

9-15-2025 (Monday of the week submitted)



Extension - Martin County

By Dena M. Held
County Extension Director & Extension Educator – 4-H Youth Development
Martin County
Text | 812-653-2089
Voice | 812-295-2412
E-mail | heldd@purdue.edu

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The Purdue Extension Martin County weekly column is provided to help all learn about programs & opportunities. We highlight events from Purdue University & Extension where we hope you will choose to be part of Extension.... where there is Opportunity4All!

GET READY FOR 2025-2026 4-H ENROLLMENT! TWENTY DAYS OF TERRIFIC OFFERED TO PROVIDE #OPPORTUNITY4ALL!

Martin County 4-H is offering Twenty Days of Terrific for all youth to enroll in 4-H with the \$20 enrollment fee paid on your behalf! This is in effect from October 1 through October 20, 2025!

Mark your calendar now for October 1st to enroll and submit enrollment at v2.4honline.com!


ADULT VOLUNTEER ENROLLMENT FOR THE NEW PROGRAM YEAR STARTS OCTOBER 1ST


Thank you to each and every Extension/4-H volunteer for all you do! We are excited in preparing for a great new program year. We work in the 4-H Motto, to make the best better in all that we do!

All adult volunteers must re-enroll to obtain volunteer certification for 2025-2026 programming season at <https://v2.4honline.com> beginning October 1st. Volunteers must re-enroll prior to working with youth or making decisions on behalf of the 4-H Program. Please plan to complete your re-enrollment early in the month of October, prior to service, and by the October 15th preferred re-enrollment volunteer date. Internet service, devices and support are available to all at the Purdue Extension Martin County office!

MARTIN COUNTY SHOOTING SPORTS 4-H PROGRAM — ADULT LEADERSHIP INQUIRY, PLANNING & ENROLLMENT MEETING

Are you an adult interested in joining the 4-H Shooting Sports Program — or are you already a trained instructor? We invite potential new and seasoned leaders to attend this important planning session!

 Date: Monday, October 6, 2025

 Time: 6:30 PM

 Martin County 4-H Fairgrounds & Event Center, Community Learning Center

Purpose:

- Learn more about becoming part of an ever-growing, impactful program
- Re-enroll for the 2025–2026 program year (Computers will be available — bring your login credentials!)

- Plan for the 4-H Club activities

About 4-H Shooting Sports

The 4-H Shooting Sports project teaches youth the safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment.

Volunteers must be certified as a 4-H volunteer and at a state-level workshop to be an instructor.

The six disciplines offered at the state level include:

- Archery
- Outdoor Skills
- Muzzle Loading
- Pistol
- Rifle
- Shotgun

Disciplines available in each county depend on the number of certified 4-H Shooting Sports instructors, ranges, and equipment. In Martin County, the program continues to grow under the leadership of Coordinator Mark Sims — and we'd love for you to be part of it!

📌 Note: This is an adult-only meeting. Youth 4-H Club meetings will be scheduled later.

Date: Monday, October 6, 2025

Time: 6:30 pm

Where: Martin County 4-H Fairgrounds & Event Center, Community Learning Center

2025 MARTIN COUNTY 4-H TURKEY DINNER & 4-H ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Please make plans to attend the 4-H Turkey Dinner on Sunday, November 2, 2025 with the 4-H Achievement Awards being held in conjunction.

4-H Turkey Dinner Details

Location: Martin County 4-H Fairgrounds & Event Center, Community Building

Time: 11 am – 1:30 pm while supplies last

No presales or call ins.

Ticket pricing

under 3 free

4 -10 \$10

10 and over \$20

4-H Achievement Awards Program Details

Location: Martin County 4-H Fairgrounds & Event Center, Community Building

Time: 1 pm

The 4-H Achievement Awards Program is a specific time set aside to celebrate and recognize members who play a crucial role in 4-H while encouraging youth participation, celebrating achievements, and fostering personal growth. Members are motivated to set and achieve goals, contribute positively to their communities and their own personal development.

What is an Achievement Award? It is an award given to a 4-H Member in appreciation of exceptional leadership, dedication, and impact within 4-H. It stands as a testament to their remarkable achievements and for their continued commitment to making a difference in a specific subject area or project.

How do you win an Achievement Award? The Achievement Award is based upon a number of things including the level of placements of exhibits under project types, including recognitions of Grand Champion, Champion and State Fair projects, the number of exhibits taken in a specific project type, point sheets, advisors, educator and leaders' inputs.

Below are the achievement categories, number of awards & the criteria for the 2024-2025 Martin County 4-H Year:

Outstanding 4-H Animal Science Award (2)

4-H member must complete at least 5 of the static projects to be considered for this award.

- Animal Education
- Beef
- Cat
- Dairy Cattle
- Dairy Goat
- Dog
- Horse
- Llama and Alpaca
- Meat Goat
- Poultry
- Pygmy Goat
- Rabbit
- Sheep
- Swine
- Vet Science

Outstanding 4-H Communication & Expressive Arts Award(2)

4-H member must complete at least 3 of the projects listed to be considered for this award.

- Arts and Crafts
- Cake Decorating
- Communications
- Consumer Clothing
- Home Environment
- Photography
- Sewing
- Fashion Revue Consumer Clothing
- Fashion Revue Sewing

Outstanding 4-H Engineering & Technological Science Award(2)

4-H member must complete at least 3 of the projects listed to be considered for this award.

- Aerospace

- Computer Science
- Electric
- Lawn and Garden Tractor Safety and Operator Skills
- Robotics
- Small Engine
- Tractor Safety and Operator Skills
- Woodworking
- Zero-Turn Mower Safety and Operator Skills

Outstanding 4-H Healthy Living Award(2)

4-H member must complete at least 3 of the projects listed to be considered for this award.

- ATV Safety
- Bicycle
- Child Development
- Foods
- Health
- Shooting Sports
- Sportfishing

Outstanding 4-H Leadership & Citizenship Award(2)

4-H member demonstrates outstanding leadership, enthusiasm and drive to get things done in the 4-H Program, school and community. They must be an active Martin County 4-H Junior Leader.

- Genealogy
- Jr. Leaders
- Leadership

Outstanding 4-H Plant & Environmental Science Award(2)

4-H member must complete at least 3 of the projects listed to be considered for this award.

- Beekeeping
- Entomology
- Floriculture
- Forestry
- Garden
- Geology
- Soil and Water Science
- Weather and Climate Science
- Wildlife

Outstanding Horse & Pony 4-H Jr. High Point Award(1)

Junior Horse & Pony 4-H member who has the highest points in the Horse & Pony project during the current year.

Outstanding Horse & Pony 4-H Int./Sr. High Point Award(1)

Intermediate/Senior Horse & Pony 4-H member who has the highest points in the Horse & Pony project during the current year.

Outstanding Horse & Pony 4-H Awesome Attitude Award(1)

Horse & Pony 4-H member who best exhibits the following: leadership; personal responsibility; staying positive in word and deed; encouragement and assistance to others, especially as a new or younger member.

Outstanding 4-H Achievement Award(2)

4-H member with highest over-all 4-H accumulative points. Includes all 4-H related activities for the 4-H member, including this years' 4-H program year as verified on completed annual point sheet.

Outstanding 4-H First Year Member Award(2)

4-H member in their first year as a regular 4-H member. This award includes projects completed, activities, placing's, special awards and record book grades as verified on completed annual point sheet.

Outstanding 4-H Sixth Year Member(2)

This award will go to the two youth 4-Hers who have the most total points accumulated during their six years of participating in the 4-H Program as verified on completed annual point sheet.

Top Notch 4-H Ten Year Member Award(1)

This award will go to the 4-Her who has the most total points accumulated during their ten years of participating in the 4-H Program. The point total includes projects completed, activities, placing, and special awards as verified on completed annual point sheet.

Outstanding 4-H Auction Buyer (1)

The recognition is awarded to the top buyer at the 4-H Auction. This award may be won by the same individual or business in consecutive years.

2026 MARTIN COUNTY 4-H FAIR DATES

Thursday, July 9, 2026 through Tuesday, July 14, 2026

2026 INDIANA STATE FAIR DATES

Friday, August 7, 2026 to Sunday, August 23, 2026 - Closed on Monday's

2027 MARTIN COUNTY 4-H FAIR DATES

Thursday, July 15, 2027 through Tuesday, July 20, 2027

BUILDING STRONGER BOARDS

Building Stronger Boards is a day-long, in-person workshop designed to inform community members about their roles and responsibilities as volunteers on nonprofit boards. The program encompasses the phases of the Board Development Cycle, with a focus on board member recruitment, engagement, and renewal. Community members with a variety of board experiences—from novices to seasoned volunteers—will learn from each other during this interactive workshop.

Date: November 5, 2025

Location: Barrel Room at the Patoka Lake Winery, 2900 N Dillard Rd, Birdseye, IN 47513-9332

To register: visit <https://cvent.me/1M0Rkl>

To learn more: visit <https://bit.ly/PurdueBSBHome>

PURDUE EXTENSION'S WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE'S CONFERENCE 2026

Keynote speaker announced as Zoe Kent of #Farmwithzoe.

Zoe Kent is an 8th-generation grain farmer in Ohio who has transformed her passion for agriculture into a successful venture. After earning her agribusiness degree from The Ohio State University, she returned to the family farm to work alongside her father, Mickey. Following his retirement at the end of 2021, Zoe took the reins and now manages all operations at Kent Family Farms. Through her engaging social media presence @farmwithzoe, she shares informative, family-friendly farming videos. With a community of half a million followers, Zoe connects with fellow agricultural enthusiasts and promotes a positive message about farming to consumers.

Save the date for February 19, 2026 in Bloomington, Indiana.

MARTIN COUNTY PARP PROGRAM

Date: Friday, November 7, 2025

Time: 10 am

Location: Martin County 4-H Fairgrounds & Event Center, Community Building

RSVP: Call 812-295-2412 / Text 812-653-2089 / Email heldd@purdue.edu by Friday, October 31

UPCOMING STATE COMMERCIAL APPLICATOR PESTICIDE TRAINING PROGRAMS

November 13th – Wayne County – Richmond New Holland

November 19th – Allen County – Purdue Fort Wayne Student Center

November 20th – Clark County – Clark County REMC Sellersburg

November 21st – Porter County – TBD

December 12th – Howard County – Howard County Fairgrounds

December 16th – Ripley County – Southeast Purdue Ag Center

January 12th – Daviess County – Daviess County Produce Auction

January 21st – Marion County – Farm Bureau Indiana Headquarters

January 27th – Fountain County – Fountain County Fairgrounds

January 29th – Elkhart County – Elkhart County Fairgrounds

PURDUE OPENS REGISTRATION FOR DIGITAL READY BUSINESSES PROGRAM

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. – An online Purdue Extension workshop series that seeks to help Indiana small businesses build or enhance their online presence will be available statewide this fall.

“Digital Ready Businesses” was launched in 2017. The program has been updated and new workshops added to reflect current trends. Participants can attend all 10 (1 hour) sessions or only those that meet their needs. The training, led by county Extension educators, covers a variety of topics, from website basics to podcasting, blogging, the ins and outs of social media, and email analytics and marketing.

The series is being offered virtually starting October from 2-3:00pm ET:

1. Claim Your Online Turf - Oct. 2
2. Website Basics - Oct. 7
3. Grow Your Virtual Customers - Oct. 9
4. Search Engine Optimization - Oct. 14
5. Podcasting 101 - Oct. 21
6. How to Blog Successfully - Oct. 23
7. Introduction to Social Media - Oct. 28
8. Social Media Analytics & Marketing - Nov 4
9. Digital Storefront - Nov. 6
10. Social Media Plan and Content - Nov. 11

Sessions are \$25.

In follow-up surveys, participants have reported significant increases in sales, customer base and customer engagement, and nearly 9 in 10 recommended the series to others.

“We have a long way to go,” one participant responded, “but at least we now have a plan. Since our workshop I started concentrating on Facebook and Instagram with the help of my daughter. She started to post daily even though our content/backdrop was not exactly how we wanted it. We grew Facebook from 1,547 to 2,079 and Instagram from 676 to 2,013.”

For more information, visit extension.purdue.edu/cdext or contact Daniel Walker / walke422@purdue.edu

MARTIN COUNTY 4-H JR. LEADERS COOKIES & CANVAS DATE ANNOUNCED!

Sunday, October 5, 2025 will be the next Cookies & Canvas Event! Watch for more details soon!

ALL 7–12 GRADERS INVITED TO THE MARTIN COUNTY 4-H JUNIOR LEADERS KICK-OFF MEETING!

We are excited to invite **all 7th–12th graders** to become part of the Martin County 4-H Junior Leader Club! This club is open to youth who are interested in **growing their leadership skills, serving their community, and having fun** while working alongside other motivated 4-H members.

The Junior Leader 4-H Club provides opportunities for youth to:

- Develop leadership and teamwork skills
- Plan and lead activities for younger 4-H members
- Volunteer in community service projects
- Build friendships and connections that will last a lifetime

Activities include: Cookies and Canvas, Turkey Dinner, Nursing Home Bingo, Ag Day, Day Camp, Fair activities, and more!

First Meeting:

Date: Sunday, October 5

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Martin County 4-H Fairgrounds & Event Center – Community Building

Come early for Cookies and Canvas!

Starting at 2:00 PM, current Junior Leaders will be leading a Cookies and Canvas event. Future Junior Leader members are welcome to jump right in, assist other 4-H members, and get to know the group! After clean-up, our official meeting will begin.

Membership in the Junior Leader Club is a great way for youth to **challenge themselves, learn responsibility, and prepare for future success** in school, careers, and life. It makes youth Beyond Ready for life & for work!

HOT, DRY HARVESTS LEAD TO COMBINE FIRES – TAKE PREVENTIVE STEPS NOW!

Combine fires cost farmers millions of dollars in damages every harvest, and even worse, result in injuries and deaths. The current dry conditions, and forecasts for more hot, dry weather in the next couple weeks make it likely we'll see plenty of combine and field fires this fall. As Harvest '25 ramps up, be proactive and prevent or at least reduce the chance of combine fires before they happen!!

Farmers should regularly inspect their combines' machinery, fuel lines and electrical systems during harvest season to prevent fires, a Purdue Extension safety specialist says.

Harvest season brings a unique combination of risk factors that increases the risk of combine fires, said Bill Field, professor of agricultural and biological engineering. Dust kicked up during field operations and dry plant material from crops can clog or wrap around machinery, causing it to overheat. Other common hazards are electrical malfunctions, sparks from hitting rocks, loose or slipping belts and leaks in fuel or hydraulic lines.

Worn bearings or seals and blocked exhaust systems can cause overheating and sparks. Inspecting equipment at the end of the day can help prevent overheated components from catching fire during the night, Field said, and a hand-held thermal camera can help detect hot areas before they ignite.

Some components of the combine's electrical systems are also at higher risk of overheating, particularly parts like starter motors and heating and cooling systems that draw a heavy electrical load. "Fuses that blow regularly should be considered an important warning sign that a circuit is overheating somewhere," Field said.

"Every fire involves three elements – an ignition source, fuel and oxygen. Removing one or more of these elements will prevent fire, so as you examine the combine, other agricultural machinery or a building, consider the potential for each element and where they are likely to come together to form a fire."

In case a fire does start, farmers should always have a cellphone or two-way radio with them in the cab. Also, combines and other large units should have at least two 20-pound, type ABC fire extinguishers installed, with one of those in the cab or just outside the door, Field recommended. These extinguishers should be inspected regularly to make sure they are fully pressurized, the lock pin is intact, tamper seals are unbroken and the tank is still full. The first use of the fire extinguisher should be to ensure the operator is able to escape safely. Only when the operator is safely clear of the machine should he or she attempt to put out the fire.

A second line of defense is to have a tractor and disc on standby to create a firebreak around the combine, Field added. This can help keep the flames from spreading across the field or to neighboring properties. When tilling a firebreak, the operator should never put themselves or their machine at risk of being caught in the fire!

Since insulated cabs may prevent operators from noticing smoke or flames until it is too late, combine fires can start without warning and quickly grow out of control, Field said.

"Even small leaks in a fuel or hydraulic system can cause a small fire to become a large one in seconds," Field said. "For example, a leak causing diesel fuel to be sprayed into the engine compartment of a tractor or combine can cause the compartment temperature to go from a normal operating temperature to over 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit in seconds. Fires of that intensity are almost impossible to extinguish before the machine is destroyed."

In addition to damaging or destroying the combine, other consequences may include crop loss, field fires spreading to adjoining properties, and operator injury or death.

"Ultimately, the only good fire is a contained one that keeps us warm," said Field. "Keeping it that way in the field should be part of every farmer's management plan this fall."