

EXTENSION NEWSLETTER

Purdue Extension - Vermillion County

WEBSITE: <https://extension.purdue.edu/county/Vermillion>

January, February, March Newsletter

2026 Vermillion County Fair June 13-20

2026 Indiana State Fair August 7-23

Dear Friends,

Thank you for a fantastic 2025 in Vermillion County! We celebrated many successes, and are excited as we welcome 2026! Purdue Extension Vermillion County has several programs and events planned for the first quarter of the new year, and we hope you'll join us for those of interest to you! Something new we are offering is a Building Better Boards workshop for individuals serving on boards or committees in the community. Details, including how to register, can be found on page 2.

Please remember that we continue to use several resources to keep everyone informed of activities/programs in a timely manner, so be sure to check our website and Facebook pages, and your email inbox, often so you don't miss out on opportunities that come up between our quarterly newsletters!

Our newsletter is also posted on our office website <https://extension.purdue.edu/county/vermillion/>.

We hope you have saved the dates for the Vermillion County Fair, June 13-20! We will be sending a newsletter in late May, with fair details important to you.

If you're on Facebook, please like the Purdue Extension Vermillion County and Vermillion County 4-H related pages.

Office Phone: 765-492-5330 OR 765-492-5 ___ ___ ___ fill in with our individual extensions to go directly to our respective phones.

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***Cancellation Reminder:**

Please remember that Extension meetings are likely cancelled if school is dismissed early or cancelled due to the weather. This applies if only one or more Vermillion County school corporations cancel classes due to the weather. Updates will be provided on the Purdue Extension Vermillion County Facebook page.



Purdue University is an equal access/equal opportunity university.

Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran.

If you are in need of accommodations to attend a program, please contact the host Educator prior to the meeting at least one week in advance. For special dietary needs, contact the host Educator prior to the meeting at least one week in advance. If you need an interpreter or translator, please contact the host Educator prior to the meeting at least one week in advance.

BUILDING BETTER BOARDS

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026
9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
4-H COMMUNITY BUILDING, CAYUGA**

Complimentary registration for the first 30 individuals. \$20/person after those seats are filled. Advance registration is required by January 23, 2026.

*https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7NyeR3T
Vd0yZtWu*

Or:



Extension - Vermillion County

JOIN US AS WE SHARE BEST PRACTICES FOR BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Agenda:

**Welcome and Icebreaker
Real Colors Personality Assessment
Understanding Parliamentary Procedure
Effective Meetings
Board Member Responsibilities
Officer Roles**

BUILDING BETTER BOARDS SPONSORS:

**INTERNATIONAL PAPER
PURDUE EXTENSION VERMILLION COUNTY**

4-H ADULT LEADER & 4-H COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monthly meetings - Leaders @ 6:00 PM; 4-H Council at 7:00 PM. All at Fairgrounds in 4-H Community Building



January 5
February 2
March 2
April 6
May 4
June 1



2026 Vermillion County 4-H Projects of the Year:

Floriculture and Foods

In 2026, project workshops will be offered to 4-H members in floriculture and foods, providing opportunities to dive into project specifics, develop new skills, gain hands-on experience, and make progress toward their project goals. Watch your email and snail mail for more specific information!

ATTENTION 4-HERS

2026 4-H Handbooks will be ONLINE on our website this year in January >

<https://extension.purdue.edu/county/vermillion/vermillion-4-h.html>. If you would like a printed version, please reach out to the Extension Office or your club leader.

4-H Project Manuals will be available for pick up at the Extension Office in January if you would like them.

May 15 – drop/add deadline for ALL projects in 4-H Online.



Mini 4-H

Mini 4-H Monthlies will be held at each elementary school immediately following school dismissal for youth in grades K-2! Van Duyn and Central end at 5 pm and North Vermillion will end at 5:30 pm. Use the specified QR code for your respective school.

Monthlies will include hands on activities, gym time, songs, snack, and a themed craft!

Van Duyn Elementary: January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6

<https://vanduynminimonthly2026.4honline.com>



Central Elementary: January 14, February 11, March 11, April 15, May 13

<https://centralminimonthly2026.4honline.com>

North Vermillion Elementary: January 21, February 25, March 25, April 29, May 20

<https://nvminimonthly2026.4honline.com>



You must sign up in 4-H Online by January 5, 2026.

INDIANA 4-H SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

AVAILABLE NOW DUE JAN. 25

LEARN MORE AT bit.ly/4hscholarship



4-H Junior Leader 2026 Meetings

Thursday, March 19 – 5-6:30 pm

Monday, June 1 – 5-6 pm

Congratulations to our Junior Leader Officers on recent elections!

- Co-Presidents: Lane Thomann & Matthew Howard
- Secretary: Creegan Jones
- Treasurer: Colton Medina
- Tech/Social Media: Laney Walters
- Fairboard Representative: Gunner Stultz
- 4-H Council Representative: Nora Thomann
- Team Building Chairs: Cole Smith & Thomas Porter



Vermillion County 4-H Important Dates



APRIL

8

Quality Livestock Care

MAY

2

Livestock ID/Tagging Day

Fairgrounds 7 am – 9 am

MAY

2

4-H Gingerbread Workshop

4-H Community Building 9 am – 12

MAY

4

Quality Livestock Care

Fairgrounds 6 pm – 7 pm

MAY

15

4-H Online DEADLINE

MAY

16

Fair Clean Up & Set Up/Quality Livestock Care

Fairgrounds 8 am – until finished, QLC – 8 am – 9 am

MAY

27-30

4-H Camp

Shakamak State Park, youth grades 3-6, counselors grades 8-12

JUNE

1

FAIR ENTRY DEADLINE

JUNE

13-20

Vermillion County Fair

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE RESOURCES!

Have specific questions, call Phil at 765-492-5335 or email at cox119@purdue.edu



This Website Provides the Latest Corn Research and Management Information for Farmers and Agricultural Professionals www.thekernel.info

To see the current and past issues (and to subscribe) of the Pest & Crop newsletter go to:

www.extension.entm.purdue.edu/newsletters/pestandcrop

The most recent issue (Dec. 12) covers the following topics:

Crop Management Workshop Registration is Open!



For the current issue (& to subscribe) see:

<https://vegcropshotline.org/> The most recent issue (Oct 16) of the Vegetable Crops Hotline Newsletter covers the following topics:

The Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture has many reports, publications, podcasts, and webinars that can be found at

<https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag>

VEGETABLE CROPS HOTLINE

A newsletter for commercial vegetable growers prepared by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service

From the Editor's Desk

Purdue Student Farm: Growing Leaders, Knowledge, and Community

Digital Records are Easy and Useful



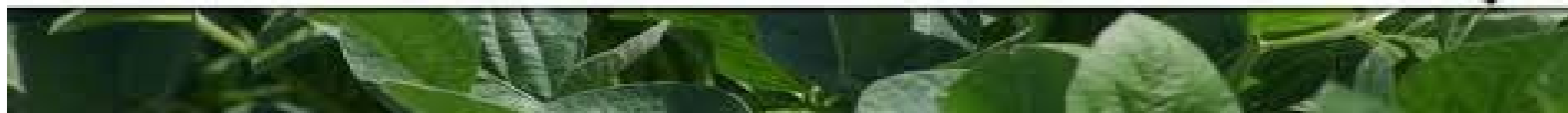
For the current issue (& to subscribe) see:

www.purduelandscapereport.org. The most recent issue (Oct. 31) of the Purdue Landscape Report covers the following topics:

Leave the leaves - bugs are sleeping!; Mulching Matters: Autumn Application for Spring Success; Purdue Horticulture Students Tour Southern Indiana Green Industry Operations

SOYBEAN STATION

DELIVERING FIRST CLASS SOYBEAN INFORMATION



Soybean Station is Purdue's hub for soybean information & research and is found at

www.ag.purdue.edu/departments/agry/faculty-pages/soybean-station



Purdue Top Farmer Conference – January 9

Registration is now open for Purdue University's annual **Top Farmer Conference**, one of the country's longest-running and most successful management programs designed specifically for farmers. Hosted by Purdue's **Center for Commercial Agriculture**, the conference will take place 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET Friday, Jan. 9, 2026, at Purdue's **Beck Agricultural Center** in West Lafayette. Participants may attend in person or join remotely via Zoom.

The Purdue Top Farmer Conference gathers agricultural producers and agribusiness professionals looking for practical insights and research-backed strategies to navigate a constantly changing agricultural landscape. The one-day program features faculty and staff experts from the Center for Commercial Agriculture along with invited speakers from across the country who will share perspectives on global competitiveness, market trends, farm management, and policy and trade developments shaping the future of U.S. agriculture.

"The Top Farmer Conference is designed to help producers critically examine the economic forces influencing agriculture and the decisions they can make today to position their operations for long-term success," said **Michael Langemeier**, director of the Center for Commercial Agriculture and professor of agricultural economics. "This year's program takes a close look at challenges like trade, costs and competitiveness and shows how farmers can turn these into opportunities for success."

Sessions at the conference will cover a broad range of topics, including agricultural markets, trade policy and farm management strategies. Ben Brown, senior research associate with the University of Missouri's Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute, will share his long-term outlook for corn and soybean markets. An expert in agricultural policy and market analysis, Brown will discuss key factors shaping crop prices, global demand and how future farm programs may impact producers in the years ahead.

Russell Hillberry, professor of agricultural economics at Purdue and former economist with the U.S. International Trade Commission and the World Bank, will examine how recent U.S. tariff increases and retaliatory actions have affected domestic agricultural exports. Hillberry will explore the implications of higher trade barriers for crop producers, particularly those in export-oriented sectors such as soybeans.

Langemeier and Joana Colussi, research assistant professor of agricultural economics at Purdue, will draw on their work with agri benchmark, an international network that compares production costs and returns for major agricultural commodities worldwide. They will compare production costs and returns across agricultural regions, including Argentina, Brazil, Canada, France, Ukraine and the U.S. to provide insights into the evolving competitiveness of U.S. agriculture.

Trey Malone, associate professor of agricultural economics and the Boehlje Chair for Managerial Economics in Agribusiness at Purdue, will introduce "option thinking," a mindset drawn from business strategy and innovation management that helps farmers make incremental decisions today while keeping flexibility for the future. His session will assist participants in identifying opportunities and adapting to uncertainty in a changing market environment. The conference will conclude with an expert panel featuring Langemeier and Purdue agronomy faculty members Dan Quinn and Shaun Casteel, who will provide actionable approaches to help reduce costs per bushel in 2026.

Session topics and presenters:

- "Welcome and Insights From the Most Recent Ag Economy Barometer" — Langemeier, professor and director, Center for Commercial Agriculture, Purdue
- "Long-Run Outlook for Corn and Soybeans" — Brown, senior research associate, Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute, University of Missouri
- "The Effects of Tariffs on Export-Oriented Agriculture" — **Hillberry**, professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Purdue
- "Competitiveness of U.S. Corn and Soybean Production" — **Colussi**, research assistant professor, Center for Commercial Agriculture, Purdue; and Langemeier
- "Using Option Thinking To Explore Opportunities" — **Malone**, associate professor and Boehlje Chair in Managerial Economics for Agribusiness, Department of Agricultural Economics, Purdue
- "Strategies To Reduce Your Cost Per Bushel in 2026" — **Quinn**, assistant professor, Department of Agronomy, Purdue; **Casteel**, professor, Department of Agronomy, Purdue; and Langemeier

Registration costs \$150. For full agenda details and to register,

visit <https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag/home/program/top-farmer-conference-2026>. Conference recordings and slide deck presentations will be available only to registered participants.



Statewide Virtual Purdue Extension Master Gardener Basic Training - Applications due January 14
Applications for the 2026 Statewide Virtual Purdue EMG Basic Training are being accepted through January 14th. Specific information can be found here:

<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/events/2026-statewide-virtual-purdue-extension-master-gardener-basic-training/>

If you (or someone you know) are interested, visit the above webpage and contact one of the 13 county hosting Purdue Extension Master Gardener Coordinators to request an application and more information about registration. Then upon graduation, you can elect to volunteer in Parke-Vermillion Counties if you so choose.



Bi-State Garden Conference – January 16

Everyone is invited to join Purdue University Extension and University of Illinois Extension for the annual Bi-State Garden Conference at The Beef House Restaurant's Banquet Hall, Covington, on Friday, January 16th. University experts will share valuable knowledge to get this year's growing season off on the right track. The conference begins at 10:00 a.m. ET and includes:

- *From the Ground Up: Better Turf through Soil Science* – Justin Curley, Purdue Extension Agriculture & Natural Resources Educator
- *Native Alternatives for the Home Landscape* – Karen Mitchell, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist
- *Creating Resilient Landscapes: Rain Gardens* – Maddy Craft, Illinois Extension & Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant Outreach Associate

The conference includes a Beef House lunch and concludes at 2:30 p.m. ET. The registration fee is \$35 (includes lunch) and is payable at the door with cash or check. For more information and to pre-register (preferably by Jan. 12) visit <https://go.illinois.edu/BiStateGarden>.



Bi-State Homesteading Conference, Feb. 20, 10:30 am – 2:00 pm at the Beef House

2026 Indiana Horticulture & Small Farm Conference, March 3 - 5

Join us as we merge two popular Purdue Extension events into one dynamic conference. Designed for specialty crop growers and small farmers region wide, featuring premier educational sessions. The Indiana Horticulture & Small Farm Conference will be taking place next year March 3-5th at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds. More information will be shared in the coming weeks. For now, please just reserve those dates on your calendar!

For more information see the IHSFC 2026 website:

<https://ag.purdue.edu/events/departments/hla/2026/03/indiana-horticulture-and-small-farm-conference.html>



Order State Tree Seedlings for Spring Planting

Access instructions for ordering and the order form with available tree species is at

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/3620.htm> . If you wish to order and pay for seedlings via the internet follow this link: <http://www.inforestryx.com> . Click on the Tree Seedling tab and

proceed to making your purchase. If you are tax exempt, you will still have to order by mail or fax. Ordering for the 2025 – 2026 season ends on May 1, 2026. In addition, orders can be placed

and additional information is available by calling the Vallonia State Nursery at 812-358-3621. Order ASAP to get the species you prefer!

MONTHLY PROGRAMS AT CLINTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Lori Bouslog, HHS Extension Educator, offers monthly programs at the Clinton Public Library, 313 S 4th Street. The programs begin at 6:00 PM on the second level of the library. Pre-registration is preferred to ensure adequate materials and seating. Programs offered include:



2026

*Saving, Recovering, and Sharing Data & Files	February 16
*Internet Safety	March 16
*Introduction to Email	April 20
*Meals in a Mug	May 18
*Organizing Your Medical Life	June 15

We will not meet in January, since the library is closed for the holiday.

Building digital skills is a vital component in the effort to make internet resources more available and equitable. The **Digital Skills Lessons** aims to build these essential skills to help advance quality of life through the resources available through the internet.

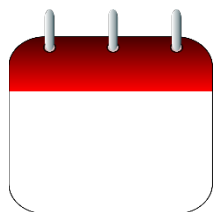
Meals in a Mug is designed for:

- *People who enjoy cooking but only need to cook for 1 to 2 people.
- *People with a very busy lifestyle. Short cooking and clean-up time.
- *People who need quick and easy options that are also budget-friendly.
- *Youth who want a quick after school snack.

Organizing Your Medical Life will offer information about:

- *Creating a system for storing your health information
- *Locating health information when you need it
- *Organizing medical bill paying
- *Keeping track of your medical expenses
- *Utilizing your medical expense records to make a smart choice when purchasing insurance for the coming year

Future programs will be the 3rd Monday of each month unless the library is closed for a holiday or due to the weather! For more information, please contact Lori at lbouslog@purdue.edu or 765-492-5332.



EXTENSION HOMEMAKER COUNCIL MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

Extension Homemaker Council meetings for the remainder of the 2025-2026 year will be March 10, 10:00 AM at Gerrie's, Clinton; and May 12, 11:30 AM (Indiana Time) at Randall Manor, Chrisman.

IMPORTANT DATES CONTINUED:

January 30 – Scholarship Applications due, “Coins for Friendship” due, “First Timer” applications due

April 1 – Club Officer information due to Sue, Club dues & member lists due

April 9 – IEHA Spring District Meeting, Vermillion County (information will be mailed to members when it is available)

April 25 – Achievement Day reservations due to Sue Weber

May 6 – Achievement Day, Happy Homemakers hosting



Be Heart Smart will be offered in Vermillion County on Thursdays, February 5, 12, 19 and 26. The 4-session series will be held from 10:00 – 11:00 AM at the Vermillion County Health Department, 700 South Main Street, Clinton. The \$20 per participant registration fee is sponsored by Connections IN Health.

The first 8 individuals to register by the deadline and attend all four of the sessions will receive a complimentary \$49 heart scan from Union Hospital Clinton.

Advance registration is required at link, <https://cvent.me/VakywQ> or QR Code. **Please contact Lori for more information at lbouslog@purdue.edu or 765-492-5332.**



WHERE DOES YOUR **MONEY** GO? 2-PART WORKSHOP



Session 1

Monday, January 5, 2026

Monday, March 2, 2026

Monday, May 4, 2026

10:00 AM Purdue Extension Vermillion County

703 West Park Street, Cayuga

OR 5:30 PM Clinton Public Library

313 S. 4th Street, Clinton

Session 2

Monday, January 12, 2026

Monday, March 9, 2026

Monday, May 11, 2026

10:00 AM Purdue Extension Vermillion County

703 West Park Street, Cayuga

OR 5:30 PM Clinton Public Library

313 S. 4th Street, Clinton

Participants will attend Sessions 1 and 2 to complete the program.

For more information or to register, contact Lori Bouslog

lbouslog@purdue.edu, call 765-492-5332

**Registration requested by the Friday before Session 1
to reserve a seat and materials**

Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent/or guardian.

IMPORTANT DATES



JAN

- 2- Where Does Your Money Go? Registration Deadline *see page 10
- 5- Final Sign-Up Day for Mini in 4-H Online
- 5- Where Does Your Money Go? 10am @ Purdue Ext Verm Co
- 5- Where Does Your Money Go? 5:30pm @ CPL
- 5- Adult Leader Meeting 6pm @ Comm Bldg
- 5- 4-H Council Meeting 7pm @ Comm Bldg
- 7- Mini Monthly @ Van Duyn
- 9- Purdue Top Farmer Conf 8am @ Beck Ag Center, West Lafayette (or Zoom) *see page 7
- 12- Where Does Your Money Go? 10am @ Purdue Ext Verm Co
- 12- Where Does Your Money Go? 5:30pm @ CPL
- 14- Mini Monthly @ Central
- 14- Statewide Virtual Purdue Ext MG Basic Training Apps Due *see page 8
- 16- Bi-State Garden Conf 10am @ The Beef House
*registration required, see page 8
- 21- Mini Monthly @ NV
- 25- 4-H Scholarship Apps Due
- 30- Homemaker Scholarship, "Coins for Friendship", and "First Timer" Apps due
- 31- Building Better Boards Workshop 9am @ Comm Bldg

FEB

- 2- Adult Leader Meeting 6pm @ Comm Bldg
- 2- 4-H Council Meeting 7pm @ Comm Bldg
- 4- Mini Monthly @ Van Duyn
- 5- Be Heart Smart 10am @ VCHD
*Registration, see page 10
- 11- Mini Monthly @ Central
- 12- Be Heart Smart 10am @ VCHD

- 16- Saving, Recovering, and Sharing Data Files 6pm @ CPL
- 19- Be Heart Smart 10am @ VCHD
- 20- Bi-State Homesteading Conf 10:30am @ The Beef House
- 25- Mini Monthly @ NV
- 26- Be Heart Smart 10am @ VCHD

MAR

- 2- Where Does Your Money Go? 10am @ Purdue Ext Verm Co
- 2- Where Does Your Money Go? 5:30pm @ CPL
- 2- Adult Leader Meeting 6pm @ Comm Bldg
- 2- 4-H Council Meeting 7pm @ Comm Bldg
- 3-5- IN Horticulture & Small Farm Conf
*more info to come... see page 8
- 4- Mini Monthly @ Van Duyn
- 9- Where Does Your Money Go? 10am @ Purdue Ext Verm Co
- 9- Where Does Your Money Go? 5:30pm @ CPL
- 10- Extension Homemaker Council Meeting 10am @ Gerrie's, Clinton
- 11- Mini Monthly @ Central
- 16- Internet Safety 6pm @ CPL
- 19- Jr Leaders Meeting 5-6:30pm @ Comm Bldg
- 25- Mini Monthly @ NV

LOOKING AHEAD...

APR

- 1- Mini Monthly @ Van Duyn
- 1- All Club Dues, Member Lists, Officer Info for Extension Homemakers due to Sue
- 6- Adult Leader Meeting 6pm @ Comm Bldg
- 6- 4-H Council Meeting 7pm @ Comm Bldg
- 9- IEHA Spring District Meeting, Verm Co Hosting
*more info to be mailed out when available
- 15- Mini Monthly @ Central
- 20- Introduction to Email 6pm @ CPL
- 25- Extension Homemaker Achievement Day Reservations due to Sue
- 29- Mini Monthly @ NV

Purdue Extension Office Vermillion County
703 W Park St, Suite 1, Cayuga IN 47928

What's Inside...

4-H meeting and Mini 4-H monthly dates and sign ups.
4-H Scholarship info and important future fair date information.

ANR News- Bi-State Garden Conference, Homesteading
Conference, and Indiana Horticulture Conference dates and info.
Purdue Top Farmer Conference topics and information.

HHS Be Heart Smart info and registration links;
Dining with Diabetes returning this Spring!
Building Better Boards-Registration and QR code.

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Find us on Facebook at:

Purdue Extension
Vermillion County

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Vermillion Co. 4-H

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Vermillion Co. 4-H Jr. Leaders

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Vermillion Co. IN
Extension Homemakers



Extension - Vermillion County

Purdue Extension Mission: We deliver
practical, research-based information
that enhances lives and livelihoods.

Purdue Extension Vision: We will be a
leader in providing relevant, high-impact
educational programs that transform the
lives and livelihoods of individuals and
communities in Indiana and the world.

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Extension - Vermillion County

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