

PURDUE EXTENSION - WASHINGTON COUNTY

NEWS

August/September 2026



FEATURED TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE:

- 4-H Shooting Sports Nature Hike
- 2026 Washington Co. Plat Books Now Available
- Tips for Increasing Drought Tolerance of Your Lawn
- Rural Health Transformation Program





4-H YOUTH NEWS



Upcoming Dates

- **August 7-August 23 - Indiana State Fair**
 - **Closed Mondays**
- **August 10 - State Fair Foods Drop Off: 7-7:30 AM**
- **August 10- After the Fair Meeting: 5:30 PM**
- **August 30 - Shooting Sports Nature Hike**
- **October 7 - Jr Leaders**
 - **@ Cornucopia Farms: 5:30-7:30 PM**



Washington County SAFE Shooting Sports

Nature Hike opportunity!

August 30 @ Wonder Valley Camp

****must be a current 4-H member to participate****

Contact Jason Webster at 812-725-5700 for more details!

***New 4-H Year Open Enrollment
Begins October 1, 2026!***



Junior Leaders

Who can join Junior Leaders?

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

Tentative Learning Topics for the Year



- Adulting 101 (Budgeting, Cooking, Life Skills)
- Career Exploration & Local Business Tours
- Community Service & Leadership
- Digital Citizenship & Technology
- Health, Wellness & Self-Care
- Outdoor Adventure & Team Building

**Junior
Leaders**
INDIANA 4-H



Upcoming Meetings:

October 7 @ Cornucopia Farms: 5:30-7:30 PM

Stay tuned for 2026 schedule of meetings!

Stock The Trailer

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Stock the Trailer food drive during the Washington County 4-H Fair. Because of your generosity, we delivered **1,775 pounds** of food to the Washington County Food Bank in partnership with Farm Credit. A special thank you goes to Madison Laswell for donating her swine project. The meat from her animal was also delivered to the food bank, helping provide nutritious meals for local families. We're so thankful to everyone who donated and helped make this year's drive a success. It was a great way to wrap up another wonderful fair week and show what the 4-H community is all about: neighbors helping neighbors.



2026 Achievement Trip

Cincinnati, OH

Our Washington County 4-H Junior Leaders recently spent a few days in Cincinnati, Ohio, on their annual Achievement Trip. This trip is earned throughout the year by attending Junior Leader meetings, volunteering at 4-H events, and helping with our cheeseball fundraiser. This year's group stayed busy with a visit to Jungle Jim's International Market, Great Wolf Lodge, a Cincinnati Reds game, a Jon Pardi concert, and the Cincinnati Zoo. It was a great chance to have some fun together and celebrate everything they accomplished this year. If you're looking for another way to get involved in 4-H, Junior Leaders is a great place to start. The more you participate, the more opportunities you'll have, including the chance to earn next year's Achievement Trip. The destination for 2027 will be chosen by the Junior Leaders, with Nashville, Tennessee; New River Gorge, West Virginia; St. Louis, Missouri; and South Haven, Michigan all on the list. It could be you on next year's trip!



Area 2 Tractor Contest

Congratulations to all of our Washington County 4-H members who competed in the Area 2 Tractor Operator Contest! We're so proud of the way you represented our county. Several of our members earned Champion and Reserve Champion honors in the Zero Turn, Lawn & Garden, and Ag Tractor divisions and are headed to the Indiana State Fair. Congratulations, and good luck as you compete at the next level! The Tractor Operator Contest is a great way for youth to build confidence while learning important safety skills. Participants completed a parts identification test before putting their skills to work on a driving obstacle course. It's a fun project that teaches safe equipment operation and practical skills that can last a lifetime. If you've ever thought about joining Tractor Club, we'd love to have you! Contact Keith Day for more information or watch for Tractor Club sign-ups this fall. Great job to everyone who competed, and best of luck to our members heading to the State Fair! We're cheering you on!



2026 Wash Co Fair

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2026 Washington County Fair a success, and congratulations to all of our 4-H members on another great year! As we start planning for next year, don't forget about our Post-Fair Meeting on Monday, August 10, from 5:30–6:45 p.m. The meeting is open to 4-H members, parents/guardians, and approved 4-H volunteers. Please check your email for the post-fair survey and submit your feedback before August 3. You're also welcome to email me directly with your thoughts or concerns before the meeting. To keep the discussion organized and productive, only topics submitted ahead of time will be included on the agenda. Thank you again for your support of Washington County 4-H. We appreciate you!





Happy Back to School!

Good luck to all of our Washington County 4-H members as a new school year begins! Whether you're starting first grade, heading back to high school, or moving off to college, we hope you have a great year. Work hard, try new things, be kind to others, and don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone. As you head back to school, don't forget the Health part of the 4-H pledge! Here's an easy after-school snack to try at home:

Apple Nachos

- Sliced apples
- Peanut butter
- Granola
- A sprinkle of cinnamon

Before you know it, it'll be time to start another 4-H year! Enrollment opens October 1, and we hope you'll join us for another year of projects, clubs, camps, contests, and making new friends.

Have a great school year, we can't wait to see what you accomplish!





Upcoming Dates

Broomcorn for Organic Transition Field Day, August 10

The Indiana Organic Network is hosting a field day to explore a novel crop for organic transition, broomcorn, at Bundle Sticks Farm in Lanesville, IN on Monday, August 10, 2026 from 9:00 am - 1:30 pm. RSVP at tinyurl.com/3ebn8u68 or call 765-496-6362.

Harrison County Cattlemen's Association Field Day, August 22

The Harrison County Cattlemen's Association and Purdue Extension - Harrison County are hosting a field day at Simpson Farms in Elizabeth, IN on Saturday, August 22, 2026 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Topics include: parasites, herd health, and vaccine technologies. Lunch and the field day are free, but RSVPs are appreciated to the Extension office at camm@purdue.edu or 812-738-4236.

Grazing 102, August 28 & 29

Purdue Extension, Indiana Beef Cattle Association, and Indiana Forage Council are hosting Grazing 102 - Introduction to Managed Grazing on Friday, August 28, 2026 from 1:00-6:00 pm and Saturday, August 29, 2026 from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm at the Southern Indiana Purdue Ag. Center (11317 E. Purdue Farm Rd., Dubois, IN 47527). Topics will include: pasture evaluation, forage specie selection, plant induced disorders, plant identification, fence and water systems, animal nutritional needs, paddock design, understanding soils, and more. Cost is \$75, but additional attendees from the same farm may register at the same time for \$50. Registration is needed by Friday, August 21, 2026. Online registration is available at www.indianabeef.org or www.indianaforage.org. Contact Jason Tower for more information at 812-678-4427.

Indiana Beef Cattle Association Field Day, August 29

The Indiana Beef Cattle Association is hosting a field day on Saturday, August 29, 2026 at the Purdue Beef Unit (7400 ASREC Ln., West Lafayette, IN 47906) from 1:00-5:00 pm. Speakers and topics include: Dr. Bethany Funnell - IVF and new technologies in beef reproduction; Hattie Duncan and Cade Snethen - live animal and carcass evaluation; Dr. Larry Horstman, Dr. Keith Johnson, and Dr. Ron Lemenager - "Ask the Experts" panel. Visit indianabeef.org for more information and to register.

Indiana Flock Exchange, September 13

Purdue Extension and the Indiana Sheep Association are hosting a workshop at the Southern Indiana Purdue Ag. Center (11317 E. Purdue Farm Rd., Dubois, IN 47527) on Sunday, September 13, 2026. The registration fee is \$10 per person, which includes FAMACHA training and lunch. Topics to be covered are: FAMACHA training, updates from the Indiana Board of Animal Health, and an experienced producer panel. Register at: <https://cvent.me/dw5z20>. For more information email executive@indianasheep.com or call 317-607-5664.

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

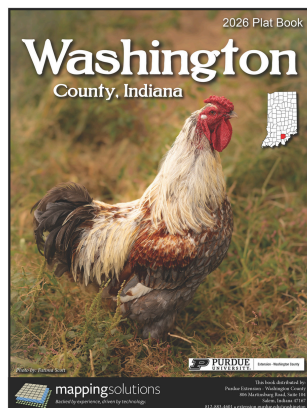
- **Stockmanship with Curt Pate** at the Southern Indiana Purdue Ag. Center on Friday, September 25 or Saturday, September 26, 2026.
- **Midwest Hair Sheep Sale** at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Salem, IN on Saturday, October 3, 2026.
- **Your Land, Your Legacy Women's Forum** in Salem, IN on Friday, October 9, 2026.
- **IBEP Bull Sale** at the Springville Feeder Auction in Springville, IN on Saturday, October 17, 2026 starting at 1:00 pm.
- **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.
- **Fall Applicator Program** in Salem, IN on Wednesday, November 18, 2026.

2026 Washington County Plat Books & Maps Now Available!

Purdue Extension, with Mapping Solutions, recently published an updated Washington County Plat Book featuring landownership maps showing townships and ranges within Washington County, including property boundaries for all rural parcels.

This information is valuable to anyone interested, particularly those who own land in Washington County. Prospective or adjoining property owners, hunters, foresters, and many others could benefit from the plat book.

The 2026 Washington County IN Plat Book is available for \$30.00 and the Plat Map for \$60.00 (cash or check only) at the Extension office.



2026 Indiana Clean Sweep Dates & Locations

The Office of the Indiana State Chemist's (OISC) Clean Sweep program is designed to collect and dispose of suspended, cancelled, banned, unusable, opened, unopened, or just unwanted pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, miticides, etc.). The disposal is free up to 300 pounds per participant. Over 300 pounds has a \$3.00 per pound charge. Pesticides must be in leak free and safe to transport containers. Do NOT mix materials.

All Clean Sweep programs are from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm local time.

The closest location is Thursday, August 20, 2026 in Jackson County at Premier Ag. (6905 N. CR 4000 E., Cortland, IN 47274). Additional sites can be found on the OISC website:

https://oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/clean_sweep.html. To participate, complete the "Clean Sweep Pesticide Disposal Participant Form" and email to the OISC at cleansweep@groups.purdue.edu by Friday, August 7, 2026. Forms are available on the OISC website or by contacting the Extension office. For questions or more information call 765-494-1492.



Mid-Season Corn Leaf Aphids: When to Worry

Corn leaf aphid (CLA) is typically an occasional presence in cornfields within the Midwest. They are a common sight late in season - in September and October - when corn is starting to senesce and they can't have much impact on yields. They are frequently seen on corn stalks close to the ground at this time and can reach very high numbers, with black sooty mold covering some plant parts. Since corn plants are effectively "shutting down" at this time in terms of photosynthesis, they are not a pest of concern at that time.

However, in Indiana and throughout the Midwest, we have had some recent sightings of CLA infestations in the last week or so. These are a mix of the winged (dispersers) and wingless aphids and typically in spotty, small groups (less than 20 individuals). Like many aphids, they feed on a variety of hosts – primarily grasses – and aren't restricted to corn. They are more common in the southern states and migrate northward each year. The pest threat occurs when very large infestations produce sufficient honeydew to interfere with pollination – gumming up tassels and corn so that pollen cannot disperse and fertilize developing ears. I have personally never seen (or even heard of) an infestation of this severity, but I am sure it's happened. At this point, much, but not all, of the corn in the state is past this point in maturity.

But as I see aerial applicators hard at work, it's worth a review of the management guidelines – is there any point in adding pyrethroid insecticides to fungicide sprays to "clean up" these infestations?

Prior to Tasseling

- In 5 areas of a field, randomly select 4 nonconsecutive plants, 10 to 15 paces between each plant.
- Pull the whorl upward and out of the plant. Unroll each whorl, counting and recording the number of aphids found.
- Total the number of aphids found on the 20 whorls and determine the average number of aphids per plant.

During Pollen Shed

- Examine 20 consecutive plants randomly selected in each of 5 areas of the field for aphids and honeydew on the tassels.
- Calculate the percentage of plants with aphids and honeydew.
- Determine the status of pollen shed and ear pollination

Treatment thresholds for CLA are as follows:

Pre-tassel: 15 aphids/plant whorl 3 weeks before tasseling and plants under drought stress.

Post-tassel: 50% of tassels covered prior to 50% pollination and plants under drought stress

Most Indiana corn doesn't have the drought stress component to worry about, which helps a lot, so it is unlikely that aphid infestations impacted pollination in any way.

There are no aphid threshold guidelines after pollination, for obvious reasons; by this time, the fertilization story is written and aphids won't be a factor in determining yields.

Although treatable infestations of CLA are very uncommon in Indiana field corn, it is worthwhile to keep an eye on them – often natural enemies like ladybird beetles and parasitoids play a large role in regulating these populations and provide another reminder that sometimes these flare ups just need a little bit of time to resolve on their own.

*Christian Krupke, Purdue Entomology,
Purdue Pest & Crop Newsletter, July 24, 2026*



Left: The sage-green color of CLA distinguishes them from several other aphid species that may be found on corn plants. Right: A heavy CLA infestation on a corn tassel. Photos by John Obermeyer.



From the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture:

Beef cattle producers are encouraged to visit the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture's recent article "Trends in Finishing Breakeven Prices & Net Returns" at:

<https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag/home/resource/2026/07/trends-in-cattle-finishing-breakeven-prices-and-net-returns/>

HORTICULTURE NEWS



Upcoming Dates

Vegetable Field Day, August 13

The Southwest Indiana Purdue Ag. Center (4669 N. Purdue Rd., Vincennes, IN 47591) is hosting a Vegetable Field Day on Thursday, August 13, 2026, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm. Topics include: pumpkin research trial demonstration, watermelon fungicide efficacy trial, tomato nematode management trial in high tunnels, brassica variety trials, and PARP credits (for \$10). Register online at:

https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6ILH2mIIWqhw1fM. For more information contact Dr. Wenjing Guan at guan40@purdue.edu.

Extension Master Gardener Training, September - December

The fall 2026 Purdue EMG Basic Training includes weekly in-person sessions on Tuesdays, September 1 – December 8, 2026 (no meeting on November 24 due to the Thanksgiving holiday), from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. The weekly sessions are held at the Washington County Government Building Meeting Room (806 Martinsburg Rd., Salem). The training fee is \$200.00/person, which includes the Purdue EMG Manual. If two people from the same household want to share the Purdue EMG Manual, the total cost is \$300.00. If interested, please contact Danielle Walker at dhowellw@purdue.edu or 812-883-4601 by Monday, August 3, 2026.

Hydroponic Crop Production Workshop, September 19

Learn the fundamentals of hydroponic crop production at the Hydroponic Crop Production Workshop, offered Saturday, September 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Purdue University's Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Greenhouse. This hands-on workshop is ideal for those interested in home or commercial-scale hydroponic systems and will be taught by experienced Purdue faculty. The registration fee is \$60 per person. For more information and to register visit:

<https://ag.purdue.edu/events/departments/hla/2026/09/hydroponic-crop-production-workshop.html>

Video of the Week - Pesticides: When Can I Harvest?

Check out Kansas State University Extension's Video of the Week at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qu0NrVL2sWY>

Tips For Increasing Drought Tolerance Of Your Lawn

Hot, dry summers can stress even well-maintained lawns. Fortunately, many simple, everyday practices can help turfgrass survive drought conditions while also reducing water use. While it is best to proactively build up drought resilience early in the growing season, it is never too late to update our lawncare practices. Make informed, intentional choices now by following the steps below:

- Raise Mowing Heights: Increase the lawn's mowing height to improve the drought tolerance of your turfgrass. Low mowing heights stress turf, and require more water use to promote regrowth.
- Water Only When Needed: Water when the lawn needs it, not based on a set schedule. Look for indicators of drought stress such as bluish-green color and footprints that linger after walking across the lawn before irrigating.
- Water Deeply When Irrigating: Water deeply to encourage deeper root growth and drought resistance. Soak the ground 6-12 inches deep with each watering.
- Apply Water Slowly And In The Morning: Minimize water loss by irrigating early in the morning to prevent water loss from heat and wind. Prevent runoff by applying water slowly, at a rate that matches the soil's infiltration capacity. Cycle and soak during waterings to allow water to be absorbed in between shortened watering cycles.
- Avoid Shallow, Frequent Irrigation: Lawns that are watered often, and with small amounts of water, are less likely to survive periods of drought than lawns watered infrequently, and for longer periods of time at each watering.
- Control Weeds: Weeds will compete with turfgrass for water. Control weeds to limit the amount of water lost to weeds, especially when water is limited.
- Avoid Excessive Fertilizer Use: Reduce fertilizer use, as the more fertilizer applied, the more water is required to sustain the excess growth caused by fertilization.
- Allow Turfgrass Dormancy: To survive drought, cool season turfgrasses naturally go dormant. While the lawn may turn temporarily brown, green growth will return once temperatures cool and rainfall return. Dormant lawns can go 2-3 weeks or more without water, and survive up to 8 weeks without substantial irrigation (with approximately only ¼ inch of water every couple of weeks from irrigation or rainfall).
- Inspect Irrigation Systems For Leaks: Check irrigation systems weekly during the growing season for leaks, overspray, or wasted water. Repair issues as they arise so that a uniform pattern of water can be applied, minimizing irrigation run times and the amount of water used.
- Invest In Irrigation Technology: Many new technologies can improve watering efficiency. Invest in rain sensors, soil moisture sensors, smart irrigation controllers, and irrigation system components that reduce pressure and increase water droplet size.

Cynthia Domenghini, Kansas State University Instructor & Horticulture Extension Specialist



Upcoming Dates

- **Washington County Resource Fair - August 8 from 10am to 2pm at Salem High School, located at 700 N Harrison Ave.**
- **Washington County Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Coalition - meets the 2nd Thursday of the month via zoom. Contact Jessica Houchin at jessica.houchin@scicr.org for link or further information.**
- **ServSafe in Orange County - August 14 from 8:00am to 5:00pm, registration required by August 7, contact Veronica Portillo at 812-723-7107 or vportill@purdue.edu**
- **Community Assistance Providers - meets August 12 and September 6 from 10:00am to noon in the Washington County Government Building Meeting Room.**
- **Rural Health Transformation Program/GROW Region 7 Coalition will meet throughout the month of August as they await notification of potential award. More info on the following pages.**

Something to ponder...

“Effective teamwork begins and ends with communication.”

- Mike Krzyzewski

Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) and Growing Rural Opportunities for Well-being (GROW)

Region 7 Coalition Update

The Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) is a \$50 billion federal initiative designed to improve health outcomes in rural communities over a five-year period beginning in 2026 through 2030. On December 29, 2025, Indiana was awarded nearly \$207 million for the first year of the program to support rural health improvements through the GROW Initiative (Growing Rural Opportunities for Well-being).

This funding is distributed across eight designated rural regions throughout Indiana. Washington County is part of Region 7, which also includes Brown, Crawford, Harrison, Jackson, Lawrence, Orange, and Perry counties. Approximately 27 organizations are participating in Region 7 GROW work group/coalition, working collaboratively with local stakeholders to identify community needs, develop solutions, and foster strategic partnerships. Groups have been working several months, meeting multiple times weekly to put together a cohesive proposal.

As part of this effort, Purdue Extension has submitted several program proposals aimed at addressing identified community needs. These programs are planned for multiple deliveries across the multiple counties in Region 7. Those listed below were proposed for year one of this effort:

Be Heart Smart (BHS) – This is a multi-session, lecture-based program for individuals who want to learn more about preventing heart disease by making heart-healthy lifestyle changes. This program will teach participants how to monitor risk factors for heart disease and how to make simple changes to their daily routine that can improve their heart health. BHS includes participant resource materials, and models healthy eating with food demonstrations and practice w/meal kits.

Steps to a Healthy You – Steps to a Healthy You is a Purdue Extension education program that helps participants reduce their risk of chronic diseases through healthier eating and regular physical activity. The program uses a Mediterranean-style eating pattern, mindfulness strategies, food demonstrations, and practical skill-building activities to support sustainable behavior change. Through a

series of interactive sessions, participants learn how to make healthier food choices, incorporate nutritious meals into daily life, reduce added sugars and highly processed foods, and increase physical activity to improve overall health and well-being. Program includes participant resource materials, models healthy eating with food demonstrations and practice w/meal kits.

Dining with Diabetes (DWD) – This is a multisession program intended for those with type 2 diabetes, those at risk for diabetes, and caregivers of those with diabetes. DWD includes participant resource materials, models healthy eating with food demonstrations and practice w/meal kits.

Perinatal Mental Health – Purdue Extension's Perinatal Mental Health Program strengthens the safety net for expectant and new parents by increasing awareness, education, and support related to perinatal mood and anxiety disorders. The program provides training for healthcare professionals, community members, and Extension educators to improve early identification of mental health concerns and connect families with appropriate resources and support services.

Through educational workshops, community partnerships, and a train-the-trainer model, the program builds local capacity to address maternal mental health, reduce stigma, and promote healthy outcomes for parents, infants, and families across Indiana.

Adult Mental Health First Aid -Teaches ways to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. Educates on signs and symptoms of a variety of mental health disorders such as anxiety, depression, substance use, trauma and deliberate self-injury and teaches ways to connect someone with appropriate professional and community mental health resources.

A Matter of Balance - A Matter of Balance is a fall prevention program that encourages cognitive restructuring. It is designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults.

Many Washington County residents may recognize some of the programs listed above, as they were previously offered through the "Here's To Our Health!" Food as Medicine initiative. These programs were provided free of charge, thanks to a grant from the Downing Family Charitable Trust, and delivered

multiple times over a three-year period. We are hopeful that funding through this grant will once again allow us to offer these programs at no cost to community members. However, regardless of grant funding, these programs remain available to interested individuals, organizations, and community groups for a modest fee.

Award letters are expected to be released in August 2026 with implementation beginning September 2026.



Health and Human Sciences Classes:

Your Health and Human Sciences educator is currently participating in Purdue Extension’s move to a regional model. As part of this effort, I will be providing educational programming across the region in August and September to fulfill previously scheduled program commitments, including presenting “Steps to a Healthy You” in Scott County.

In the meantime, please follow the Purdue Extension Facebook pages for neighboring counties—including Orange, Clark, Floyd, Harrison, Jackson, Lawrence, Crawford, and Scott—for information about public programs and other open educational opportunities.



Extension - Washington County

806 Martinsburg Rd., Ste. 104

Salem, IN 47167

(812) 883-4601

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

Monday-Friday

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

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

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OFFICE STAFF

Danielle Walker, *Ag & Natural
Resources Educator*

dhowellw@purdue.edu

Taylor Chastain, *4-H Youth
Development Educator*

tsabens@purdue.edu

Sonya Mitchell, *Health and
Human Sciences Educator/County Extension Director*

shmitche@purdue.edu

Melissa Seabolt, *Office Mgr.*

nolan31@purdue.edu

Rhonda Abbott, *Clerical Asst.*

abbott28@purdue.edu

Purdue Extension - Washington County
806 Martinsburg Rd., Ste. 104
Salem, IN 47167

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