



Extension - Martin County

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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!

2025-2026 4-H ENROLLMENT IS OPEN! 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! Enroll and submit enrollment at v2.4honline.com!

ADULT VOLUNTEER ENROLLMENT FOR THE NEW PROGRAM YEAR BEGAN 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> which began on 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!

2025 MARTIN COUNTY 4-H TURKEY DINNER

Please make plans to attend the 4-H Turkey Dinner on
Date: Sunday, November 2, 2025
Location: Martin County 4-H Fairgrounds & Event Center, Community Building
Time: 11 am – 1:30 pm while supplies last
No presales or call ins.
Held in conjunction with the 4-H Achievement Awards.
Ticket pricing
under 3 free
4 -10 \$10
10 and over \$20

4-H ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Please make plans to attend the 4-H Achievement Awards on
Date: Sunday, November 2, 2025

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

Time: 1 pm

Held in conjunction with the 4-H Turkey Dinner.

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

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

WICKEDLY GOOD: 4-H FOR GOOD CHALLENGE

All are invited to join the *Thrillifying 4-H For Good Challenge!*

A simple act of kindness can spark a ripple of good—and you can be the spark! Beginning on October 9



and leading up to the release of Wicked: For Good on November 21, we’re celebrating the power of young people and communities everywhere to make a difference by putting their heart and hands together to create a wave of kindness.

Just like Elphaba and Glinda in Wicked: For Good, your choices can change the world. This challenge is open to everyone—youth, families, schools, workplaces, and community groups—and it’s your chance to show how one good deed can inspire another.

Why Wicked: For Good?

The upcoming film Wicked: For Good, starring Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande, explores themes of kindness empowerment, and personal growth—values that align perfectly with the 4-H spirit and resonate with people everywhere.

How to Get Involved?

Join the “For Good Challenge” with Wicked: For Good and 4-H and be part of a movement to create a kinder world in your school, workplace, or community.

How to join the #4HForGood Challenge:

1. Do Something Good

Big or small, every act counts! Help out, give back, or simply show someone you care.

2. Share Your Heart Hands

Snap a pic of your heart hands and write a short post about your good deed.

3. Post It Online

Use the hashtag #4HForGood and tag 4-H

4. Challenge Your Crew

Tag 4 friends and invite them to keep the good growing!

5. In Martin County, share with Purdue Extension Martin County 4-H by texting to 812-653-2089 so we can keep a collection of this story!

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CHALLENGE

The Presidential AI Challenge is a competition for K-12 students and educators! Students who join the Presidential Challenge can access training and resources to help them complete a project that can either be a study or development of an AI method or tool to solve a local community problem.

Educators are also invited to participate and focus on creative approaches to teaching or using AI technologies in K-12 learning.

Participants can access training and resources to create their projects, with the chance to showcase their work at a White House event next summer!

Submissions are due Jan. 20, 2026. In March, state champions will be announced, followed by a national championship in June. Contestants can earn up to \$10,000.

Learn more at: purdue.ag/PresidentialAIChallenge4H

10 Frequently asked Questions about the Challenge:

1. WHAT IS THE 4-H PRESIDENTIAL AI CHALLENGE?

The challenge invites K–12 youth to explore artificial intelligence through hands-on learning, ethical decision-making, and real-world problem solving.

2. WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE CHALLENGE?

Any youth in grades K–12, along with educators and mentors. Each team must have 1–4 members and an approved 4-H volunteer mentor.

3. DO PARTICIPANTS NEED PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH AI OR CODING?

No prior experience is required. The challenge is designed to be accessible to all skill levels and includes guided activities to support learning and development.

4. WHAT KINDS OF AI TOOLS WILL YOUTH EXPLORE?

Participants will learn about chatbots, image generators, recommendation systems, and other AI technologies.

5. HOW DO I FIND A MENTOR OR BECOME ONE?

Contact your local 4-H educator to be matched with a mentor or to learn how to become an approved 4-H volunteer.

6. ARE THERE DIFFERENT TRACKS OR CATEGORIES IN THE CHALLENGE?

Yes, there are three tracks, each tailored to different age groups or experience levels. Details are available from your local 4-H office.

7. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING?

Youth gain digital literacy, problem-solving skills, and national recognition. Teams may also compete for prizes.

8. WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT AI BEFORE JOINING?

Visit AI.gov's Presidential Challenge page or visit some of the links at the bottom of the page.

9. IS THIS CHALLENGE PART OF A LARGER NATIONAL INITIATIVE?

Yes, it aligns with the national celebration of 250 years of U.S. independence and encourages innovation for the next 250 years.

10. HOW DO I REGISTER OR GET STARTED?

Reach out to your local 4-H educator or visit the Purdue Extension 4-H website for guidance on forming a team and joining the challenge.

11. WHEN IS THE CHALLENGE OVER?

The final submission to AI.gov is due Jan. 20, 2026

For information on the challenge, please contact: Rachel Haselby, Computer Science Specialist, Indiana 4-H at rhaselby@purdue.edu

MARTIN COUNTY 4-H HORSE & PONY CLUB CELEBRATES THE 2024-2025 4-H YEAR

On October 6, 2025, many members of the 4-H Horse & Pony Club gathered for a carry-in meal to celebrate members dedication and growth throughout the past 4-H program year.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the Club Leaders — Kristen Padgett, Jill Phillips, Candace Clark, and Sarha Jones — as well as the grounds crew (too many to list!) and countless volunteers and supporters for their continued care and hard work!

The following 4-H Horse & Pony Club members were recognized for their commitment, involvement, and growth in the 4-H Horse & Pony project area:

- Jayce Bell
- Calvin Burch
- Audrey Clark
- Bailey Esch
- Elizabeth Jones
- Phoebe Jones
- Caleb Overton
- Kimber Padgett
- Ivy Phillips
- Lily Phillips
- Adeline Richer
- Charlotte Richer
- Jackson Richer
- Owen Simmerman
- Ryder Simmerman

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this past year a success!

A FEW 4-H ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS AT SHOALS SCHOOL

On October 1, 2025, Purdue Extension 4-H Educator Dena Held completed 4-H Connection Time with all Kindergarten through 5th grade students, with stellar assistance from 4-H members Riley Andis, William Hert, Sophia Neideffer, Kara Norris and Wes Troutman. Held is pictured with 4-H members Hert, Neideffer, and Norris.



Extension Educator Dena Held shared time with the 8th grade Agriculture class students at Shoals Jr. High School on October 2nd to share about 4-H, build collaborative skills through a hands-on activity, and explore upcoming 4-H opportunities including Twenty Days of Terrific!



MARTIN COUNTY FARM FAIR: PURDUE EXTENSION 4-H STATION

Martin County 4-H Members and Junior Leaders member Autumn Ray and Phoebe Jones assisted with the Purdue Extension 4-H station, facilitated by Program Administrative Assistant Sarha Jones. At this station, students engaged with the 4-H Wheel and learned interesting facts about a variety of 4-H project areas.



COOKIES & CANVAS EVENT HOSTED BY MARTIN COUNTY 4-H JR. LEADERS

Junior Leader members gathered on October 5 for the Cookies & Canvas Event, where community members came together for an afternoon of fun and artistic creativity at the Martin County 4-H Fairgrounds & Event Center Community Building.

A special thank you goes to Linda Sherfick for leading the creative activities, and to Jr. Leader Advisors Megan Hawkins and Rhonda Sanders **for** their continued leadership in supporting member development.

Pictured are 4-H members Jack Richer, Isaac Johnson, Jax VanMeter, Jocelyn Craney, Ivy Phillips, Makenzie Mauder, Brylee Bateman, Phoebe Jones, and Eva Ringwald.

