

# THE EXTENSION EXPRESS

PURDUE EXTENSION - GRANT COUNTY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021

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## Continuing On!

I am so happy to be filling in part time in Grant County while the Ag & Natural Resources and Health & Human Sciences Educator positions are open. Growing up on a corn and soybean farm in Southern Clay County Indiana allowed for me to have personal experiences with the Cooperative Extension Service. I have attended many Extension Homemaker Club meetings with my grandma as a child and I was an active 4-H'er. My favorite activity was showing hogs, but I also enjoyed the baking project. My Hoosier Homestead family farm is currently being managed by the fourth and fifth generations.

My husband (Josh), son (Mitchell), two Goldendoodles (Mackey and Keady) and I have recently moved back to Indiana from Lubbock, Texas. I have been working as a Commercial Producer for a Texas-based insurance carrier specializing in providing insurance for those in the agricultural industry. Prior to living in West Texas, I was appointed as an ANR/4-H Extension Educator for Purdue in Sullivan County, Indiana. On the move back, I played "Back Home Again in Indiana" on repeat and shed many tears of joy when crossing that state line knowing I was home for good. I love the wonderful friends we made in Texas and miss them dearly, but not as much as I missed our beautiful home state. We did get to experience lots of tumbleweeds and dust storms and I will never forget those sights. From my first dust storm to my last, I never got over my amazement. I've included a picture of our street during the start of one such event. They are also referred to as a "haboob" which was a completely new word added to my vocabulary. From the Cambridge Dictionary: Haboob- a strong wind carrying a mass of dust and sand that has been lifted from the ground in very dry areas such as deserts. (see above picture)

During my short time here in Grant County, I have enjoyed getting to know our Extension staff and volunteers. My educational background is in Agribusiness Management from Purdue University with a Master's of Business Administration from the University of Southern Indiana. My working experience has been largely in commercial and agribusiness insurance. I hold an active Property and Casualty Insurance License. Please always feel free to reach out with your questions or ideas for Extension in Grant County. And Boiler Up!

Ever grateful, ever true-Courtney Schmidt

## 4-H Educator continues work with Community Organizations

Ever since the pandemic began, 4-H Extension Educator Kris Goff has had the privilege to continue to work with several community organizations over the last year. Continuing to grow these partnership helps build lasting relationships between students and staff.

Over the last year Kris has worked with:

- Brookhaven Wesleyan Church
  - STEM with grades 1-6
  - Leadership Skills with grades 5-6
- The Training Center
  - Healthy Living with grades 1-4
  - Leadership Skills with grades 5-6

These groups have been fun to work with, and interesting to see how students react to each lesson.

If you would like to have Kris come to your school or organization send her an email at [goffk@purdue.edu](mailto:goffk@purdue.edu).

Below are some pictures from previous events:



## Christmas in November

Craft Bazaar is Saturday, November 6 at the Grant County Fairgrounds. The event will run from 9 am to 2 pm.

Vendors will be able to set up Friday evening from 5-8 pm as well as start setting up at 7 am on Saturday morning.

Santa should make an appearance in the morning. Door prizes will be given out every half hour. We are looking forward to a packed event and raising money for the Extension Homemakers!! If you are interested in being a vendor please contact Michelle Roberts at [mlroberts420@yahoo.com](mailto:mlroberts420@yahoo.com).

## Become a Homemaker!

Do you or do you know of anyone interested in becoming a Grant County Extension Homemaker? Grant County currently has four homemaker clubs that meet throughout the county. Extension Homemakers have an opportunity to continue education, become a leader, grow personally, meet others in educational and social settings, share experiences and information, keep up to date on trends and research and develop skills. For more information contact Michelle Roberts at [mlroberts420@yahoo.com](mailto:mlroberts420@yahoo.com) or call the Extension Office.

## Grant County Master Gardeners invest in the community!

Even though Fall has begun, it is not too late to visit the Demo Garden and the Children's Garden, located in Matter Park. Both gardens are planted and cared for by the Master Gardeners of Grant County. The Demo Garden, can be found at the site of the old "bear cage". It is a great example of planting on a steep hill using the terrace garden technique. There you can find an assortment of drought tolerant plants, providing three seasons of interest. It might give you some ideas!



The Children's Garden is located in the Meadow section of the Gardens of Matter Park. This year's theme is a "Plant Zoo Garden". Almost every plant contains an animal name within its common name. You can find flowers as well as vegetables. Look for your favorite animal as you walk along the paths and see if it is among the plants. There is also an herb box in the corner. Visitors are encouraged to snip some herbs for cooking and pick some vegetables to try. While there you might want to check out the Little Free Library – there are books and some gardening magazines. And if you wish to pass on some of your books that you no longer have room for, you can place them in the library for others to enjoy. This year some gardening quotes have been hung along the fence that you might enjoy as well as you stroll along the paths.



### A look ahead...

- [Sept 30 - Fall EHC Lesson Day](#)
- [Oct 1 - 4-H Enrollment Opens](#)
- [Oct 11 - Extension Office Closed](#)
- [Nov 6 - Christmas in November](#)
- [Nov 11 - Extension Office Closed](#)
- [Nov 25-26 - Extension Office Closed](#)
- [Dec 11 - 4-H Council Craft Show](#)
- [June 19-25 - 2022 Grant Co. Fair](#)



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