



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!

All youth kindergarten through 12th grade are encouraged to sign up for 4-H by submitting enrollment at v2.4honline.com! YOUTH MAY ENROLL in 4-H ANY DAY OF THE YEAR! The sooner in the 4-H program year you enroll, the more opportunities you can do. The 4-H program year begins October 1st.

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 prior to service and so volunteer appointments may be made for the new program year.

Internet service, devices and support are available to all at the Purdue Extension Martin County office!

JOIN THE 4-H TEAM! VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

With the start of a new 4-H program year, we're looking to connect with new 4-H volunteer applicants to help lead and support growing 4-H programs in Martin County!

Highlighted Open Martin County 4-H Volunteer Roles:

- **4-H Leaders of K-9 Elites 4-H Club / Dog Exhibition Superintendent**
The 4-H K-9 Elites Club is entering its second year, and we're excited to build on the momentum of its successful launch in 2025!
- **4-H Poultry Project Superintendent**
The Poultry Project has experienced **tremendous growth and quality improvements**, thanks to new cages and a barn remodel supported by the Martin County Community Foundation. This superintendent role is a wonderful opportunity to support a thriving project area and amazing 4-H members!
- If you're interested in learning more or stepping into one of these roles, please contact Dena Held for details. Call 812-295-2412 or email heldd@purdue.edu.

MARTIN COUNTY 4-H HORSE AND PONY CLUB: SAVE THESE DATES!

Please save the following dates for the 4-H Horse and Pony Club meetings, held at Martin County 4-H Fairgrounds & Event Center in the Community Learning Center, Conference Room, 2666 US Hwy 50, Loogootee, IN.

All 4-H members, mini to 12th grade, are invited to join this 4-H Club which focuses on activities and learning surrounding the interest of our four-legged equine friends!

Dates are:

Sunday, January 25, 3-5 pm

Sunday, February 15, 5-7 pm

Sunday, March 15, 5-7 pm

Sunday, April 19, 5-7 pm

These meetings will be in the conference room/ no horses.

Additional meetings with riding practices for those who have horses are set to begin in May, more details to be determined.

On Saturday, May 16 from 9 am-4 pm, the 4-H Horse and Pony Club will host a free Martin County 4-H member riding clinic. Watch for further details and be sure your 4-H enrollment is submitted to participate!

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

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

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP FREE WORKSHOP

Make plans and register to attend this free workshop presented by 4-H! Learn the answers to the following:

- What is the FAFSA?
 - When do I apply for financial aid?
 - Where do I find Indiana 4-H scholarships?
 - How do I apply for scholarships?
 - How do I write a scholarship essay?
- And even more tips and tricks!

When: December 9

Time: 7:00 pm EST

Location: Virtual

Cost: Free

How to register: <https://NCscholarship2025.4honline.com>

CALLING ALL ARTISTS, CREATORS AND PERFORMERS TO APPLY FOR NATIONAL 4-H OPPORTUNITIES

We'd love to see what YOU do best. Submit your work for a chance to be featured at upcoming National 4-H events. We're looking for singers, dancers, instrumentalists as well as visual artists and creators of all kinds. Enter today to showcase your unique talent on this national stage!

Applications from youth ages 14-19 will be accepted through December 1st.

Apply at: <https://4-h.org/youth-artists/>

If you experience any difficulty in completing the application, contact [**YouthInAction@4-H.org**](mailto:YouthInAction@4-H.org).

CULTIVATING CLARITY: UNDERSTANDING FARM TAXES

Are farm taxes confusing? You're not alone — and we're here to help!

Join us for a **two-part Virtual Extension workshop** designed to help farmers and farmland owners gain a clearer understanding of tax planning essentials.

Dates: December 1st & 8th

Time: 7:00–8:30 PM

Cost: \$20

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/3u2kncn6>

Night 1:

Farm tax fundamentals

Income tax brackets

Organizing documentation

Cash vs. accrual accounting

Intro to Schedule F

Night 2:

Preparing for tax season

Key questions to ask your accountant

Practical tax strategies for ag operations

Whether you're new to farm taxes or looking to sharpen your approach, this virtual workshop will provide valuable insights to help you make informed financial decisions.

Don't miss out — register today and take control of your farm's financial future!

4-H ZOO APPRENTICE CAMP AT BUSCH GARDENS, FLORIDA

4-H Zoo Apprentice Camp (Ages 14+)

4-H Junior Zoo Apprentice (Ages 11–13)

- **Registration deadline:** Dec. 8, 2025
- **Arrive:** Fly or Drive. Everyone should plan to arrive at Busch Gardens in Tampa by 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 27.
- **Depart:** Fly or Drive home, but don't plan to leave Busch Gardens until after 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31.

The world's largest zoological organization partners with Missouri 4-H to offer 4-H youth an opportunity to discover, learn, laugh and experience one-of-a-kind adventures with animals from around the world.

Learn-by-doing has long been a 4-H motto. Now 4-Hers will experience this in Busch Gardens' 335-acre African-themed living classroom by attending the 4-H Zoo Apprentice Camp for youth ages 14+ or by attending 4-H Junior Zoo Apprentice Camp for youth ages 11-13.

Youth in attendance will become amateur zookeepers and discover firsthand what it takes to care for animals from around the world. Assist zoo staff behind the scenes and observe animal care sessions.

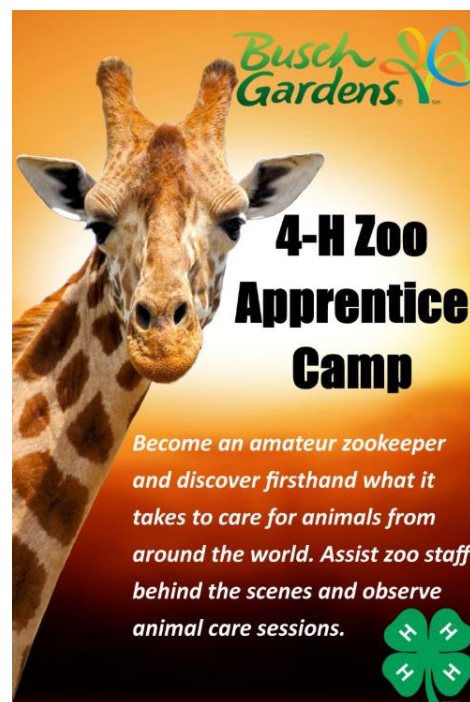
Youth in attendance will be living inside Busch Gardens. They will investigate the mysteries of the animal kingdom, getting up-close to animals they have never seen before. And in between life changing moments, participants will enjoy World Class Entertainment in our nation's fourth most popular amusement park.

In addition, all participants will make lifetime memories spend time working with the animal care specialists at Sea World, touring Sea World Rescue, and sleeping overnight beside our new aquatic friends.

You will return with a keen understanding of animal behavior, science, and nutrition. You will be a better communicator with your own animals and four-footed family members.

The \$975 registration fee includes:

- Airport pick-up and transportation to Busch Gardens
- All lodging
- 24/7 Staff Escorts including Zoo Staff, Education Staff, Youth Professionals and Health Staff
- Three camp t-shirts
- Staff will process needed laundry during the week
- All meals and lodge snacks
- Re-usable water bottle
- I.D. badges
- Backpack



- Transportation to and from Orlando airport
- All meals at Sea World
- All special events at Sea World
- Sea World Rescue facilities
- Park admission to both Sea World and Busch Gardens
- Behind the scenes access
- Veterinary practices and care facilities
- Animal encounters
- Proper dress and equipment required for Zoo areas
- Photo access and camp video (produced after camp concludes)
- Unique animal experiences based on age which will be revealed at Camp
- Access to America's fourth most popular theme park rides
- World class shows and entertainment
- Lifelong friendships
- Transportation back to airport

For more information and to apply: <https://extension.missouri.edu/programs/missouri-4-h/4-h-projects-opportunities/4-h-opportunities/4-h-zoo-apprentice-camp>

IS THIS YOU? DO YOU KNOW FARMERS IN INDIANA, ILLINOIS, OR IOWA?

Interviews are being conducted as part of the *IMPACT²: Social-Ecological Memory in Midwest Agriculture* project, a PhD research study at Purdue University. This work explores how memories and experiences of past extreme weather events (floods, droughts, storms) influence today's farming decisions.

Researchers are looking to connect with farmers across Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa whether involved in grain, livestock, or specialty crops. Of particular interest are multi-generational farm families, though farmers of all backgrounds are welcome. Interviews are in-person, last 45–60 minutes, and participants receive a \$100 honorarium.

If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact the interviewer Shivika Aggrawal at saggraw@purdue.edu.

Help us document the stories, experiences, and resilience of Midwest farming communities. Thank you for supporting this important research!

ANIMAL HEALTH ADVISORY HANDLING EQUINE HERPES VIRUS CASES AND SUSPECTS NOTICE FROM THE INDIANA STATE BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH: NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Multiple horses from Texas and Oklahoma have been confirmed positive for equine herpesvirus Type 1 after participating rodeo in events in Waco, TX and Guthrie, OK. Hoosier owners of horses that may have been exposed at either event need to monitor their animals closely.

Equine herpes virus (EHV-1) was identified earlier this week in a Texas quarter horse that attended the 2025 Womens Professional Rodeo Association World Final and Elite Barrel Race event (Nov. 5-9) in [Waco, Texas](#).

Two additional cases surfaced this week in [Oklahoma](#) during the Barrel Futurities of America World championship in Guthrie, OK. Both horses were previously at the Waco, TX event.

Reporting and Response

As a reminder: EHV-1 diagnosed in a horse with neurologic signs is referred to as EHM (equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy), which is reportable to the Indiana State Board of Animal Health.
(<https://www.in.gov/boah/boah-rules/compliance-issues/reportable-disease-list/>)

When a veterinarian receives a positive laboratory result for EHV-1 on a horse showing neurologic signs, he/she will contact BOAH. The BOAH district veterinarian will help manage the situation to lessen spread of the disease.

BOAH's director of equine health is currently attempting to contact Hoosiers who are listed as participants at the affected events, based on traceback information provided by the Oklahoma state veterinarian. Potentially exposed horses will undergo the observation protocol to prevent spread of the virus in Indiana.

Exercise Caution

BOAH's equine director is reaching out to Hoosiers who are listed on the event rosters to arrange for monitoring of potentially exposed horses.

BOAH's goal is to avoid the widespread cases of EHV-1/EHM that we have seen around the country. **An important step is for horse owners to respect a self-imposed quarantine on clinical horses until the laboratory test results are returned, and comply with BOAH restrictions if an official quarantine must be imposed.**

Restricting movement and contact with others can greatly deter spread of this disease.

About EHV

EHV-1 is common in the horse population and most often clinically manifests as just a mild respiratory illness, especially in young horses, known commonly as equine rhinopneumonitis or "rhino". Less commonly EHV-1 manifests itself as a neurologic form known as EHM. In very rare cases EHM may be caused by EHV-4. Potential signs of EHV-1 include: decreased coordination, urine dribbling, loss of tail tone, **fever, hind limb weakness**, leaning against things to maintain balance, **lethargy**, and the inability to get off the ground.

Prevention

Good biosecurity when traveling and interacting with other horses at equine events and boarding facilities is very important. Tack, people's hands, clothing, water buckets and other equipment can spread the virus between animals, so regular cleaning and disinfection are necessary, in addition to avoiding sharing. As always, vaccination is important to keeping horses healthy and supporting good immunity, even though only the respiratory strain is preventable by vaccination.

More information is available on the BOAH website: <https://www.in.gov/boah/species-information/equinehorses/>.

EMERALD ASH BORER UNIVERSITY PROGRAM: I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER: SPREAD, IMPACT, AND MANAGEMENT OF ELM ZIGZAG SAWFLY

When: Tuesday, December 2, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Virtual on Zoom

Presented by: Kelly Oten, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, North Carolina State University

Register here: <https://www.emeraldashborer.info/eab-u>