

1-12-2026 (Monday of the week submitted)



PURDUE
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Extension - Martin County

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Purdue University, Indiana Counties and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating
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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!

GETTING TO KNOW DEMENTIA LUNCH TIME PROGRAM

Join the Rural Dementia Network for a six session “Getting to know Dementia” series starting March 4, 2025, and running for 6 consecutive Wednesdays, with the final session on April 8, 2026.

This series is designed to help families, caregivers, organizations, and community members build confidence, understanding and practical skills for supporting individuals living with dementia by offering Teepa Snow foundational content in convenient, bite-sized pieces.

Each session focuses on a different aspect of brain health, communication, behavior changes, caregiving strategies, and the emotional journey that comes with dementia. Attend one, some or all sessions, whatever fits your schedule!

Dates:

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Times: 11 am – 1 pm

Cost: No cost

Lunch Provided

Registration: appreciated but not required, call 812.276.4270 or email dmatthews4@iuhealth.org

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

Open to anyone wanting to learn more about dementia, care partnering and healthy aging.

2025-2026 4-H ENROLLMENT – ENROLL NOW!

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.

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

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 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!

WONDERS OF THE WABASH 4-H PROGRAM

Explore the Wonders of the Wabash! From water quality and wildlife habitats to history, wetlands, and photography—this Indiana 4-H SPARK Club lets you dive deep into the river that shaped our state. This is a hybrid program with both virtual in-depth sessions and hands-on adventures, ending with a canoe trip down Sugar Creek!

Open to 4-H'ers grades 3-12, this program comes with lots of knowledge, cool swag, and the chance to explore Indiana's largest river! Participate in some or all 8 of the sessions, it's your adventure!

Who: All 4-H age youth grades 3-12.

Cost: \$45 participant.

Where: Each month will include a Wednesday education session via zoom and a Saturday in person adventure at varying locations. Additionally, participants will receive supplies at each session for hands on activities and future adventures!

Register at: <https://wondersofthewabash.4honline.com>

2026 Virtual Sessions

Time: 7:00-8:30 pm Est

Wednesday, February 25

Wednesday March 25

Wednesday April 15

Wednesday May 20

2026 In Person Sessions

Time: 10 am to 3 pm Est
Saturday, February 28 @ George Rogers Clark Memorial: Vincennes
Saturday, March 28 @ Merom Bluff: Sullivan County
Saturday, April 18 @ Wabashiki: Terre Haute
Saturday, May 23 @ Canoeing at Sugar Creek: Parke County

MARTIN COUNTY 4-H JR. LEADER MEMBERS: UPCOMING DATES

All youth 7-12 grade are invited to be part of the Jr. Leaders 4-H Club!

Sunday, February 1, 2026: Meeting, 7:00PM

Saturday, March 14, 2026: Martin County Ag Day 2026

7AM Jr. Leaders Arrive at Community Building
7 – 11AM serve breakfast & help
11 – 12:30 Clean up

Sunday, April 12, 2026: Easter Egg Hunt

12:30PM Jr. Leaders Arrive at the Fairgrounds
2PM Egg Hunt starts
Meeting follows hunt, be done by 4PM **Bring 2 dozen candy filled eggs**

Sunday, May 3, 2026: Meeting, 7:00PM

SOUTHERN INDIANA 4-H CAMP COUNSELOR APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!

What: 2026 Camp Theme: Under the Sea

Who may apply: 9-12 Graders

Deadline to apply: February 2nd

Cost: No cost to the counselor

Would you like to interact with other 4-H teens from the area, have three fun-filled days camping, and be a positive role model to younger 4-H members? Apply to be a Southern Indiana Camp Counselor! Using the QR Code below you will find a Southern Indiana 4-H Camp Counselor and Junior Camp Director Application for 2026, specific job responsibilities for these positions and a bio sheet. We will once again be camping at Country Lake Christian Retreat, located near Henryville. Camp dates for 2026 will be May 29th-31st. There are thirteen counties camping together from Southern Indiana – Clark, Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, Jackson, Lawrence, Orange, Scott, Washington, Dubois, Martin and Perry.



We will be conducting interviews again! Once you submit your counselor application, you will be provided with a link to sign up for your interview time via Jot Form. Again, this year we will be completing all interviews via Zoom to help you prepare for future interviews, which are more likely to be hosted on a web platform in the current hiring process. Interviews are mandatory to be considered for a Camp Counselor or Junior Camp Director position.

2026 Camp Counselor Interview Schedule via Zoom will be :

- February 23, 24, 25: 4 pm- 6 pm (15 Minute Intervals)
- Applicants can sign up for any of these days, and they will be on a first-come, first-serve basis

Counselors are expected to attend the following trainings to prepare for their role:
Overnight retreat May 2nd and 3rd at Country Lake Retreat

May 1st – Jr. Director Training

May 2nd – arrival 9:30 a.m.- 10:00am

May 3rd – depart in afternoon

May 28th 2026 at County Lake Retreat Center (Arrive at 4:30pm and depart at conclusion of camp on May 31st) *You are responsible for your own transportation to the retreat and camp.

Camp Counselors and the Junior Camp Directors will be chosen from the completed applications, as well as interviews. These applications are due back to the Extension office or uploaded via 4HOnline by February 2, 2026. Applications will be reviewed by the entire Southern Indiana planning team. Competition for Junior Director and Counselor will be tough, so please fill out the applications seriously and completely. We will only be accepting a certain number of counselors this year. Counselors will only be selected if they qualify based on the following criteria:

All Counselors: Application Details, Interview, Leadership Potential

New Counselors: Educator Recommendations

Returning Counselors: Past Performance, Initiative, Appropriate Behavior



The entire application process will be completed in 4HOnline. If you have questions or need assistance with this, please contact your local Extension Office. Once you submit your application, you will receive an email to sign-up for an interview time. If you have any questions about camp, responsibilities of being a counselor or junior director please contact your 4-H educator.

SOUTHERN INDIANA 4-H CAMP CAMPER APPLICATIONS SAVE THE DATES!

All 4-H Members grades 3-8th are invited and encouraged to be part of the Southern Indiana 4-H Camp! For now, Save these dates:

Applications open: April 1, 2026 on 4honline

Camp Dates: Friday, May 29-31, 2026

Camp Location: Country Lake Christian Retreat

MARTIN COUNTY 4-H HORSE AND PONY CLUB

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 at Martin County 4-H Fairgrounds & Event Center in the Community Learning Center, Conference Room, 2666 US Hwy 50, Loogootee, IN.

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 INDIANA TEEN LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

Registration is officially open for the 2026 Teen Leadership Weekend! This trip is an opportunity extended to youth in grades 7-12. Teen Leadership Weekend will take place March 27-29, 2026 at Camp Tecumseh in Brookston, Indiana.

Due to the generosity of the Indiana 4-H Foundation, the cost to attend this amazing experience is only \$50. In Martin County, 4-H Jr. Leaders Club will pay the \$50 on your behalf to attend! To take advantage of this, you must register by January 23rd!

The Teen Leadership Weekend is an exciting opportunity for 4-H members to build their leadership skills, connect with peers from across the state, and prepare to make a positive impact in their communities. Held annually, this conference is designed for youth in grades 7-12 who are ready to take their leadership journey to the next level.

Participants engage in hands-on workshops, interactive team activities, and inspiring sessions led by experienced mentors and fellow 4-H members. With a focus on personal growth, teamwork, and service, the weekend empowers youth to step into leadership roles, develop practical skills, and create lasting memories!

Registration for the conference is completed via 4-H Online. The link for the event registration can be found at: <https://2026teenleadershipweekend.4honline.com>.

Sign up now, last year's weekend experience was at maximum capacity – don't miss out!

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!

UPCOMING 2026 MARTIN COUNTY 4-H CLUB COUNCIL, INC. MEETINGS

When you have any questions, comments or concerns on these meetings, policies, or procedures of the 4-H Program, please contact Dena Held Extension 4-H Educator at 812-295-2412 by phone or at email heldd@purdue.edu!

February 12, 2026	6:00 PM
March 12, 2026	6:00 PM
April 9, 2026	6:30 PM
May 14, 2026	6:30 PM
June 11, 2026	6:30 PM
August 13, 2026	6:30 PM
September 10, 2026	6:30 PM
October 8, 2026	6:00 PM
November 12, 2026	6:00 PM
December 10, 2026	6:00 PM

*Dates/times subject to change, please contact Dena Held at 812-295-2412 to verify schedule.

Location: Martin County 4-H Fairgrounds & Event Center, 2666 US Hwy 50, Loogootee, IN

2026 4-H ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION UPDATES

Cat, Dog, Ferret, Horse & Pony vaccination forms have been updated and are available from the Extension Office or online at the [Animal ID page](#).

The 4-H Animal Lease Form has no changes for 2026.

As a reminder, the only animals eligible to be formally leased in Indiana 4-H are:

- Dairy females
- Horse & Pony
- Llama & Alpaca

NEW – Indiana State Fair Species Offerings. Two new species offerings will be available at the Indiana State Fair:

- Sheep – Wether Dams: Females bred to produce more market-appearing sheep
- Goats – Myotonics

As a reminder, 4-H Animal Identification Days are required (with the exception of 2020) and are to be held in all counties for the following species:

Cattle

- Beef & Dairy Market Steers
- Beef Market Heifers

- Beef Crossbred Heifers
- Dairy Feeder Calves

Sheep

- Market Lambs (wethers and ewes intended to show as market lambs)
- Wether Dams
- Commercial Ewes needing an RFID tag and/or county tag
 - If animals do not have a scrapies tag, they should attend an ID Day.
 - Please refer to the Indiana 4-H Animal Identification Chart for appropriate language.

Goats

- Market Goat Wethers
- Market Goat Does (Wether Dams)
- Dairy Goat Wethers

Any female goat without a scrapies tag should attend an ID Day. Please refer to the Indiana 4-H Animal Identification Chart for appropriate language.

4-H ANIMAL TAG DISTRIBUTION

Tagging Day in Martin County: Friday, May 1st 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

All 4-Hers must be fully enrolled in 4-H prior to animal tagging.

Tags should NOT be distributed by Extension Offices for species required to attend an Animal ID Day. Swine are the only species for which tags may be distributed directly through Extension Offices. Swine tags in Martin County will be available 8:30 am to 3:30 pm Monday, April 20 to Friday, April 24th and then again on May 1st at the Martin County Animal Tagging Day, 6 pm – 7:30 pm.

If a youth or family is unable to attend the Animal Tag ID Day, we will work with families to ensure proper oversight of tag administration by the Extension Educator and/or appointed 4-H Volunteer who must administer. If you need this, request this accommodation no later than Friday, April 24th.

4-H VOLUNTEER TRAININGS: VIRTUAL CLOVER CAFÉ

All volunteers are encouraged to attend the Clover Café trainings

Dates: all Wednesdays in February.

February 4: Making Meetings Fun & Meaningful

February 11: Communication That Clicks

February 18: Growth Mindset in Action

February 25: Stress Free Volunteers, Thriving Youth

Time: 12 pm – 1 pm Est

Join us for one, some or all sessions! Register by January 28th at: <https://tinyurl.com/CloverCafe26>



VIRTUAL CLOVER CAFÉ
Serving Up Knowledge, One Bite at a Time

Wednesdays in February 2026
11 am – 12 PM CT/12 – 1 pm ET

- Feb 4: Making Meetings Fun & Meaningful
- Feb 11: Communication That Clicks
- Feb 18: Growth Mindset in Action
- Feb 25: Stress Free Volunteers, Thriving Youth

Join us for any or all of these sessions!

RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/CloverCafe26>
by January 28

Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access University. If you are in need of accommodations or an interpreter or translator to attend this program, please contact Megan Hoffherr prior to the meeting at (812) 867-4935 or mkron@purdue.edu by Jan 28

4-H AFFILIATE GROUP TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES THOROUGHOUT INDIANA!

We will be hosting six 4-H Affiliate Summits in 2026 to provide the opportunity for 4-H Affiliate Members and Educators to connect, hear reminders and updates together, and have intentional conversations. Based on feedback from the 2025 sessions, we have reduced the registration fee, driving, and time commitment by organizing a session in each Extension Area. Summits will be held on:

-Thursday, January 22, Jackson County Community Foundation, Seymour 5:30 pm-9:00 pm Eastern

-Saturday, January 24, White County Extension Office, Reynolds, 9:30 am-1:00 pm Eastern

-Tuesday, January 27, Whitley County 4-H Center, Columbia City 5:30 pm-9:00 pm Eastern

-Thursday, February 5, Greene County Extension Office, Bloomfield 5:30 pm-9:00 pm Eastern

-Thursday, February 19, Hendricks County Fairgrounds & Conference Center, Danville 5:30 pm-9:00 pm Eastern

-Monday, March 9, Blackford County 4-H Fairgrounds, Hartford City 5:30 pm-9:00 pm Eastern

All sessions will provide the same content and all are open for registration from across the state. Information is available on the State 4-H webpage: [Indiana 4-H Affiliate Summit](#).

Cost: \$15 per person

The session is designed for 4-H Council and 4-H Fair Board members and 4-H Educators; however, all 4-H volunteers are welcome!

2026 MARTIN COUNTY 4-H T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Open to all to submit design, see full details at

https://extension.purdue.edu/news/county/martin/2026/12/_docs/4-h-t-shirt-design-contest.pdf

The Martin County 4-H T-Shirt Design Contest, run by The Martin County 4-H Jr. Leaders with support from Martin County 4-H Purdue Extension Martin County, invites members to create the next official county 4-H shirt!

Who Can Enter: Both youth and adults in the community can participate! You may submit as an individual or as a team!

Submit designs to the Purdue Extension Martin County office, heldd@purdue.edu and/or megan.hawkins@shoals.k12.in.us.

Submission deadline: Noon, Thursday, January 29, 2026

Theme/Focus: Designs should embody 4-H spirit, creativity, and connection to the program, with past themes involving a variety of activities such as camps, trips, projects and the 4-H Fair, and overall 4-H fun and excitement!

Prizes & Purpose: Winners receive recognition and prizes, and the winning design becomes the official shirt, with sales funding Jr. Leader 4-H activities.

The 2025 winner was Bo Hoffman. Will you be the 2026 winner?

2026 MARTIN COUNTY 4-H T-SHIRT DESIGN Contest



RULES

- All youth and adults may participate in the contest as individuals and/or as a team!
- Designs must be submitted to the Martin County Extension Office in person or by email to heldd@purdue.edu and/or megan.hawkins@shoals.k12.in.us by noon on Thursday, January 29, 2026.
- Designs should be submitted on shirt outline format using only one color of ink. The t-shirt contest design form will also be available on our website: <https://extension.purdue.edu/martin>.
- Plain t-shirt form size may be modified by the entrant.
- The 4-H Clover must follow proper clover usage guidelines that can be found at: <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/fy-2019-4-h-name-emblem-use-guide-20191108.pdf>.
- Depending on the design and what the printers are capable of, the final design may be slightly modified to work on the shirt.
- The winner and runner ups will receive prizes to be determined at a later date. Judge's decisions **are** final.
- The winning design will be the official Martin County 4-H T-shirt for the 2025-2026 program. The design becomes property of Martin County 4-H.

Martin County 4-H Junior Leaders hosts this design contest to showcase the talents in our community and sells the T-shirts to raise money to support Junior Leader activities.

(For teams, please list all individual information below as this is how all will be recognized.)

NAME(S):	AGE(S):
PARENT NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
PHONE:	

INDIANA 4-H DAY AT THE STATEHOUSE REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Register on your 4honline.com account.

Date of Event: Tuesday, February 10, 2026
Location: Indiana Statehouse, Indianapolis, Indiana

- This program is for all 7th-12th grade 4-H'ers.
- Registration will close January 30th.
- The cost per participant is \$25.
- If staying overnight (February 9) the cost is an additional \$25 (\$50 total).
- Proper business attire is required. This is a formal event.
- Program activities include: a limited number being legislative pages; meeting representatives, a state house tour, interaction with the Indiana 4-H Ambassadors, breakout sessions
- Tentative times for February 10 will be from 8:30am to 2:30pm EST.
- There is a maximum statewide number of youth participants. We have a limited number of spots this year and due to location limitations at the government center we will not be able to expand registration.
- A more detailed schedule will be sent out closer to the event with the understanding that schedules must be flexible when working with legislators.
- In Martin County, transportation for the program will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

MARTIN COUNTY 4-H JR. LEADERS HOSTS COOKIE AND CANVAS EVENT

-With assistance from contributing writer 4-H Member Ivy Phillips

On January 4, 2026 The Martin County 4-H Jr. Leaders club hosted a Cookies and Canvas event fundraiser. More than twenty community members enjoyed cookies and drink while painting their snowman, the painting activity led by Purdue Extension 4-H Volunteer Jill Phillips. Pictured is a large group photo of most of the participants and Jr. Leader members.





Pictured above are event hosts, Martin County 4-H Jr. Leaders:

Front row: Autumn Ray, Jacelyn Sexton, Josie Mathies, Makenzie Mauder, Eva Ringwald & Ivy Phillips. Back row: Jocelyn Craney, Aubrie Holt, Phoebe Jones, Dax Haulk, Calvin Burch, Jack Richer, Isaac Johnson, & Jax VanMeter.