VOLUME 15 ISSUE 6 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2026

PURDUE UNIVERSITY | Extension - Knox County

It is that time of year where I hope everyone has a happy holiday season! This time is a busy time for our office so make sure you don't miss out on any upcoming programs or deadlines. We also will continue to have many changes as we transition to our new regional model. I am excited to announce that we will be getting a new Health and Human Sciences Educator, so please check out more information below.

If you have 4-H, health, nutrition, food safety, agriculture, natural resource, or gardening questions feel free to call us at 812-882-3509.

Valerie Clingerman Extension Educator
Agriculture and Natural Resources/County Extension Director

IN THIS ISSUE

4-H & Youth Development
- 4-H Enrollment (pg. 2)
- 2027 Fair dates (pg. 2)
- 4-H Scholarships (pg. 3)
- State Trips (pg. 4)
- Upcoming Dates (pg. 4)
- 4-H Shirt Sponsorship form (pg. 5)

Health and Human Sciences
- Extension Homemakers (pg. 6)
- Be Active and Prevent Falls Program (pg.6)

Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Horticulture
- Upcoming Events (pg. 7)
- PARP/CCH reminders (pg. 7)
- Planting trees (pg. 8)
- Pesticide Applicator Continuing Education (pg. 9)

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Welcome our new Health and Human Sciences Educator!

My name is Angie Ray, and I am so excited to be moving to Knox County! I am married to my best friend, Gary, and I have three boys (Beau, Collin, and Dalton Crabtree) and a brand-new Daughter-In-Law, Kelsey. I also have three bonus children (Dustin, Kara, and Cody Ray) and eight bonus grandchildren.

I have served Purdue Extension in Gibson County for four years. My favorite programs are Captain Cash, Real Colors, Matter of Balance, and Farm to Table programs like Food Is Medicine and Apple Crunch. My favorite thing about Extension is that one day I might work with three-year-olds in Head Start, and the next day working with 83- year-olds to help with balance. Prior to this appointment, I have worked at the Knox County Public Library, Vincennes Lincoln High School, and served at Vincennes University for 22 years as a Professor of Study Skills and Director of the STEP Program, Student Support Services, Admissions, Counseling Center, and the Dean of Students Offices. I am looking forward to being back in Knox County and serving the Southwest Central Region for Purdue Extension. I will be in the Knox County office full-time at the start of the new year. If you have any questions for me, please feel free to reach out to my email at adcrabtr@purdue.edu. I would love to chat and see how I may be of service to you!

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4-H & Youth Development

Mitch Wagoner
Extension Educator – 4-H Youth Development
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4-H Enrollment for 2026-2027

Parents can go into 4Honline (https://v2.4honline.com) to enroll/re-enroll their children in 4-H for 2027

Starts: November 1, 2026 **Push ends: January 15, 2027**

Certificated adult volunteers need to go into 4-HOnline (https://v2.4honline.com) to re-enroll as an adult volunteer and to sign your 2027 Adult Behavior Expectations by **Dec. 1**!

If you do not have internet access, please contact the Extension Office (812-882-3509) so we can help!

Knox County Fair dates: July 26 – 31, 2027

Indiana State Fair dates: August 6 – 22, 2027

4-H Enrollment Events

The State 4-H Fee is increasing from $15 to $ TBA per youth this year. The Knox County 4-H Council is hosting 4-H Enrollment events. At these events, parents or guardians can stop by and sign their youth up for 4-H. Coupon codes will be available at those events or in the Extension Office to cover the State Fee. Payment must be made online by credit card or using the coupon code. You can no longer pay by cash or check in Extension Office. There is NO County fee. By using the coupon code, 4-H registration is free for Knox County youth.

Enrollment events:

- Monday, November 2 at Fairgrounds from 5-7 pm
- Thursday, November 5 at Fairgrounds from 5-7 pm
- Saturday, November 7 at Knox Co Public Library from 10 am – Noon
- Tuesday, November 10 at Extension Office from 5-7 pm
- Thursday, November 12 at Extension Office from 4-6 pm

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2027 4-H Senior Year Scholarships

NEW process for 4-H Scholarships!!!

There will be **2** Senior Year Applications!!

1. Knox County ONLY:
    a. A letter with the information will be mailed out to those who were Juniors last year and who should be Seniors this coming year.
2. Indiana 4-H Scholarship:
    a. Applications will be submitted online through Award Spring rather than as PDF uploads in 4HOnline.
    b. Senior scholarships and Accomplishment scholarships are now merged into a singular, universal application.
    c. The application has been tailored to move away from a solely 4-H-based application to a more real-world resume-based application. The new application maintains the integrity of our focus on 4-H achievements but allows youth to showcase their well-rounded experiences, including non-4-H experiences.
    d. The application does not require a cover letter nor a formatted resume as it utilizes form fields for data entry, reflective of today's career application processes. We no longer require an interview as part of the application process.
    e. The application portal opens November 15 and closes February 15. It will be linked from our website at in4h.org/scholarships.

A Scholarship Workshop will take place on January 12, 2027 at 6:00 pm. At this time, we are not sure if it will be in-person or over Zoom. We will provide more information in the letter that will be mailed before the end of the year.

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2027 4-H Trips

Changes for the upcoming 4-H Trips:

- 4-H Day at the Indiana Statehouse: Jan or Feb TBA, 2027.
  - Open to grades 7-12.
- State 4-H Junior Leader Weekend: March 19 - 21, 2027.
  - Open to grades 7-12.
- 4-H Camp: June TBA, 2027. Open to grades 3-6.
  - **NEW Model & Locations!**
- 4-H Academy @ Purdue: June 9-11, 2027. Open to grades 9-12.
- 4-H Round Up: Fall of 2027. Open to grades 7-9.
  - **NEW Model & Change of time of year!**
- FYI, IN FFA State Convention: June 14 – 17, 2027.

Upcoming Dates

- 4-H Enrollment Event: November 2: Fairgrounds from 5-7 pm
- 4-H Enrollment Event: November 5: Fairgrounds from 5-7 pm
- 4-H Enrollment Event: November 7: Public Library from 10am-noon
- 4-H Enrollment Event: November 10: Extension Office from 5-7 pm
- 4-H Enrollment Event: November 12: Extension Office from 4-6 pm
- 4-H Scholarship workshop: January 12, 2027
- **4-H Enrollment push ENDS**: January 15, 2027
- All 4-H Scholarships "Knox Co & State" **DUE**: **February 15, 2027**
- 4-H Bowling Party at VU: TBA, 2027 "More info to come!"
- State 4-H Junior Leader Weekend: March 19 – 21, 2027
- Knox County Fair: July 26 – 31, 2027
- Indiana State Fair: August 6 – 22, 2027

Social Media

Facebook: "PurdueExtKnoxCo"

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Knox County 4-H Shirt Sponsorship Form

Attention: Knox County 4-H Supporters:

The Knox County 4-H Council is collecting sponsorships for the Knox County 4-H shirt & for General Donations. The Council has identified 3 levels of sponsors. Business who sponsor will be listed on the back of the 4-H shirt. Please see list below on how your business will be displayed.

- Gold: $ 750 and up (*Larger Logo. Size of logo will depend on number of sponsors*.)
- Silver: $ 500 to $ 749 (*Normal size Logo. Size of logo will depend on number of sponsors*.)
- Bronze: $ 250 to $ 499 (*Business name will be listed. No logo*.)

Forms must be turned into the Extension Office before February 1, 2027 to be on the 2026-2027 4-H shirt. Please email your company's Logo to mwagone@purdue.edu.

If you have any questions, please contact the Extension Office at 812-882-3509.

Sincerely,

Knox County 4-H Council

– –

Knox County 4-H Sponsorship Form

I/we would like to donate: $____________________

Checks payable: Knox County 4-H Council

Donor Name (s) : ____

Address: ____

City: ________________________________ State: _______ Zip Code: ________________

Phone: ____

Email: ____

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Health & Human Sciences

Extension Homemakers—Updates

November 2 will be the next Homemaker Council meeting. The group is still working on details for the April 7 Spring District meeting to be hosted by Knox County. Five members attended the Fall District meeting at Evansville and took notes. Another item on the agenda is election of officers.

Pat Summers, Darlene Decker, Reba Spanger, June Mengadoht, and Suzan Morgan attended the Fall District Meeting at the Evansville Fairgrounds on September 30. The theme for the meeting was centered around the Underground Railroad.

Suzan Morgan and Pat Summers decorated one of the Vincennes Library's front windows with Extension Homemaker memorabilia. Hope you looked at the display as you visited the library. Extension Homemakers celebrate IEHA Week during October.

Holidays are fast approaching. Everyone stay safe as you visit family and friends. Join us in volunteering to ring the bells, build a basket, help the school nurses, visit those who can't get out, recognize the veterans, and help with many other worthwhile activities.

Invitation to be involved:

Anyone/everyone is invited to become an Extension Homemaker. Purdue University Extension provides their knowledge for educational development. Clubs meet in their home or other locations convenient for the members, usually during the day. Contact Darlene Decker or Suzan Morgan for more details. Or, contact the Extension Office with any questions at 812.882.3509.

Be Active and Prevent Falls

This free educational session will cover the benefits of being active and how to reduce your risk of falling.
Nov. 18, 2026
12:00-1:00 pm ET
Cedarhurst of Newburgh (10144 Warrick Trail Newburgh, IN)
RSVP by calling Jo Gilreath 812-897-6100 or email jgilreat@purdue.edu
Lunch will be provided.

If you are in need of accommodations, special dietary needs, or and interpreter or translator contact Jo Gilreath at least one week prior to the event.

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Agriculture & Natural Resources

Valerie Clingerman-Extension Educator
Agriculture & Natural Resources
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Like **Purdue Extension Knox County Ag and Natural Resources on Facebook.
**To receive monthly e-newsletters call 812-882-3509 or e-mail me to be added.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time (Eastern)	Location	Contact info.
Nov. 4	Greene Co. PARP*/CCH**	9am-11am	Bloomfield	812-882-3509
Nov. 4	Owen Co. PARP* (CCH** has been applied for)	6pm-8pm	Spencer	812-254-8668
Nov. 10	Vigo Co. PARP* (CCH** has been applied for)	9am-11am	Terre Haute	765-884-0140
Nov. 10	Daviess Co. PARP* (CCH** has been applied for)	6pm-8pm	Montgomery	812-254-8668
Nov. 18	Gibson Co. PARP*	12:30pm-4pm	Princeton	812-385-3491
Dec. 9 (details on pg. 9)	Pesticide Applicator Continuing Education (CCH** credits)	10am-4pm	Chrisney	Register at https://bit.ly/INPACE2026
Dec. 11	Agriculture Outlook and PARP* & CCH**	8am-12pm	Vincennes	812-882-3509
Dec. 15	Gibson Co. PARP*	10am-12:30pm	Princeton	812-385-3491
Dec. 15-16	Indiana Certified Crop Adviser Conference	8am	Carmel	https://indianacca.org/Registration
Jan. 13-15	National No-Till Conference	1pm	Indianapolis	https://www.no-tillfarmer.com/nntc-register
Feb. 15	Knox County PARP*	10am-12pm	Vincennes	812-882-3509
Mar. 9	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (Drone) Technology Program	8:30am-4pm	Loogootee	812-882-3509

*PARP=Private Applicator Recertification Program **CCH=Commercial Applicator Credits

PARP/CCH Year End Reminders!

- If you need PARP by the end of the year many programs are being added daily. Check out this website for more programs being offered in SW IN: https://tinyurl.com/SWINPARP. You need 3 programs in 5 years to renew your license and you can only attend 2 programs in one year.
- If you need CCH credits visit https://tinyurl.com/CCHOISC to find upcoming programs.

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Can I Plant Trees in the Fall?

Written by Ben McCallister, Purdue University

Fall is one of my favorite times of year. The temperatures begin to cool, the humidity drops, and the landscape starts its annual transformation as trees trade their summer greens for shades of yellow, orange, and red. For those of us who enjoy spending time outdoors, it can also be one of the most pleasant times of year to work in the landscape.

As fall approaches, one question I frequently hear is: **"Is fall a good time to plant a tree?"**

The answer is **yes!**

In fact, fall can be an excellent time to add a new tree to your landscape. Cooler temperatures and decreased drought stress can make the transition from nursery to landscape less stressful for newly planted trees. As long as you select an appropriate tree, plant it correctly, and provide proper care after planting, a fall planting can give a tree an excellent start.

Why plant trees in the fall?

One of the biggest advantages of fall planting is the weather. Compared with the heat of summer, cooler fall temperatures reduce heat stress and typically lower evapotranspiration—the amount of water lost from plants and soil to the atmosphere.

Fall also shifts the tree's priorities. Rather than putting most of its energy into producing new shoots and leaves, a deciduous tree is preparing for dormancy and continuing to develop its root system. Planting during this period can allow roots to become established before the tree has to deal with the heat and water demands of the following summer.

Of course, cooler temperatures and fall rainfall do **not** eliminate the need to water a newly planted tree. Newly installed trees still require regular attention while their root systems become established.

What should I consider when planting in the fall?

There are a few important considerations to keep in mind.

Water is still important. If rainfall isn't providing approximately 1 inch of water per week, newly planted trees will need supplemental irrigation. A useful general guideline is approximately 5 gallons of water per week for every inch of trunk diameter, although actual watering needs will vary depending on soil, weather, tree size, and site conditions. Rather than relying solely on a calendar, check the soil and adjust watering based on conditions.

Don't forget to mulch. Apply a layer of organic mulch over the root zone to help conserve soil moisture and moderate soil temperatures. Keep mulch away from direct contact with the trunk—avoid creating the familiar "mulch volcano" around the base of the tree.

Give the tree time to establish. Ideally, trees should be planted early enough in the fall to allow their roots to become established before the ground freezes. A common recommendation is to allow approximately six weeks between planting and the first hard freeze.

Choose the right tree for the site. Fall is a good planting season, but it doesn't make a poorly matched tree a good choice. Consider the mature size of the tree, available growing space, soil conditions, sunlight, drainage, and other site characteristics before making your selection.

Think about winter protection. Some trees, particularly broadleaf evergreens, may be more susceptible to winter injury because they continue to lose moisture through their leaves when the ground is frozen and roots cannot readily replace that water. Newly planted trees may also benefit from protection against trunk damage from wildlife or winter sun exposure, depending on the species and site.

Give your tree a good start

Planting a tree is a long-term investment. The work you put into selecting, planting, watering, and caring for a tree during its first few years can have a significant impact on its future health and structure. So, if you've been waiting for cooler weather to add a tree to your landscape, **fall can be a great time to get planting**. Choose the right tree for the right place, plant it properly, and don't forget about it once the leaves have fallen.

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Pesticide Applicator Continuing Education

- This one-day training offers **up to 5 Commercial Continuing Certification Hours (CCHs)** for licensed applicators in many commercial categories. (Credits available: Cat. 1: 4 credits, Cat. 2: 5 credits, Cat. 3A: 5 credits, Cat. 3B: 4 credits, Cat. 4: 4 credits, Cat. 5: 4 credits, Cat. 6: 4 credits, Cat. 7A: 5 credits, Cat. 7B: 4 credits, Cat. 7D: 4 credits, Cat. 8: 4 credits, Cat. 11: 4 credits, and RT: 4 credits)

LOCATIONS:

Nov. 17: Purdue Fort Wayne, Union Circle Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46815
Nov. 18: Madison County Fairgrounds, 512 E. 4th Street, Alexandria, IN 46001
Dec. 9: Spencer County Youth and Community Center, 1101 E CR 800 N Chrisney, IN 47611

TENTATIVE AGENDA

8:30 am - Check-in and refreshments
9:00 am - Technician Field Fundamentals; Purdue Extension Educators
9:45 am - Pesticide Safety in Practice; Purdue Extension Educators
11:00 am - IPM Essentials; Doug Richmond, Purdue University Professor
11:30 am - Ticks: Biology, Bites, and Better Control
12:15 pm - Lunch
12:45 pm - Water Wisdom: Quality, Chemistry, & Pesticide Performance; Fred Whitford, Purdue Pesticide Programs
1:30 pm - Office of the Indiana State Chemist Update
2:00 pm - Key Concepts Review; Purdue Extension Educators

REGISTRATION INFO

Cost is $80 and includes lunch and materials
Registration link: https://bit.ly/INPACE2026

If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program, please contact Heidi Potter at least one week prior to the event at hlpotter@purdue.edu or 812-493-2797.
For special dietary needs contact Heidi Potter at least one week prior to the event at hlpotter@purdue.edu or 812-493-2797.
If you need an interpreter or translator, please contact Heidi Potter at least one week prior to the event at hlpotter@purdue.edu or 812-493-2797.

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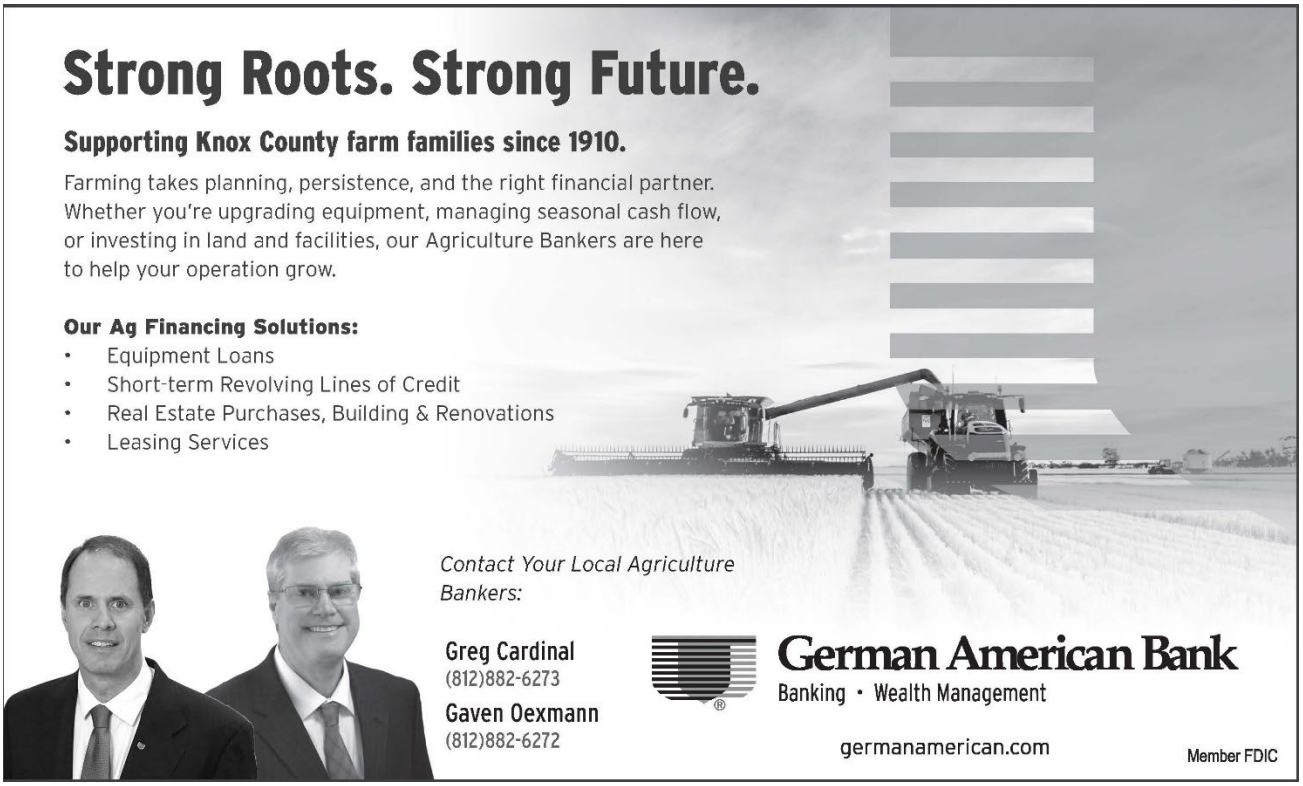
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Look inside for Agriculture & Natural Resource, Health and Human Science, and 4-H updates



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