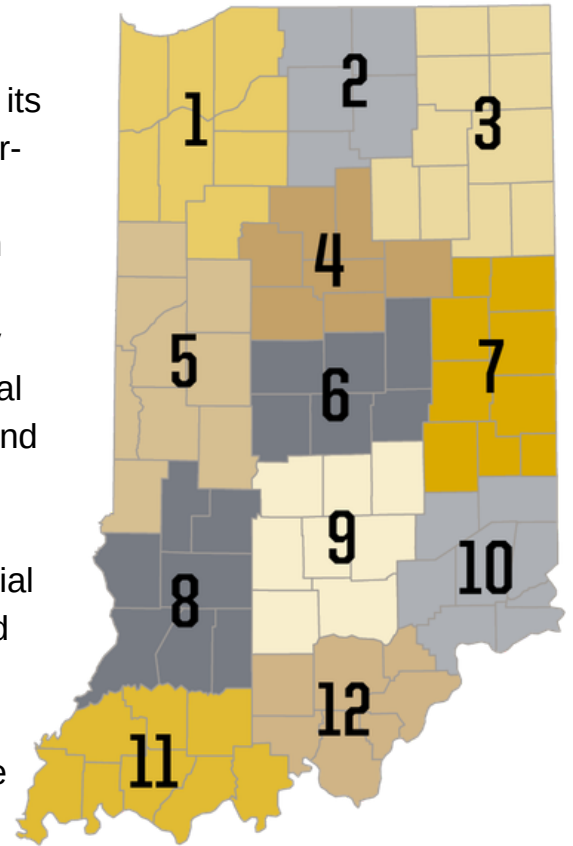
Purdue Extension Transformation

For over a century, Purdue Extension has combined the research and expertise of Purdue University with the skills of its educators and specialists to meet the needs of Indiana's ever-changing landscape. This year, Purdue Extension is taking these efforts to the next level by undergoing a transformation that is both adaptable and sustainable.

Purdue Extension began to prepare for the reorganization by introducing the transformation to west-central and east-central Indiana in summer 2025. Extension employees, volunteers and others have been included in discussions and provided feedback about the change.

"What we are learning is that this change has multiple potential benefits for our stakeholders and Extension employees," said Bernie Engel, the Glenn W. Sample Dean of Agriculture.

"Extension staff members are being given the chance to deepen and focus on their areas of expertise and regions are being offered new learning opportunities."



Purdue Extension will transform to a statewide organizational structure with 12 regions with a county level 4-H presence. Extension field staff and campus-based specialists will continue to partner with communities, provide needed services and capitalize on the connection to Purdue.

How will this affect White County Families?

Here are some areas that may look a little different moving forward:

- 4-H Camp
- Access to Purdue Extension Educators and programming
- Webpage and social media page transitions

Learn more at:

<https://extension.purdue.edu/about/transformation.html>

We are still learning and growing through this transformation, we will keep an open line of communication with White County 4-H Families. 4-H is **not** going away or shrinking, and neither is the 4-H Fair.

Regional Transformation will enable Purdue Extension to meet the changing needs of Indiana with a sustainable and adaptable structure. This model will respond to the evolving needs of Indiana while fostering stronger connections and expanding collaboration across counties, and enhancing partnerships with Purdue faculty and statewide initiatives.

Important Information for Auction Participants

Some 4-H members who received auction proceeds may be required to complete an IRS Form W-9 before receiving their auction check.

This is a legitimate requirement and is not a scam.

Auction committees are required to follow federal tax reporting regulations. In general, youth who receive \$2,000 or more in total auction payments may be subject to IRS reporting requirements. A completed W-9 provides the information the auction committee needs to issue the required tax documentation.

If this applies to your family, you should have received—or will soon receive—a letter directly from the auction committee with instructions. Please complete and return the requested paperwork as directed. This information is required in order to receive your auction check. Purdue Extension does not organize or administer the auctions and cannot provide tax or legal advice. If you have questions about the tax requirements, please contact the auction committee or your tax professional.

Auction Committee Contact: whitecounty4hauction@gmail.com

Indiana Farm Bureau Grants Open to 4-H and FFA Programs

(Indianapolis) – Aug. 11, 2026 – Applications are now open for Indiana Farm Bureau's annual Ag Literacy Challenge Grant program. Up to \$10,000 is available for Indiana FFA chapters or 4-H clubs to apply for monetary support for a new or enhanced ag literacy program in their community. The grant funding is intended for programs taking place between October 2026 and August 2027. Ag literacy initiatives should fit into one of the following categories: • Consumer Education – Events that help Hoosiers become better informed about Indiana agriculture. • Youth–Adult Collaboration – Programs that foster networking, positive relationships, and education between youth and adults in agriculture. • Policy and Practice Awareness – Efforts that highlight agricultural practices and policies, encouraging greater understanding and action.

Indiana FFA chapters and 4-H clubs can apply for grants of up to \$1,000 during the grant cycle. Grant recipients are required to submit a report to INFB after their ag literacy program is complete in addition to presenting their program to their local county Farm Bureau. The Ag Literacy Challenge Grant is just one of the many ways INFB supports youth in agriculture throughout the year. There also are scholarships for graduating seniors and college students; Collegiate Farm Bureau chapters at Purdue, Huntington and Vincennes universities; FFA advocacy days and trainings; 4-H sponsorships and leadership development events, competitions, awards and conferences. **The deadline to apply is midnight on Sept. 15, 2026.**

To learn more, visit infb.org/agliteracy.

4-H Enrollment Begins October 1st!

It's hard to believe, but it's almost time to start thinking about enrolling in 4-H for the 2026–2027 year! Enrollment officially opens on **October 1st**, and both youth (4-H and Mini 4-H) and volunteers are invited to sign up through the 4HOnline system at <https://v2.4honline.com>. We are looking forward to another exciting year filled with learning, leadership, and fun, and we hope you'll be a part of it!

Enrolling early is the best way to ensure you don't miss out on important updates, reminders, and opportunities throughout the year. If you have any questions about the process or about 4-H in general, the Purdue Extension – White County Office is here to help. Give us a call at (219) 984-5115, and we'll be happy to assist you.



Looking for instructions? Scan the QR code or visit <https://purdue.link/wc4h>



Happy New (Program) Year!

What is Junior Leaders?

Junior Leaders is a group of White County 4-H members currently enrolled in grades 7-12 that meet once a month and have lots of fun! Upcoming activity: an inside look at agritourism with The Farmstand owner, Jenny Bryant

We focus on community service and building relationships with other 4-H members, while providing opportunities to develop leadership skills. This is a great chance to make new friends and become a leader in White County 4-H. Join the email list by emailing Molly at childer9@purdue.edu to stay in the loop!



Follow the Jr. Leaders on Instagram! @jrleaders_whiteco



Volunteer Information

Anyone who wishes to work with the White County 4-H program needs to be an approved and enrolled White County 4-H Volunteer. All new volunteers will need to contact the White County Extension Office for information on how to complete the volunteer approval process.

All returning 4-H volunteers will need to re-enroll annually using the 4HOnline system. **Beginning October 1st, volunteers should log into 4HOnline using the login email and password that was used when enrolled in 4HOnline last year @ v2.4honline.com.**

Thank you for volunteering with the White County 4-H Program. Without all of you, our program would not be nearly as successful!

Please contact the White County Extension Office at (219) 984-5115 with any questions or concerns.

Fair Review

We have received extensive and valuable feedback aimed at enhancing both the White County 4-H Program and the White County 4-H Fair. Our commitment to continuous growth and improvement remains steadfast each year. Below is a summary of the feedback we are currently considering as we plan enhancements for 2027.

- On-Call Vet & handling sick or injured animal situations
- Extend the Fair one more day to improve schedule conflicts- DONE!
See page 2!
- Bathroom Updates
- New poultry facilities
- Consistency when enforcing rules
- Campground Quiet Hours
- Awards mix-ups
- Ultimate Showmanship tweeks

We are continually growing and improving. As a reminder, White County 4-H is primarily led by volunteers, and progress requires time.

If you have any feedback regarding improvements to the fair or fairgrounds, please reach out to an Ag Association Director. Should you encounter difficulties with a 4-H volunteer, do not hesitate to contact Molly Childers. Engaging in discussions on social media or other platforms will not lead to positive change and may reflect poorly on the 4-H organization as a whole. Thank you for your ongoing support of the 4-H program.



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