

PURDUE EXTENSION - WASHINGTON COUNTY

NEWS

April/May 2026



FEATURED TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE:

- Free 4-H Enrollment T-Shirts
- 4-H Camp Information
- Ag. Hall of Fame Nominations Now Being Accepted
- Tulip Walk in Salem, April 11
- Spring Cleaning Beyond the Home
- Supporting Caregivers





4-H YOUTH NEWS



Upcoming Dates

April

- **6 – Jr. Leaders, 4-6**
- **7 – Shooting Sports, 6:30**
- **8 – Fur & Feathers, 6:00, Horse & Pony 6:00 @ Fairgrounds**
- **9 – Boston Blazers, 6:30**
- **12 – Gibson Twp., 3:00**
- **14 – Canton Clovers, 3:00; Shooting Sports, 6:30**
- **19 – Goat Club, 3:00**
- **20 – VFF, 6:30; Pierce Pioneers, 3:00**
- **21 – Shooting Sports, 6:30**
- **28 – Shooting Sports, 6:30**
- **28- Sheep & Goat ID Day 4-7 PM**

May

- **7 – Boston Blazers, 6:30**
- **12 – Canton Clovers, 3:00; Shooting Sports, 6:30**
- **13 – Fur & Feathers, 6:00**
- **15 - ANIMAL ID DEADLINE**
- **18 – VFF, 6:30; Pierce Pioneers, 3:00**
- **19 – Shooting Sports, 6:30**
- **26 – Shooting Sports, 6:30**
- **28-31 - Southern Indiana 4-H Camp**

Enrollment T-Shirt

All 4-H Members and Adult volunteers enrolled and APPROVED by April 1, 2026 will receive a free t-shirt. Fill out the google form with the QR code to claim your t-shirt! Must fill out form by April 10, 2026.





Junior Leaders

Who can join Junior Leaders?

Any Washington County 4-H member in grades 7-12



Upcoming Meetings:

- April 6 @ The Extension Office 4-6 PM
 - Maker Space Project Night
- May Meeting - TBD
- June 4 @ the Fairgrounds 5:00 PM (**Triple Points**)
- **Achievement Trip - July 7-9 *Tentative***
 - *Lake Michigan or Cincinnati*
 - *Must meet point requirements to attend*

Upcoming Programs



Mini 4-H STEM Meetings



Extension Office | 5:30–7:30 PM

Washington County 4-H members in grades K-2. Free to attend!

To Register: Call 812-883-4601 (Register for one or all three!)

Apr 7 – Recycle & Create

- **Turn “trash” into treasure with a recycling challenge!**
- **Create with found materials: recycled robot, bird feeder, tissue box planter, juice jug rocket, and more**

May 7 – Planting Party

- **Celebrate spring with flowers, planting, and creativity!**
- **Decorate a pot**
- **Plant a flower to take home**



4-H Camp



Southern Indiana 4-H Camp: Deep Blue Discovery

Who: Open to 4-H members in grades 3–8

Theme: Deep Blue Discovery (underwater adventure!)

Where: Country Lake Christian Retreat

Cost: Approx. \$220 (funds available to help youth attend)

Registration opens: April 1

**Information about camp and fundraisers was mailed out.
If you didn't receive it please let us know!**

Camp Fundraisers

Support Washington County 4-H Campers through two fundraisers! See a 4-H Camper, stop by the Extension Office or give us a call to place an order!

Coffee Fundraiser (Humble Joe's Coffee Co.)

Sale runs March 30–April 13, with delivery in early to mid-May. Choose from light, medium, dark, and flavored coffees in whole bean, ground, or K-Cups.

Prices range from \$14–\$19.

Order by cash, check, or online.

Spring Petunia Fundraiser - Cornucopia Farms

12" porch pots and hanging baskets are available for \$35 each. Featuring colorful Easy Wave petunias—perfect for spring and gifts. Three colors available!

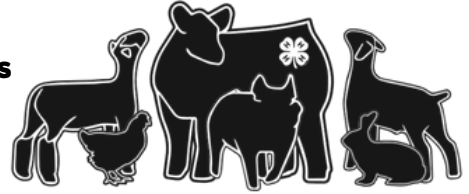
Upcoming Opportunities

Scott County 4-H Livestock Showmanship Workshop & QLC Training

Date: April 11th

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location: Scott County Fairgrounds
710 Fairground Rd
Scottsburg, IN 47170



Learn livestock showmanship and care from specialists in two species of your choice. Includes the required QLC class for Indiana 4-H shows.

Species: Beef, Sheep, Swine, Poultry, Rabbits, Goats

Register: 4-H Online (search “2026 Scott County Livestock Workshop”)

Details:

- Free T-shirt for first 50 participants
- \$3 IQLC fee (cash at the door)

Scholarship Opportunity:

Indiana high school seniors interested in the beef industry are encouraged to apply for the IBCA Scholarship. To apply, compile all required materials into one complete application and submit by mail or email by April 30, 2026. The application can be found on the Indiana Beef Cattle Association website.

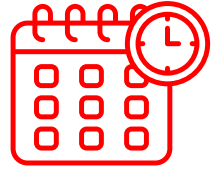
**IBCA
SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATIONS
CLOSE APRIL
30TH!**

Visit indianabeef.org

Important Dates:

Quality Livestock Care (QLC) Trainings

- Monday, April 6 | 6–7 PM
- Monday, May 18 | 5–6 PM



Sheep/Goat ID

- Tuesday, April 28 | 4–7 PM | Fairgrounds

Key Deadlines

- May 15: Indiana 4-H Animal ID Deadline
- June 1: Washington County Fair Entry Deadline
 - (static & livestock projects)

Washington County Fair

- June 13–20, 2026
- Check the Facebook page or call the Washington County Extension Office for a copy of the schedule.



Handbook:

There have been changes made to the livestock portion of the handbook and a few static projects have been updated. Please be sure to check on updated policies and procedures before the fair. You can get a copy of the handbook at the Extension Office for FREE anytime from 8 AM - 4PM Monday-Friday.

Vet Science Camp

4-H members in grades 3–12 had the opportunity to participate in a hands-on Veterinary Science Camp led by Dr. Ellen and Dr. Bre at Spring Mill Veterinary Service. This three-session program gave youth a chance to explore the veterinary field in a fun and engaging way. Throughout the program, participants learned a variety of skills including animal first aid, suturing, using ultrasound, diagnosing diseases, disease prevention, giving injections, and more. It was a great experience for youth to build knowledge, confidence, and interest in animal care. A sincere thank you to Premier Companies for their support in making this program possible.





Upcoming Dates

IBEP Pre-conditioning Program Meeting, April 9

To enhance customer service to both buyers and consignors of bulls, IBEP has created a pre-conditioning program for 2026 to increase return on investment in an IBEP bull by increasing the value of progeny marketed as feeder cattle. Interested beef cattle producers should attend an informational meeting on Thursday, April 9, 2026 from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Washington County Fairgrounds 4-H Building (118 N. Fair St., Salem) to learn about details, dates, and the long-term plan for the program.

A Taste of Lamb, April 10

The Washington County Sheep Association is hosting "A Taste of Lamb" on Friday, April 10, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at Southern Hills Church (1645 S. State Rd. 135, Salem). It will feature the very popular lamb cook-off. Attendees will enjoy approx. six lamb dishes, prepared with locally raised lamb, and vote for their favorite. Cost is \$10 per person, paid at the door. Reservations are required by Friday, April 3, 2026 by calling the Extension office at 812-883-4601.

IBEP Performance Bull Test, April 18

The 97th IBEP Bull Test sale is Saturday, April 18, 2026 at the Springville Feeder Auction in Springville, IN and online at CC.live starting at 1:00 pm. 101 bulls are in the sale: 70 Angus, 9 Gelbvieh Balancer, 3 Hereford, 5 Red Angus, 11 Simmental, 1 SimAngus, and 2 percentage Simmental. The sale catalog will be available soon. Visit the IBEP website at: <https://ag.purdue.edu/departement/ansc/ibep/> for the catalog and sale updates.

Indiana Boer Goat Classic Show, May 16

The Washington County Goat Association and the Indiana Boer Goat Association are hosting an Indiana Boer Goat Classic Show on Saturday, May 16, 2026 at the Washington County Fairgrounds (118 N. Fair St., Salem). Anyone interested in showing Boer goats should visit the website: <https://www.indianaboergoatclassic.org/>

Beck's Mill Fiber Revival, May 16

The annual Fiber Revival is Saturday, May 16, 2026 at Beck's Mill (4433 S. Beck's Mill Rd., Salem) starting at 10:00 am. The revival will include many "Sheep to Shaw" demonstrations - sheep shearing, spinning, felting, dyeing, weaving, quilting, hand carding, crocheting, and knitting. The Washington County Sheep Assoc. is serving lunch. All are welcome. For more information visit www.becksmill.org or call 812-883-5147.

Save-the-Date for the following events, with more information coming soon:

- **Washington County Open Goat Show** at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Salem, IN on Saturday, June 6, 2026.
- **Washington County Open Sheep Show** at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Salem, IN on Saturday, June 6, 2026.
- **Ag. Hall of Fame Event** at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Salem, IN on Monday, June 15, 2026.
- **Pasture Ecology Workshop** at the Southern Indiana Purdue Ag. Center in Dubois, IN on Wednesday, June 24, 2026
- **Purdue Small Farm Education Field Day** at the Purdue Student Farm in West Lafayette, IN on Thursday, July 23, 2026.
- **Grazing 102** at the Southern Indiana Purdue Ag. Center in Dubois, IN on Friday, August 28 and Saturday, August 29, 2026.
- **Small Ruminant Event** at the Southern Indiana Purdue Ag. Center in Dubois, IN on Sunday, September 13, 2026.
- **Stockmanship with Curt Pate** at the Southern Indiana Purdue Ag. Center on Friday, September 25 or Saturday, September 26, 2026.
- **Midwest Hair Sheep Sale** at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Salem, IN on Saturday, October 3, 2026.
- **Heifer Selection Program** at the Southern Indiana Purdue Ag. Center in Dubois, IN on Saturday, October 24, 2026.
- **Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Training** at the Southern Indiana Purdue Ag. Center in Dubois, IN on Thursday, November 12, 2026.

March Updated Crop Cost & Return Guide

Production costs remain elevated heading into 2026, with tighter margins expected across corn, soybeans, and wheat. Updated Purdue crop budgets incorporate the latest input prices, yield assumptions, and cost structures to provide a current outlook on profitability.

Breakeven prices remain sensitive to shifts in input costs and commodity markets, making it critical to stress-test your operation. These budgets help identify where margins are most at risk and where cost control or marketing decisions could have the biggest impact.

Use the updated guide and spreadsheet tool to evaluate your 2026 crop plan and benchmark your operation. The guide and spreadsheet tool are found at the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture website: <https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag/home/resource/2025/09/2026-crop-cost-and-return-guide/>




Ag. Hall of Fame Nominations Now Being Accepted

The Washington County SWAG (See What Ag. Gives) Team is accepting nominations for the 2026 Ag. Hall of Fame Award through Friday, May 1, 2026. The nomination form is available in printed form at the Purdue Extension – Washington County office (806 Martinsburg Rd., Suite 104, Salem, IN), via email by contacting dhowellw@purdue.edu, or as a Google form found at <https://bit.ly/AHOF2026>.


The Ag. Hall of Fame Award will be announced at 5:00 pm on Monday, June 15, 2026 in the Livestock Pavilion at the Washington County Farmers-Merchants Fair. All Washington County farmers and agribusiness people are invited to attend. The event includes a meal (sandwich, chips, drink, ice cream ticket to the 4-H Clover Creamery), guest speaker, and the award announcement. Everyone is encouraged to stay after and support the youth participating in the 4-H Sheep Show. RSVP's are required by calling the Purdue Extension - Washington County office at 812-883-4601. RSVP's are limited to 200.

AGRICULTURE
Hall of Fame



Monday, June 15, 2026
5:00 pm
Wash. Co. Fairgrounds - Livestock Arena

Join the SWAG Team at the Ag. Hall of Fame program, dinner, and the presentation of the Ag. Hall of Fame award to a deserving Washington County farmer or agribusiness person. RSVP to the Purdue Extension - Wash. Co. office at 812-883-4601 and check-in at the SWAG table near the show arena. Participants receive a coupon to the 4-H Clover Creamery. After the program, stay to support 4-H members during the Sheep Show. Limited to 200.



Promoting & Honoring
Agriculture

Indiana Launches Veterinary Practice Finder Online Search Tool

To help match Hoosiers seeking veterinary care with veterinary practices accepting new clients, the Indiana Center for Animal Policy (IN-CAP) has launched the Indiana veterinary practice finder, Find-A-Vet. The ad-free online portal allows users to search for veterinary services by species, location, specialty, and how services are delivered (in-clinic, on-site or haul-in facility).

Information in Find-A-Vet is provided by Indiana-licensed practices that voluntarily opt-in and are accepting new clients. Veterinary practices do not pay for the service, nor do the clients.

The veterinary practice finder is available at the Indiana Board of Animal Health website: <https://www.in.gov/boah/>



Visit the Indiana Grown Website

Indiana Grown is a statewide initiative created by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture to help Hoosiers easily find and support products grown or made in Indiana. Indiana Grown connects people with local farmers, artisans, and food producers, offering everything from fresh seasonal foods to handcrafted goods.

Through the Indiana Grown website, visitors can explore a searchable member directory, discover what's currently in season, learn about agritourism opportunities, and learn where to shop locally.

Indiana Grown has a public newsletter that provides timely information about relevant topics and upcoming events.

Educational webinars are also offered monthly.

To learn more about what Indiana Grown, connect with local farmers and artisans, sign-up for the newsletter, or register for a webinar visit their website at: <https://indianagrown.org/>





Upcoming Dates

Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training, April 8 & May 7

The Safe Produce Indiana team will host two Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Trainings. An in-person training will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at the Bartholomew County Extension Office in Columbus, IN. A remote training will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2026. The cost is \$20 for Indiana residents and \$175 for out-of-state residents, which includes a certificate of course completion, PSA Grower Training manual, and other training materials. To register, visit: <https://vegcropshotline.org/article/upcoming-produce-food-safety-programming-offered-by-safe-produce-indiana/>

Tulip Walk, April 11

The Good Earth Master Gardeners invite everyone to their 6th Annual Tulip Walk on Saturday, April 11, 2026 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. The event site is 52 Public Square, Salem, IN (former Turtlefish building). The walk includes live demonstrations: Rooted in History with Debbie Whitlow (9:15 am); Cornucopia Farm with Linda Baird (10:15 am); Dahlias with Chris Lindley (10:45 am); Fresh Flower Arranging with Emily Eisenback (11:30 am); Using Native Plants in Your Garden with Ralph Purkhiser (1:30 pm); Time to Wick with Brenda Richardson (2:15 pm). Visit participating businesses around the Salem Square for special offers. More information is available on the Good Earth Master Gardeners Facebook page.

Pollinator Day, April 25

Join Purdue Extension - Floyd County for Pollinator Day on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at the Purdue Research Park (3000 Technology Ave., New Albany, IN) from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. The day will include hands-on activities, games, crafts, food trucks, native trees and seeds, and info-packed booths. Educational classes will feature Pollinator Pockets with Cara Bezuska and Prescribed Burns with Jared Brooke. The day is free and weather permitting.

Washington County Farmers' Market Opening Day, May 9

The Opening Day for the Washington County Farmers' Market is Saturday, May 9, 2026. Market hours are 8:30 am - 12:00 pm. More information about the Farmers' Market is coming soon. Watch the Washington County Farmers' Market Facebook page for updates.

Extension Master Gardener Training, August - December

More information coming soon about the next Extension Master Gardener Training for Scott & Washington Counties in 2026.

Purdue Fruit & Vegetable Field Day, July 16

Purdue Extension's annual Fruit and Vegetable Field Day is July 16, 2026 at the Meigs Horticulture Research Farm in Lafayette, IN. The field day will feature educational sessions on cutting-edge research, including high tunnel production systems, pollinator management, soil health strategies, and innovative weed and pest control methods, and much more. Registration is now open at:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/2da43e55-9a79-4e57-bc91-5594e09ae63b/summary>

Good Earth Master Gardeners

The Good Earth Master Gardeners have set dates for three of their annual events. Mark your calendars!

- Tulip Walk - Saturday, April 11, 2026 on the Square in Salem.
- Plant Sale - Saturday, May 9, 2026 at the Washington County Farmers' Market.
- Garden Tour - Saturday, June 27 and Sunday, June 28, 2026.

More information coming soon.



Follow the Good Earth Master Gardeners on Facebook!

PURDUE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Damping-Off Vegetables & Herbaceous Ornaments



Damping-off can occur on any herbaceous crop grown from seed, including vegetables, ornamentals, hemp, and field crops. Seeds, seedlings, and young plants may be affected, resulting in poor stands in residential gardens, cold frames, greenhouses, high tunnels, and commercial fields. Losses to damping-off can be severe, especially when cool, wet weather prevails at the time of direct seeding, at seed emergence, or at transplanting.

University of Kentucky Extension has an excellent publication (PPFS-GEN-03) on this topic. It can be found at:

<https://plantpathology.mgcafe.uky.edu/files/ppfs-gen-03.pdf>



Upcoming Dates

- **Raising Our Children’s Kids (ROCK), April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and May 7, 9:30am to 11:30am at the Washington County Family YMCA**
- **Washington County Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Coalition (TPC), April 9, and May 14, noon to 1:00pm, via Zoom**
- **Community Assistance Providers (CAP), April 8 and May 20, 10:00am to Noon, Washington County Government Building Meeting Room**
- **Child and Family Interagency Collaborative Team (CFICT), May 1 at 9:00am via Google Meets**
- **Full Circle, May 4 at 5:30pm, Purdue Extension Washington County Conference Room**
- **Unified Champions Day, May 12, starting at 10:00am, Newkirk Field at Paoli High School. Presented by South Central Area Cooperative Special Education Cooperative.**

For more information or to receive access join links to join the events listed above, please email Sonya Mitchell at shmitche@purdue.edu.

Move forward with confidence and peace...

“Spring is proof that there is beauty in new beginnings.”
— Matshona Dhliwayo

Spring Cleaning Beyond the Home: Refreshing Mind and Routine

Spring is often a time when we clean out garages, sheds, and closets—but it's also a good season to check in with ourselves. As routines shift and daylight stretches a little longer, many people find this is a natural time to reset habits that may have grown heavy over the winter months.

Refreshing your routine doesn't mean making big changes. It can be as simple as getting outside for a short walk, opening the windows for fresh air, or taking a few quiet moments at the start or end of the day. Small adjustments can help boost energy, improve mood, and bring a sense of balance.

Life often runs on long days and full schedules. Taking time for yourself may feel like a luxury, but it's an important part of staying well. A refreshed routine helps us better care for our families, neighbors, and community.

While we may not be able to remove stress entirely, small steps can help us manage it in healthy ways. Simple practices like taking a few deep breaths, spending time outdoors, sticking to regular sleep routines, or talking with someone you trust can help reset both body and mind. Even short breaks during the day can make a difference.

Recognizing stress early and responding with care helps protect both mental and physical well-being. Taking time to recharge isn't selfish—it's essential for staying strong for ourselves and those who depend on us.

After taking care of you, then you can consider tackling some of the traditional spring cleaning. “Empower Me to Be Clutter Free” is a Purdue Program designed to help you take charge of clutter. Learn decluttering strategies and how to identify emotional barriers to letting go of things.

Clutter can quietly weigh on your mind. When your space feels crowded or disorganized, it contributes to feeling overwhelmed, making it harder to focus, relax, or feel in control. Even small amounts of clutter can compete for your attention, increasing stress and mental fatigue. Clearing your space often brings a sense of calm, clarity, and renewed energy.

Moving More in Spring: Gentle Ways to Stay Active

As the weather warms, spring offers natural opportunities to move more and enjoy the outdoors. Physical activity doesn't have to be strenuous to be beneficial—gentle movement can support strength, balance, and overall health.

Walking, stretching, gardening, yard work, or light chores around the home all count as physical activity. Even a few minutes at a time can help improve mood, boost energy, and reduce stiffness.

The key is consistency and choosing activities you enjoy. Moving your body in ways that feel manageable and pleasant makes it easier to stay active throughout the season.

Eating Well on the Go: Balanced Choices for Busy Schedules

Busy schedules are a reality in many rural households—long workdays, caregiving, and seasonal demands can make mealtimes feel rushed. Eating well on the go doesn't require complicated planning, just a few balanced choices.

Aim to include a mix of protein, whole grains, fruits, or vegetables when possible. Simple options like hard-boiled eggs, yogurt, peanut butter with fruit, cheese, nuts, sandwiches on whole-grain bread, or leftovers packed ahead of time can help fuel the body and prevent energy crashes.

Planning ahead, even just a little, can make a big difference. Keeping easy, nourishing foods on hand supports energy, focus, and overall health during busy days.

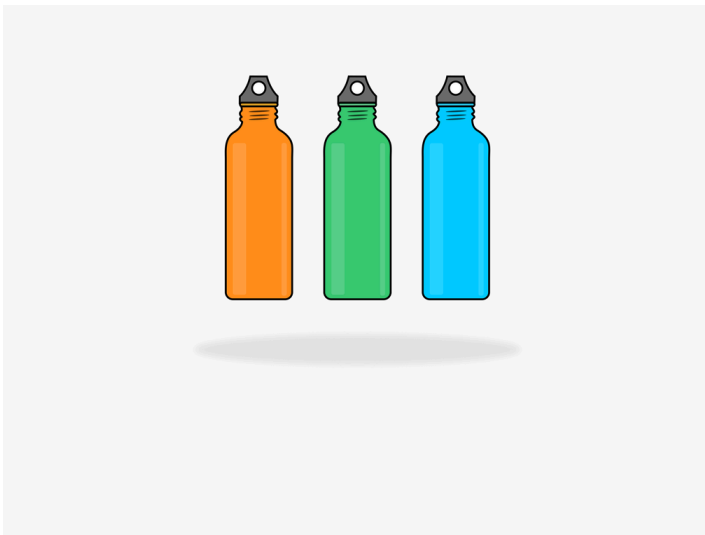
Hydration, Energy, and Warmer Weather

As temperatures rise, staying hydrated becomes even more important. Water plays a key role in maintaining energy, regulating body temperature, and supporting overall health—especially during outdoor work and physical activity.

Many people don't realize they're dehydrated until they feel tired, sluggish, or develop a headache. Drinking water regularly throughout the day, rather than waiting until you're thirsty, can help prevent this. Carrying a water bottle or keeping water nearby is a simple habit that makes hydration easier.

While other beverages can contribute to fluid intake, water remains the best choice. Staying hydrated helps support energy levels and keeps the body functioning well as the weather warms.

You'll be tempted, but don't reach for those sugary drinks. Sugary beverages can contribute to negative outcomes health, young and old, more than most people realize. Learn more about the negative health impact of sugary beverages from the Center for Disease Control at <https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-weight-growth/rethink-your-drink/index.html>. Stay well and drink more water!



Supporting Caregivers: Finding Strength in Shared Experiences



Caregiving is an important role, but it can also be demanding and, at times, isolating. Many caregivers juggle responsibilities for family members while managing work, household tasks, and their own well-being.

One source of strength comes from shared experiences. Connecting with other caregivers—whether through community groups, informal conversations, or trusted friends—can help reduce feelings of isolation and remind caregivers they are not alone. Sharing stories, challenges, and successes creates understanding and encouragement.

Caregivers don't have to have all the answers. Sometimes, knowing someone else understands the journey is enough to provide comfort and support.

Join us at "Full Circle" where we provide a warm and caring environment for caregivers to support one another. We meet the first Monday of each month at 5:30pm in Purdue Extension Conference Room at 806 Martinsburg Road, Salem.

Learning Through Nature: Spring as a Classroom

Spring offers a natural classroom full of opportunities for learning. From planting seeds to observing wildlife, children can explore science, math, and creativity simply by spending time outdoors.

Nature-based learning helps children develop observation skills, curiosity, and an appreciation for the world around them. Activities like gardening, hiking, watching weather patterns, or caring for animals provide hands-on experiences that support learning and responsibility.

In rural communities, nature is often right outside the door. Encouraging outdoor exploration helps children learn through experience while staying active and engaged. Create a scavenger hunt, make an effort to visit local parks to learn more about wildlife and plant species native to our area.

Looking for more ideas to engage your child in outdoor learning? Check out Purdue's Nature of Teaching informal curriculum using the following link:
<https://ag.purdue.edu/department/extension/nature/informal-curriculum.html>.



Missing Something? Like those wonderful programs presented by your local Health and Human Sciences Educator, Sonya Mitchell? She's on medical leave but will return before spring is gone. Sonya is looking forward to providing more quality health and wellness programming in Washington County. See ya soon!



Extension - Washington County

806 Martinsburg Rd., Ste. 104
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(812) 883-4601

Office Hours: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Monday-Friday

 [PurdueExtension-WashingtonCounty](https://extension.purdue.edu/county/washington)

<https://extension.purdue.edu/county/washington>

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED