

EXTENSION CONNECTION



4-H

ANR

HHS



PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

Extension - Whitley County

MAR-APR

2024

In this issue:

Health & Human Sciences

- Homemaker Happenings
- Cookbook & Scholarships
- Spring Fling/Garage Sale
- New/Improved HHS Website
- 8 Financial Tips for Mar/Apr
- CHAMPS Taskforce Update

Ag & Natural Resources

- Invasive Species Awareness
- Pruning Workshop
- Emergency Preparedness Workshop
- Employer of Choice Program
- Pork Queen/Ambassador
- Arbor Day
- NEPAC Field Days

4-H Youth

- 4-H Calendar
- QLC/YQCA Requirements
- Important 4-H Dates
- Scholarships - Awards
- State Fair DNA Sample Info
- Paperwork/Manual Changes



Reminder

As the calendar starts heading towards spring, our 4-H activities really pick up! I receive questions frequently asking **“how important is it that I/we attend our 4-H meeting, 4-H workshop, or board meeting?”** In short, they are IMPORTANT.

4-H Club meetings are where up to date 4-H information is shared, questions can be answered, etc.

4-H workshops are the place where youth can learn specific skills, techniques, and knowledge about a specific 4-H project. These workshops are also an opportunity to get hands-on learning and can take the place of a specific project's worksheets.

Adults, if you are a part of 4-H Clubs, Inc., 4-H Council, 4-H Leaders, or a livestock/animal advisory board your meetings are important. These meetings are an opportunity for you to stay informed in your specific volunteer role within our 4-H program, work with others to carry out your duties, brainstorm ideas, and connect with others as we work together to truly make a positive lasting impact on the youth in our Whitley County 4-H program.

Get involved, stay informed, and take the opportunity to learn a new skill or knowledge these next two months!

~ Todd Geiger, 4-H Youth Development Educator ~



2024



Whitley County
4-H Fair Dates
July 12 - 18



2024
Spring Forward
on March 10

Welcome Stacy Geiger!! Stacy began in January as a new Part-time Program Assistant at the Extension Office. Stacy comes to us with a wealth of 4-H knowledge and will be a great fit to our Extension family. She has been a summer assistant helping with the 4-H Fair for the past couple years and has been a Whitley County Mini 4-H Leader for several years. Stacy comes from a 4-H family with her children being in the Whitley County 4-H program. You may contact her at: sngeiger@purdue.edu.

Todd 🍀 John 🍀 Brittney 🍀 Jacki 🍀 Lisa 🍀 Candy 🍀 Stacy

Whitley County Leadership 2024

4-H LEADERS:

President: Angela Miller
 Vice-President: Ryder Stroufe
 Secretary: Jacki Bishop
 Asst. Secretary: Lynnette Bridegam
 Treasurer: Pam Sherbahn

4-H COUNCIL:

President: Tammy Studebaker
 Vice-President: Julie Haire
 Secretary: Rachele Cormany
 Asst. Secretary: Julie Haire
 Treasurer: Lindsay Barron
 Asst. Treasurer: Mark Miller

4-H CLUBS, INC.:

President: Jerred Reiff
 Vice-President: Sara Demske
 Secretary: Brandi Chauncey
 Treasurer: Lori Heuer
 Asst. Treasurer: Brandi Chauncey
 Executive: Tabi Garber, Alyssa Fletcher, Shane Caudill, Cheyenne Pritchard

EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS:

President: Karen Hall
 Vice-President: Janet Hindbaugh
 Secretary: Vickie Fleischauer
 Treasurer: Janelle Burnworth

EXTENSION BOARD:

President: Rex Eiler
 Vice-President: Joe Heck
 Secretary: Judy Kreider

AG MUSEUM:

President: Don King
 Vice-President: Ron Myer
 Secretary: Joyce Houser
 Treasurer: Kent Reese

MASTER GARDENERS:

President: Mary Haynes
 Vice-President: Karoline Davis
 Secretary: Linda Janssen
 Treasurer: Randi Engelhardt

33rd Annual Fish Fry, Street Auction & Silent Auction – March 15

The 33rd Annual 4-H Fish Fry will be held on Friday, March 15 at the 4-H Center from 4:00-7:00 pm (while supplies last) and both dine-in and carry-out options are available. Prices: adults - \$14.00; children 5-10 yrs. - \$8.00 and under 5 yrs. are free. Whitley County 4-H Council's Silent Auction will be held at the same time, along with the Street Sign Auction. This event is sponsored by the Whitley County 4-H Clubs, Inc. For questions, please email: whitleycounty4h@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support and generosity to the Whitley County 4-H Program.



33rd Annual Whitley County 4-H Fish Fry & Silent Auction
 Whitley County 4-H Center
 Columbia City, Indiana

We will have the Street Sign Live Auction at 6:30 PM

Fish Fry

Friday Night March 15, 2024 4:00-7:00
 While supplies last

Help support Whitley County 4-H, serving over 800 youth in our community!

It is that time, again!
 Street and sidewalk signs are up for auction! Naming rights will be auctioned off live on March 15 @ 6:30pm (in conjunction with the annual Fish Fry). Proceeds from the sale will go toward a matching grant from the Whitley County Community Foundation to fund the 4-H Center floor resurfacing project! Additional information and maps are available on www.whitleycounth4h.com.



STREET SIGN AUCTION

March 15, 2024 @ 6:30PM
 4-H Center

Auction is held in conjunction with the Annual 4-H Fish Fry



SAVE THE DATE

6 0 1 24
 SAT

4-H FUN NIGHT & ALL-U-CAN EAT TENDERLOIN SUPPER

4-7PM

Tenderloin Supper

Save the date, for the annual 4-H Fun Night and Tenderloin Supper. Event/serving hours will be 4:00-7:00 pm at the 4-H Center. Dine-in and carry-out options will be available.

Whitley County 4-H Fairgrounds

WINTER STORAGE

Short-Term Winter Storage Removal
Saturday, March 9, 2024 9:00-10:00 AM
 Items stored in Beef & Dairy Barns, Show Barn, Commercial Building, Canopy Area, Swine & Sheep Barns

Long-Term Winter Storage Removal
Saturday, May 4, 2024 9:00-10:00 AM
 Items stored in Goat Barn and Small Animal Barn

Remember all items must be removed on the assigned day.
 If you have questions, call 260-212-2143.
 Thank you for using the Whitley County Fairgrounds for your winter storage.
 Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access university.

Whitley County Extension Homemakers GARAGE SALE
 Sat., April 20 – 4-H Center
 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

4-H Project Supplies

The following supplies/kits are available or can be ordered through the Extension Office. **Please note the price increase for the foam poster board:**

- Foam Poster Board.....\$4.00
- Poster Sleeve\$1.00
- Salon Print Sleeve.....\$0.50
- Mini 4-H Poster Sleeve.....\$0.50

Electric:

- Extension Cord Kit (Limited Supply)..... \$20.00 (Includes wire, male & female ends)

Entomology:

- Insect Boxes (Limited Supply)..\$16.00
- Insect Kit (Pins & Vials).....\$6.00



MIDWEST AMERICA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION TO DONATE



BIG TO 4-H



We would like to say THANK YOU to MidWest America Federal Credit Union for their donation to helping us grow our STEM Connection programs as well as our youth workshop experiences! AND...for partnering with us moving forward through their Affinity Card program at their local branch right here in Columbia City! Would you like to support the Whitley County 4-H program and make an impact with these programs and many more? All you would need to do is ask for one of these debit cards at our local MidWest America Federal Credit Union branch. The cost is free for you and every time you use your "Whitley County 4-H" debit card, MidWest shares a portion of their profit with us! For more details stop by our office or the local MidWest America FCU branch.

National Volunteer Week: April 21 - 27

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, to the hundreds of adults that volunteer to work with our Extension program. You perform valuable roles for youth and adults; you are a role model, teacher advisor, counselor, mentor and friend. You provide educational opportunities and teach life skills that adults and youth do not receive in other settings.

YOU are IMPORTANT and APPRECIATED!:



Ag Museum Benefit Breakfast

There will be an Ag Museum benefit breakfast at the Ag Museum on Saturday, April 13, 2024 from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m. The breakfast will include scrambled eggs, pancakes, whole hog sausage, and drinks. Bring family and friends to enjoy good fellowship and food. A free will donation will be received for the meal and the proceeds will help fund the new projects being planned at the Ag Museum.



Simple & Delicious Marry Me Chicken Recipe

Chicken Ingredients:

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon onion powder
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons butter

Sauce Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cups chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 cup sour cream or heavy cream
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 ½ teaspoons Italian seasoning
- 1 tablespoon dried basil
- 1/3 cup chopped sundried tomatoes, drained

- ½ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- ½ teaspoon paprika
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ cup parmesan cheese



Instructions:

- Season the chicken on both sides with salt, garlic powder, onion powder, and black pepper.
- Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the olive oil and melt the butter.
- Sear the chicken until golden brown. Then take the pan off the heat and set aside.
- Whisk together the chicken broth and cornstarch in a bowl until there aren't any lumps.
- Add the chicken broth mixture to the bottom of an 8-quart crock pot.
- Whisk the sour cream or heavy cream, garlic, Italian seasoning, salt, black pepper, red pepper flakes, and paprika.
- Place the seared chicken into the crock pot and pour the olive oil and butter from the skillet on top. Then top each

piece of chicken with the chopped sun-dried tomatoes. Place on low for 6-7 hours.

- Take the chicken out and whisk the parmesan cheese in with the sauce in the crock pot. Add the chicken back into the crock pot. Then cover with the sauce and add the basil on top.
- Serve hot on top of pasta or rice with a side of fresh steamed broccoli!

Notes:

- You can skip the searing part, but I think that it adds flavor to the finished dish. If you do skip it, then I would add 4 tablespoons of melted butter to the sauce. The sauce needs the butter/olive oil we pour over the chicken after searing
- Store leftovers in the fridge for up to 3 days. Freeze for up to 3 months.

Extension Homemaker Happenings



Date	Event	Time	Location
MAR			
5	Spring District Meeting	9:30 a.m.	Dahling Family Life Center, Decatur IN
29	Office Closed for Good Friday		
APR			
1	Local Club Officer lists and membership list due to Extension Office		
2	President Council Meeting	9:30 a.m.	Extension Office
20	Spring Garage Sale.....	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.....	4-H Center
23	Spring Fling	1:00 p.m.....	4-H Center
25	May/June Newsletter Folding/Mailing (Union Busy Bells and Club 21)	10:00 a.m.	Extension Office



Start thinking about an entry for the Adult Open Show coming in July.

Thank you to these Extension Homemakers who folded and labeled the January-February Extension Connection: Double Dozen – Cheryl Wilkinson and Nancy Lopshire and Evening Bells – Sally Hull and Karen Bucher.

President's Council Meeting

Date/Time/Location: April 2, 9:30 a.m., Extension Office

Extension Homemakers Cookbook



The Whitley County Extension Homemakers cookbooks are at the Extension Office. This cookbook has Whitley County Extension Homemaker and other recipes. The cost to purchase a cookbook is \$10.00 and can be purchased at the Extension Office (please bring the correct payment) and will be available at the Spring Garage on April 20.

Spring Garage Sale

The Spring Garage Sale is on April 20 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center.



Spaces are SOLD OUT. Come and shop at the 54 spaces, as there will be a wide variety of items to choose from. Proceeds support our 4-H scholarships. Food is served by Union Busy Bells Extension Homemaker Club. For questions or more information, call Barb Overdeer at 260-609-5210.



The Extension Homemakers Spring Fling is set for Tuesday, April 23 at 1:00 p.m. at the 4-H

Center. Invitations will be mailed soon. Those homemakers participating in the cultural art special project bring: a table runner no larger than 18” across (but unlimited in length using any medium desired) to this event. Only one special project can be selected to go to conference, but other cultural arts projects can go (quilts, needlework, upcycling, diamond dot, jewelry, etc). If there are more than one special table runner project, a vote will be taken.

Annual Home and Family Conference

This year's conference, sponsored by the Indiana Extension Homemaker's Assoc. along with the Health and Human Sciences Extension of Purdue University, will be held June 10-12 at the Embassy Suites in Noblesville, Indiana. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn new heritage skills, leadership techniques through I-LEAD sessions, attend informative lessons taught by "those in the know" from around the state and get to know your fellow members from around the state. Our local Educator, Brittney, will also be providing a session on

Tues., June 11 at 1:30pm. Come and support her while she educates about the importance of moving your body and chair-based exercise (CBE). See information: www.ieha-families.org

Whitley County IEHA Lessons

Need another idea for an educational program for your club meeting? Our county Health & Human Sciences (HHS) Educator, Brittney Schori, offers a wide range of lessons. Program areas include: Food and Nutrition, Human Development, Family Resource Management and Health and Wellness. For more information, contact the Extension Office at 260-244-7615.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Indiana Extension Homemakers sponsor scholarships annually. For a copy of the applications contact Purdue Extension - Whitley County office at 244-7615, 625-3313, email bishop87@purdue.edu or visit the website: www.ieha-families.org/forms. Scholarships available are:

1. Career Advancement Scholarship due March 15, 2024
2. Ruth B Sayre School due May 1, 2024
3. Steps to Success Scholarship due May 1, 2024

DID YOU KNOW?

INDIANA EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS ASSOCIATION IS THE LARGEST VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION IN INDIANA WORKING FOR FAMILIES.

MISSION STATEMENT:

TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES THROUGH CONTINUING EDUCATION, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY SUPPORT.

Whitley County Extension Homemakers

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Whitley Co. Extension Homemaker 100th Anniversary Giveaway



- \$2.00 donation per chance.
- Proceeds to benefit community youth programs.
- Donation locations to be announced.
- Tickets will be available at various community events throughout the year.
- Giveaway at the 2024 Adult Open Show at Whitley Co. 4-H Fair - July 12 - 18.



[NEW & IMPROVED Health & Human Sciences \(HHS\) Website](#)

What is HHS? Who oversees this program in Whitley County? This website has been created specifically to meet the needs of Whitley County. To learn more about what this program looks like in the county, visit <https://extension.purdue.edu/county/whitley/hhs.html>

[Attention Parents of Young Children!](#)

We organize a monthly one-page, front-and-back newsletter that provides tips on parenting, early childhood education, nutrition, and much more! This newsletter is geared for parents who have children ages 8 and younger. If you are interested in getting this monthly newsletter by mail or email, contact Jacki Bishop via email at bishop87@purdue.edu

[CHAMPS Taskforce Updates](#)

CHAMPS stands for Community Health Advisory Members Providing Solutions. This task force was established in March 2022. Members of this taskforce have been dedicating time to improving Whitley County for the past two years. This is being done through collaboration among organizations. Our team identified four county needs that we should be prioritizing. They include family engagement, physiological needs, healthy living, and substance use, and mental health.

➤ [Mission Statement:](#) To improve the quality of life for community residents by supporting agency collaboration.



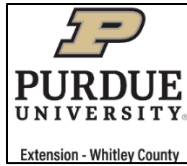
➤ [Vision Statement:](#) To create opportunities for all residents to thrive by providing awareness of and access to quality programs and resources.

Purdue Extension would like to thank members of CHAMPS for taking the time to improve the lives and livelihoods of Whitley County residents. Your time and dedication to our community do not go unnoticed. *If you are interested in attending future meetings and making a difference in our county, contact the Purdue Extension Office in Whitley County for meeting dates.*

Together we can establish ways to increase awareness and knowledge, while also promoting positive behavior changes to make a safer, healthier, and happier community.

[8 Financial Tips for March and April 2024](#)

Managing finances is vital for stability, achieving goals, and reducing stress. It builds wealth, prepares for emergencies, and avoids debt traps. It fosters independence, enables future planning, and ensures a secure future. Ultimately, it empowers individuals to live life on their terms and enjoy peace of mind. Here are a few tips to keep you on track during your financial journey.



1. [Educate yourself.](#) Take time these next few months to enhance your financial literacy skills. Try reading books, attending seminars, or listening to a podcast about investing, budgeting, and/or retirement planning! The more that you know, the better equipped you will be to make informed financial decisions!
2. [Review your budget.](#) Take a fresh look at your budget. Does it still align with your current financial goals and priorities this year? If not, make changes!
3. [Prepare for tax season if you haven't done so already.](#) What documents do you still have to organize? If you are able, file your taxes early to avoid any last-minute rush or potential penalties.
4. [Maximize your retirement contributions.](#) If you have an employer-sponsored retirement plan like a 401(k) or an IRA, consider maximizing your contributions for the year to take advantage of tax benefits and compound interest!
5. [Spring clean your finances.](#) Use the spring season as an opportunity to declutter your financial life. Consolidate accounts when possible and review your subscriptions and services to see if there are any you can cancel or renegotiate for better rates.
6. [Review your emergency savings.](#) Aim to build or replenish your emergency fund to cover at least three to six months' worth of living expenses. Unforeseen expenses can happen at any time, and having a financial safety net in place can provide peace of mind.
7. [Plan for summer expenses.](#) Start budgeting and saving for upcoming summer expenses such as vacations, home repairs, or other activities. Planning can help prevent financial strain during the summer months.
8. [Review investment portfolios.](#) Access the performance of your investment portfolio and consider rebalancing if necessary to ensure it remains aligned with your risk tolerance and long-term objectives.



[Upcoming Classes Open to the Public:](#)

- March 4 at 10 AM - Chair-Based Exercise & Education Class at Woodlands Senior Activity Center
- March 7 at 10 AM - CHAMPS Taskforce meeting at WC Community Foundation
- March 27 at 10 AM - Chair-Based Exercise & Education Class at Woodlands Senior Activity Center
- April 4 at 1 PM - Youth Air Fryer 101 Cooking Course at South Whitley Public Library
- April 16 at 11 AM - Nutrition 101 Class at Kyler Ridge Apartments in Churubusco

*For more information about registering for any of the classes above, contact Brittney Schori at the Purdue Extension Office.

[See page 3 for the Marry Me Chicken Recipe](#)

4-H Youth Development

Todd Geiger, Extension Educator



March 4-H Calendar (Events, dates and times are subject to change)

Event	Time	Location
4 Bicycle Club Meeting.....	7:00 p.m.....	4-H Center East Room
4 Cat Club Meeting	6:45 p.m.....	4-H Center West Room
10 Smith Worker Bees Club Meeting	2:00 p.m.....	Collins Meth. Church
10 Bowling Club Meeting	12:30 p.m.....	Main Bowl-Col. City
11 4-H Leaders & 4-H Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.....	4-H Center
11 QLC Training.....	5:00 p.m.....	4-H Center
12 4-H Clubs, Inc. Meeting.....	7:00 p.m.....	Ag Museum
12 Jefferson Hustlers Club Meeting	7:00-8:00 p.m.....	Jefferson Twp. Fire Station
12 Etna Troy Hustlers Club Meeting	6:30 p.m.....	Etna Troy Com. Center
13 Beef Club WC3 Beef Show Set-Up.....	5:00 p.m.....	4-H Fairgrounds
13 Dairy Steer Feeder Calf Club Meeting.....	6:30 p.m.....	4-H Ctr Middle Room
13 Tractor Club Meeting	7:00 p.m.....	4-H Center West Room
14 Jr. Leaders Gathering.....	6:30 p.m.....	TBD
15 4-H All-You-Can-Eat Fish & Silent Auction.....	4:00-7:00 p.m.....	4-H Center
16 Scrapbook Club Workshop.....	9:00-11:30 a.m.....	Washington Com. Bldg
17 Whitley County Cattlemen's Classic Open Beef Show.....	9:00 a.m.....	4-H Fairgrounds
17 Bowling Club Meeting	12:30 p.m.....	Main Bowl-Col. City
18 Beef Club WC3 Beef Show Clean-Up	5:00 p.m.....	4-H Fairgrounds
18 Union Sodbusters Club Mtg/Com. Service Project.....	TBD.....	TBD
18 Washington 4-H Busters & Blue Ribbon Clubs Meeting.....	7:00 p.m.....	Washington Com Bldg
19 Cleveland Showmen Club Meeting.....	7:00 p.m.....	So. Whitley Town Hall
19 Thorncreek Sons of the Soil Club Meeting	6:30 p.m.....	4-H Center East Room
19 Horse & Pony Club Meeting/Safety Ed & Workshop.....	7:00 p.m.....	4-H Ctr. Middle Room
19 Rabbit Club Meeting/Workshop.....	7:00 p.m.....	4-H Center West Room
20 Thorncreek Northern Stars Meeting	7:00 p.m.....	4-H Center West Room
20 Poultry Club Meeting	7:00 p.m.....	4-H Ctr. Middle Room
21 Sheep Club Meeting	7:00 p.m.....	4-H Center West Room
21 Swine Club Meeting/Workshop	6:30 p.m.....	4-H Ctr. Middle Room
23 Mini 4-H Workshop.....	10:00-11:30 a.m.....	4-H Center
23 QLC Training.....	1:00 p.m.....	4-H Center
26 Goat Club Meeting/Workshop.....	7:00 p.m.....	4-H Ctr. Middle Room
27 Tractor Club Meeting.....	7:00 p.m.....	4-H Center West Room
28 Columbia Peaches Club Meeting.....	7:00 p.m.....	4-H Center West Room
29 GOOD FRIDAY	EXTENSION OFFICE CLOSED	

April 4-H Calendar (Events, date and times are subject to change)

Date	Event	Time	Location
1	4-H TRIPS APPLICATION DUE.....		EXTENSION OFFICE
1	Bicycle Club Meeting.....	7:00 p.m.....	4-H Center Middle Room
5	Scrapbooking Club Workshop	6:30-8:30 p.m.....	Washington Com. Bldg
7	Columbia City Spring Farm Toy Show	8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.....	4-H Center
8	4-H Leaders & 4-H Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.....	4-H Center
8	Cat Club Meeting	6:45 p.m.....	4-H Center West Room
8	Dog Club Meeting	7:00 p.m.....	Commercial Bldg
9	Shooting Sports - Archery Meeting	6:00-8:00 p.m.....	Commercial Bldg
9	4-H Clubs, Inc. Meeting.....	7:00 p.m.....	Ag Museum
10	Shooting Sports - BB & Air Pistol Meeting	6:00-8:00 p.m.....	Commercial Bldg
10	Etna Troy Hustlers Club Meeting	6:30 p.m.....	Etna Troy Com. Center
10	Dairy Steer Feeder Calf Club Meeting\Workshop.....	6:30 p.m.....	4-H Center Middle Room
11	Jr. Leaders Gathering	6:30 p.m.....	4-H Center West Room
11	Sheep Club Meeting/Workshop.....	7:00 p.m.....	4-H Center Middle Room
13	Poultry Exhibition Clinic	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.....	4-H Center
13	Swine Club Fundraiser	TBD.....	TSC Parking Lot - Col. City
14	Smith Worker Bees Club Meeting	2:00 p.m.....	Collins Methodist Church
14	Beef Club Meeting/Workshop	1:00 p.m.....	Show Barn - Fairgrounds
15	Jefferson Hustlers Meeting	7:00 p.m.....	Jefferson Twp. Fire Station
15	Smith Harvesters Meeting.....	7:00 p.m.....	Churubusco Fire Station
15	Washington 4-H Busters/Blue Ribbon Meeting	7:00 p.m.....	Washington Comm Bldg
15	Dog Club Meeting.....	7:00 p.m.....	Commercial Bldg
15	MAY & JUNE NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	4:30 P.M.....	Extension Office

Websites for Bookmark

Purdue Extension - Whitley Co. website: www.extension.purdue.edu/whitley
 State 4-H Department: www.four-h.purdue.edu
 Indiana State Fair: www.state.in.us/statefair
 Indiana 4-H Foundation Home page: www.4h.org
 National 4-H website: www.4-h.org
 National 4-H Source Book: www.4-hmall.org
 Whitley County 4-H Clubs, Inc.: www.whitleycounty4-h.com
 Whitley County 4-H Agricultural Museum: www.whitleycountyagmuseum.com

2024 FAIR DATES
Whitley Co. 4-H Fair
July 12 - 18
Indiana State Fair
August 2 - 18
(Closed Mondays)

2024 4-H Fair Theme

Be thinking of a "catchy" theme for the 2024 4-H Fair...**it's the 100th Year Anniversary!!** One theme per club can be turned in and will be due at the Extension Office by Friday, April 1 by 4:30 p.m. Your ideas may be submitted to your 4-H Leader.

Date	Event	APRIL Continued	Time	Location
16	Horse & Pony Club Meeting/Safety Ed & Workshop		7:00 p.m.	4-H Center East Room
16	Rabbit Club Meeting/Workshop		7:00 p.m.	4-H Ctr. West Room
16	Shooting Sports - Archery Meeting		6:00-8:00 p.m.	Commercial Bldg
17	Thorncreek Northern Stars Meeting		7:00 p.m.	4-H Center West Room
17	Poultry Club Meeting		7:00 p.m.	4-H Ctr. Middle Room
17	Shooting Sports - BB & Air Pistol Meeting		6:00-8:00 p.m.	Commercial Bldg
18	Richland Ramblers Meeting		6:30-7:30 p.m.	Larwill Fire Station
18	Thorncreek Sons of the Soil Meeting		6:30 p.m.	4-H Ctr. Middle Room
19	Scrapbooking Club Workshop		6:30-8:30 p.m.	Washington Com. Bldg
22	Union Sodbusters Meeting		6:30 p.m.	4-H Center West Room
22	Dog Club Meeting		7:00 p.m.	Commercial Bldg
23	Shooting Sports - Archery Meeting		6:00-8:00 p.m.	Commercial Bldg
23	Goat Club Meeting		7:00 p.m.	4-H Ctr. Middle Room
24	Shooting Sports - BB & Air Pistol Meeting		6:00-8:00 p.m.	Commercial Bldg
24	Tractor Club Meeting		7:00 p.m.	4-H Ctr. West Room
26	Beef Steers & Unregistered Beef Heifers Weigh-In		5:30-7:00 p.m.	4-H Fairgrounds
27	Dairy Steers & Feeder Calf Weigh-In		8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	4-H Fairgrounds
27	Mini 4-H Workshop		10:00-11:30 a.m.	4-H Center
29	Dog Club Meeting		7:00 p.m.	Commercial Bldg
30	Shooting Sports - Archery Meeting		6:00-8:00 p.m.	Commercial Bldg

Important 2024 Dates:

APRIL 1

4-H Trip Applications Due

MAY 15

All Animal Identification
Deadline in 4-H Online
(Poultry Paper Form ONLY)

JUNE 22

4-H Dog Show

JUNE 29

4-H Cat Show

JULY 1

FairEntry Deadline for 4-H
Projects to Exhibit at 4-H Fair

JULY 1

4-H Project Papers Due to
Extension Office by 7:00 p.m.

JULY 6

Fashion Revue & Consumer
Clothing Judging

JULY 9

Non-Perishable Judging at the
4-H Center

JULY 10

Perishable Judging at the
4-H Center

Updates & Reminders

Activity Worksheets vs Animal Workshops Continuing for 2024

This year we will continue this option for all 4-H animal exhibitors. In the past all of these 4-H members have had to complete their animal species activity sheets and turn them into the Extension Office by July 1. This option is STILL available this year. But we are offering another option: If a 4-H livestock member attends a workshop put on by their specie club this will count in place of those activity sheets. Please be watching in the newsletter, The Extension Connection, for more information, dates, and locations of your specie club's workshops that you can attend if you would like to choose this option in 2024.

BRED, BORN & RAISED FORMS

Reminder: These forms are due to the Livestock Club Leader only. Their names and addresses are listed at the top of



Bred, Born & Raised forms. Forms are available from the Livestock Leader(s) at Club Meetings or from the Extension Office, but may only be returned or mailed to the Livestock Club leader.

ALL Beef, Dairy Steer and Feeder Calf, Goat and Swine Bred, Born & Raised forms are due May 15.

ATTENTION - Indiana 4-H (QLC): Quality Livestock Care Program

All 4-H youth enrolled in a LIVESTOCK PROJECT (Beef, Dairy Beef, Dairy, Feeder Calf, Goat, Poultry,

Rabbit, Sheep and Swine) must be QLC certified or have a YQCA online completion certificate.

If you choose to complete the YQCA option, you will register for the online course at: <https://yqcaprogram.org/> Cost of the online YQCA course is \$12.

After completing the course, you must email the 4-H Educator with your certificate to receive credit.

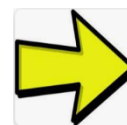
If you prefer to take the QLC in person (Instructor-Led), the cost is \$3 per child and will be located at the Whitley County 4-H Center (Fairgrounds); Registration will open soon!

Quality Care Livestock training sessions for 2024:

- Monday, March 11 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 23 @ 1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 7 @ 6:00 p.m.

Mini 4-H Animal Mentor Program

Mini 4-H'ers who are taking the "Farm Animals or Pets" project can sign up for this program in 2024. Mini 4-H'ers will be able to select **ONLY ONE** specie and then will be partnered with an older 4-H animal member (a mentor). They will have the opportunity to work with their mentor several times before the Fair to learn about their animal, how to care for it, and how to raise it. The Mini 4-Her will participate in Mini 4-H Exhibition Showcase on Wednesday, July 17th in the Show Barn. They will be able to



walk with their mentor and their mentor's animal. (This is for all animal species.) If a Mini 4-Her chooses a pet/companion animal (cat, dog or rabbit) they will follow the same procedures with the mentor, but will be able to bring their own animal during the day of their specie 4-H show. More information on this program will be available at the Mini 4-H workshops and at the Extension Office.

To enroll in this program, a Mini 4-H Mentor Program Release Liability Form must be completed and returned to the Extension Office by April 1, 2024.

ATTENTION LIVESTOCK CLUB MEMBERS!!

Some changes to pay attention to:

1. Besides Ear Notching and 840-RFID tags for Swine, and 840-RFID tag and/or 5-digit county tag for Beef and Dairy Beef Cattle, DNA hair samples are required for all Swine, Beef, Dairy Cattle, Meat Goats and Dairy Beef cattle to be eligible for the Indiana State Fair. Collection envelopes and collection instructions are available at the Extension Office. Deadline to return DNA hair samples to the Extension Office by May 15th by 4:30 p.m. are the same as the Animal Identification deadline in 4-H Online.

2. It is required that all identification information (ear notch, RFID tag number, breed, gender, etc.) must be provided in 4-H Online and on the collection DNA sample envelope for all animals that you want eligible for the Indiana State Fair. Any of this identification information that are missing, incomplete or incorrect will result in ineligibility to show your animal.



3. If you are enrolled in the Swine project, be sure you check the ear notches carefully! When purchasing your pig(s), make sure the ear notches match the papers you receive. Do not assume the notches match the paper! If you put the notches in yourself, be sure you put the notch in the correct location of the ear. After the May 15th animal identification deadline, ear notches cannot be changed, corrected or substituted.

4. ALL Dairy Cattle are required to have an 840-RFID tag in which to be eligible for 4-H shows and at the Indiana State Fair. This tag will need to be entered along with other required information in 4-H Online by May 15th. Any of these IDs that are missing, incomplete or incorrect will result in ineligibility to show your animal.

5. ALSO FOR 2024!

RABBIT: Animal identification for Rabbits will be completed in 4-H Online. There will be no forms available.

SWINE: 4-H'er may bring 6 animals – **YOU MUST HAVE BOTH GENDERS!** For example: 3 barrows and 3 gilts, 4 gilts and 2 barrow, or 4 barrows and 2 gilts, etc.

6. Poultry Animal Identification Enrollment Forms are due by May 15th at the Extension Office! Forms are available at the Extension Office or on the Purdue Extension Whitley County office website.

7. You can go to the Purdue Extension Whitley County office website at: www.extension.purdue.edu/whitley to obtain the following information and forms for your livestock project:

- Animal identification enrollment instructions in 4-H Online
- Poultry Animal Identification Forms
- Pre-Fair Livestock Information
- Copies will also be made available at the Extension Office.

8. It is recommended that you read all the general rules in the Rule Book, plus all the rules that apply to the projects you are enrolled in.

[Indiana State Fair DNA Hair Sample Livestock Requirements](#)

In 2024 DNA hair samples will be required to be pulled for all beef cattle, dairy cattle, dairy beef cattle, dairy feeder calves, sheep, and meat goat for 4-H exhibitors who plan on showing at the Indiana State Fair. We will have the envelopes available at the Extension Office.

[4-H Paperwork & Manual Change for 2024](#)

4-H paperwork and manuals can be picked up at the Extension Office. If you drop and/or add projects, you must contact the Extension Office and return any manuals you will not use and/or get the manuals for projects you are adding.

[2024 Whitley Co. 4-H Rules Book](#)

This year's rulebook is available to 4-H'ers and their families online on our website at www.extension.purdue.edu/whitley_on_the_2024_Whitley_County_4-H_Program_page, towards the bottom of the page. Click on it and it will download to your device as a PDF file.



If you don't need the entire rulebook this year, we have a 2024 4-H Projects page on our website that has all of the projects listed in alphabetic order. Each project name is hyperlinked to its own PDF rules file for just that project. You can navigate to this page from our Whitley County Purdue Extension homepage – scroll down to Whitley County 4-H and click on the heading. When you get to the Whitley County 4-H program page towards the bottom are Gold buttons. Click on Whitley County 4-H Projects and Forms to take you to the 2024 Whitley County 4-H Projects page and you can select a project to see it's exhibit guidelines. 4-H animal projects information and forms are located Whitley County 4-H program page under Whitley County 4-H Animal Projects Information and Forms.

[Premise ID Info](#)

Anyone who buys, sells or exhibits livestock must have a Premise ID. A

Premise ID is an identification number for the physical location in which animals are housed and is necessary to protect animal agriculture and the livestock industry. In an emergency, animal health officials will be able to rapidly communicate disease spread with producers. All 4-Hers are required to know the Premise ID number for the property in which their animals are located and this number is recorded in 4-H Online when enrolling the animals to be exhibited at the 4-H Fair and Indiana State Fair.

If you own a horse, you can inquire for a Premise ID number, but it is not required to exhibit.

If you do not currently have a premise ID number, you may apply for one through the Indiana State Board of Animal Health at <http://www.in.gov/boah> for the quickest response or call (317) 544-2400.

You MUST have a premise ID to show at the Whitley County 4-H Fair and the Indiana State Fair for cattle, swine, goats and sheep.

[“I wouldn't be who I am today if it wasn't for” 4-H Adult Awards](#)

How can we say “thank you” to the adults in our awesome 4-H program? The adults that have given of their time, effort, contributions, who have gone above and beyond for the youth and the 4-H program here in Whitley County. Fill out a form today to honor an adult that you know that has made and guided you and/or other youth to be the person you/they are today. Contact the Extension Office to pick up a form to nominate someone for either the: 4-H Clover Award or 4-H Distinguished Service Award. Deadline for 4-H Adult Awards nominations is May 1 by 4:30 p.m. at the Extension Office.

[Indiana 4-H Specialty License Plate](#)



Show your support for Indiana 4-H by purchasing an Indiana 4-H Foundation specialty license plate. Plate fees support programs for young people state-wide, and a portion of the money from each plate that is sold goes back to the 4-H county where the plate was purchased. Plates can be purchased at your local BMV office or online at www.in.gov/bmv.

Project News

****See 4-H Project Supplies on Page 3****

Beef Weigh-In and Tagging

Beef Steers and Unregistered Beef Heifers weigh-in and tagging is Friday, April 26th, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

All Beef Steers and any Beef heifer that is unregistrable that wants to be shown as a crossbred must attend the scheduled weigh-in to be weighed and identified. Registered heifers are not required to attend the weigh-in, however may come if the youth so chooses to bring them.

Dairy Steer & Feeder Calf Weigh-In and Tagging

Dairy Steer and Dairy Steer Feeder Calf weigh-in is Saturday, April 27th, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Dues, vaccinations, implants and tags will need to be paid at Feeder Calf weigh-in.

REMINDER: Dairy Steer Feeder Calves cannot weigh over 300 pounds at the weigh-in.



If you have any questions, please contact the Extension Office at (260) 244-7615.

Sheep Weigh-In and Tagging

The Sheep weigh-in and tagging date is Friday, May 3rd, 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 p.m. at the Whitley County 4-H Fairgrounds. All sheep must come to the weigh-in.

Club News

Club Meetings are Important Part of 4-H Experience!

Many community leaders will tell you that their earliest experiences in public speaking occurred at a 4-H Club meeting. Doing demonstrations at your club meeting and serving as a club officer are great ways to develop confidence and become comfortable in group settings.

4-H meetings are a great way to grow and develop life skills that you will use the rest of your life. 4-H meetings are also a great way to keep up on activities and gain information that you need throughout the 4-H year. Take advantage of your club meetings by attending and participating, and don't forget to

Youth Activities

STAR Future of Agriculture Scholarships



STAR Bank is excited to announce we are once again investing in the "future of agriculture" through five \$1,000 college scholarships. We would love it if you could please pass this on to anyone you feel would be a good candidate to participate.

Goat Tagging

Dairy and meat wethers and market does that will be showing at the Indiana State Fair and any goat without identification must attend the Goat tagging day on Saturday, May 4th 8:30-9:30 a.m. on the east side of the Dairy Steer Feeder Calf Barn at the Whitley County 4-H Fairgrounds.

Goat Club News

Our March meeting will be our first workshop. We will have a guest speaker and the topic will be nutrition.

Watch for an email that will be coming out soon for our annual flower fundraiser. We need everyone's participation in this as it will be our major fundraiser this year as we will not be doing the concessions for the open beef show that we have done the past few years. The fundraiser money supports things for the club such as the pizza party at the fair, awards, the mini mentor program and barn improvements.

All families need to pay close attention to the changes for this year as far as the deadlines and paperwork requirement as there is a lot of updates. Some of these changes are from the state and the club/extension office cannot make exceptions.

The April meeting topic is still to be determined. If you are new to the club, please join our Facebook page "Whitley County Goat Club". This is a private group and is for current member/families only.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to myself or an advisory board member.

Your Leader, Lynnette

Rabbit Club News

Hello Rabbit Club Families! We are so excited to get back into monthly meetings. If you missed our February meeting, please let us know as it was Rabbit 101, everything you need to know. Our March Meeting is to be extra exciting as we will be playing Jeopardy! Questions are all based around the Rabbit Project. Come see how much you know and maybe learn something new - this does count as a Workshop!

We will also be working on a service project where we create Easter door decorations for a local nursing home. Our April Meeting will be our Breed ID Workshop. Come check out several breeds that our Club Members have to show. If you are new or old, our meetings are full of great educational opportunities.

*Submitted By: Annette Minthorn,
Rabbit Advisory*

thank your club leaders. They are volunteering their time to "Make the Best Better!"

4-H Junior Leader News

Upcoming Junior Leader Gatherings:

- March 14 @ 6:30 p.m. Location to be determined.
- April 11 @ 6:30 p.m. at the 4-H Center

Reminder about our upcoming Spring Farm Toy Show happening on April 7 at the 4-H Center! Set-up will be on April 6, make sure that you sign up to help with this event as this is a Junior Leader fundraiser!! More information will be coming!



with your contact information and answer the following question:

Please tell us how you have, or plan to, impact agriculture as it pertains to the past, current or future generations of farmers.

Here are some specifics for the contest: Deadline for entry into the contest is April 22, 2024; Essays should be 250 words or less; Contest will be limited to those who reside or attend

school in one of the following Indiana counties: Allen, Boone, DeKalb, Delaware, Grant, Hamilton, Hancock, Henry, Howard, Madison, Marion, Noble, Steuben, Tipton, Whitley or Wells.

If you have any questions, reach out to Brad Saleik, STAR Bank Community Relations Manager by emailing brad.saleik@starfinancial.com.

Farm House Fraternity

Who: Any male 4-H member enrolled as a freshman at Purdue University; **Basis of the Scholarship:** scholastic, leadership, community; **Amount:** \$1000; **Deadline:** March 15.

For a copy of the application, contact the Whitley County Extension Office or www.purduefarmhouse.com

B. V. Widney Award

This award will be given to any current 4-H member in grades 6th-9th as of January 1st. Selection will be based on 4-H involvement and essay questions. Award criteria and questions will be made available at the Extension Office. Please submit the B.V. Widney Award Application in a folder to the Extension Office by Wednesday, May 1, 2024. New for 2024 – recipient will receive \$50 from 4-H Leaders and a banner.

Hester Adams Award

This award will be given to any current 4-H member in 10th grade and above. Number of awards given will be determined by the number of applications received with a maximum of 6 awards.

- Hester Adams Award winners: (2) will receive \$500 scholarships, recognition shirts to wear while helping at shows during the fair, and names on a plaque.

- Hester Adams Ambassadors: (2) will receive \$250 scholarships and recognition shirts to wear while helping at shows during the fair.

- Hester Adams Honorees: (2) will receive \$100 scholarships and recognition shirts to wear while helping at shows during the fair.

The award will be based on the following criteria:

- **40%** 4-H Involvement – offices held, volunteering, number of years in projects, placings, showmanship participation, meetings attended, etc.
- **30%** Interview – 10 to 15 minutes long

- **15%** Resume (involvement of non-4-H activities will be noted in resume)

- **15%** Essay

4-H involvement, resume and essay must be submitted to the Extension Office by Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

Contact the Extension Office for essay topic. Interviews will take place on Monday, May 6, 2024.

Jim Teghtmeyer Award

This award is given to a 4-Her who is currently in 12th grade with outstanding community service. Applicants must fill out an application and submit it to the Extension Office by May 1, 2024. A selection committee will judge applications. Award is based on the following: Community service projects in 4-H; Community service projects in other organizations; 4-H offices and committees served on; Other activities.

Lester & Joy Worrick Memorial Scholarship

This \$500 scholarship will be awarded to ONE Whitley County 4-H'er who is currently a 10-year 4-H member that will be pursuing a post-secondary education at a college, university or other similar institution. The 4-H member must be active not only in 4-H, but also in the community. Applicants must fill out an application and submit it to the Extension Office by May 1, 2024.

Helping Hands 4-H Endowment Scholarship

Seniors attending post-secondary education are eligible to apply for the Whitley County Helping Hands 4-H Endowment Fund. There will be up to three \$500 scholarships awarded.

Applications may be picked up at the Extension Office and are due by May 1, 2024.

Winners of these awards will be announced at the 4-H Awards Recognition Reception on Sunday, May 19, 2024.

Extension Homemakers Scholarship

Whitley County Extension Homemakers are again sponsoring a \$600 4-H scholarship that will be given at the May awards program. Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Senior in high school
- Whitley County resident

- Enrolled in the Whitley County 4-H program

- Must have completed 5 years in 4-H

- Enrolled in a post-secondary educational institution for the next school year

- Show evidence of community service outside of 4-H

- Must have a "C" (2.0 GPA)

Applications are available at the Extension Office and are due by May 1 to the Extension Office. For more information, contact the Extension Office or go online, www.extension.purdue.edu/whitley to the Whitley County 4-H page and go to 4-H Awards and Scholarships page to download and print out an application.

Indiana State Fair Workers

The State 4-H staff is looking for you if you are looking for an opportunity to work at the State Fair. Applicants are needed to work in the Exhibit Hall and Ag Hort Building. Exhibit Hall workers must be a minimum of 14 years of age to college age young adults. Applications are available at the Extension Office and on the website: www.extension.purdue.edu/whitley.

Deadline to State Fair Office is April 1, 2022.

4-H Trips

4-H Trips information will be emailed soon to all 4-H members, grades 3-12. Attending 4-H trips is fun, exciting and educational. There are many opportunities for 4-H'ers to travel and meet other 4-H'ers from all over Indiana as well as the USA.

In Whitley County, you must apply for those trips you are interested in attending. Copies of the applications are also available on our website: www.extension.purdue.edu/whitley.

Don't Miss Out...4-H Trips Application Deadline is April 1!!

- 4-H Round-Up: Grades 7-9
- National 4-H Dairy Conference: Grades 10-12
- National 4-H Congress: Grades 9-12
- 4-H Academy: Grades 9-12
- State 4-H Junior Leader Conference: Grades 9-12
- State 4-H Band: Grades 9-12
- State 4-H Chorus: Grades 9-12
- 4-H Camp: Grades 3-6

For more information or to ask questions, please call the Extension Office.



Date	Event	Time	Location
FEB: 28	National Invasive Species Awareness Week (February 26 – March 3) Pruning Workshop at Purdue Meigs Farm		
MARCH: 5, 7, 12, 14	Emergency Preparedness for Rural Families	5:30-8:30 p.m.....	Extension Office
7	Whitley County Master Gardeners Association	6:30 p.m.....	Woodlands Sr Activity Center
15	Whitley County Pork Queen/Ambassador Application DUE to Extension Office		
26	ANR Program Advisory Committee Meeting	7:00 p.m.....	Ext. Office (membership by invite)
27	Whitley County Pork Queen/Ambassador Interviews	6:00 p.m.....	Extension Office
27	Pork Producers Annual Meeting (following interviews)	7:00 p.m.....	Extension Office
29	Good Friday – Office Closed		
APRIL: 2, 3, 4	Arbor Day is April 26 – Plant A Tree!!! Becoming the Employer of Choice	1:00-4:00 p.m.....	4-H Center West Room
4	Whitley County Master Gardeners Association	6:30 p.m.....	Woodlands Sr Activity Center
8	Solar Eclipse		
MARK YOUR CALENDARS:			
June 22	Whitley County Master Gardeners’ Garden Walk		
June 27	(Tentative) NEPAC Diagnostic Training Center event (commercial seed treatment focus)		
July 12-18	Whitley County 4-H Fair		
July 15	Master Gardeners Seminars at Whitley County 4-H Fair (Monday) – 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.		
Sept 5	(Tentative) NEPAC Field Day (morning to early afternoon)		



Invasive Species Awareness Week is Feb. 26 - March 3

Invasive insects, plants, and other organisms are challenging our natural areas by out-competing or decimating native populations. This impacts native plants, insects, birds, fish, and wildlife. Control efforts are expensive and time-consuming.

The most recent incursion of note is the finding in 2022 of spotted lanternflies (SLF) in nearby Huntington, IN. I have heard of other rumored sites in Indiana, but they haven't been officially reported by Indiana DNR.

See the pictures below of SLF insects at the Huntington location in 2023.

at sites where the cars may remain stationary for extended periods. They can also be moved via other moving vehicles. Some limited natural spread also occurs.

Penn State University reports that While SLF feeding can stress plants and cause localized branch damage, it is not known to kill plants except for grapevines, tree of heaven, and black walnut saplings. However, it has been found on over 100 species of plants, and PSU reports that the spotted lanternfly uses its piercing-sucking mouthpart to feed on sap from over 70 different plant species.

It feeds on sap from the stems or leaves of plants, weakening the plant overall. The honeydew they produce covers the ground, attracting ants and wasps, and it grows a sooty mold on the surface of the honeydew. If you see it, report it. For more information, see <https://www.in.gov/dnr/entomology/pests-of-concern/spotted-lanternfly/> and <https://extension.purdue.edu/news/courtesy/whitley/2022/08/new-invasive-insect-pest-found-in-northern-indiana.html>.

It's important to note that not all non-native species are bad – some behave themselves just fine in our environment.

For species that don't behave, local residents can report invasive species by calling the Invasive Species hotline at 1-866-NO-EXOTIC (1-866-663-9684) or using the free Great Lakes Early Detection Network smartphone app,

which can be downloaded on iTunes or GooglePlay. Purdue has put together a YouTube video to demonstrate how easily the app can be used to alert authorities:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFvaWeR4cSw>. You can also email DEPP@dnr.in.gov.

For more information, see websites below:

- Report Invasive Species <https://ag.purdue.edu/reportinvasive/> (Good 1st stop website)
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/rules-and-regulations/invasive-species/>
- Indiana Native Plant Society: <https://indiananativeplants.org/>
- Midwest Invasive Plant Network: <http://www.mipn.org/>

For more information on invasive plant species in forest habitats, access the Purdue publication FNR-230-W, *Invasive Plant Species in Hardwood Tree Plantations*, at Purdue's Education Store, www.edustore.purdue.edu.

Additionally, learn more about national efforts during Invasive Species Awareness Week at: <https://www.nisaw.org/>.

If you enjoy or manage natural areas, I encourage you to become more aware and knowledgeable of invasive species and to identify steps you can take to minimize their impact.



1st-3rd instar nymph 4th instar nymph



SLF adult

Photos by John Woodmansee

To spread, the pest seems to be taking advantage of hitchhiking on railroad cars via egg masses, especially

Pruning Workshop Feb. 28

Backyard orchard owners may be interested in a pruning workshop south of Purdue University at Meig's Horticulture Research Farm, 9101 S 100 E, Lafayette, IN 47909 on Feb. 28.

This event is held in the afternoon from 1~4:30 PM EST and will include presentations on fruit diseases, grape pruning, apple/pear pruning, and bramble pruning. The cost of attendance is \$10 at the door. Light refreshments will be provided.

Emergency Preparedness

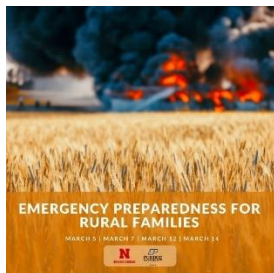
Workshop

Series for

Rural

Families

An upcoming four-part extension workshop



will focus on emergency preparedness for rural families. I'm working closely with Amy Biggs, Whitley County Emergency Management, to offer this program. The program is a collaboration between extension Women in Agriculture programs at Purdue University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The program will be a 4-part series, held locally at 524 Branch Court, Columbia City, IN. The series will focus on farm and ranch emergency management, first aid, fire protection, and hazardous materials. Workshops will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Eastern time on March 5, 7, 12 and 14. Other regional host sites include Angola and Plymouth, IN.

Each state will host several workshop sites with local extension personnel. Keynote speakers will be simulcast to each location, and each site will provide additional speakers and hands-on activities. A simple dinner will be included at the beginning of each session.

The program's structure is intended to strengthen networks of women in rural areas, which can provide opportunities for building trust and sharing information. Men are also welcome.

The workshops seek to help participants initiate preventative practices, set up a plan to deal with emergencies before they occur, and be

more comfortable reacting to emergencies.

There is a registration fee of \$50 per person before Feb. 20. The fee increases to \$60 per person after Feb. 20. Participants should plan to attend each session. A virtual option is available for those unable to attend a workshop site, although in-person attendance is highly encouraged to better network with other attendees and interact with speakers. The virtual registration fee is \$75 before Feb. 20 and \$80 after Feb. 20. Registration may be completed on the Nebraska Women in Agriculture website, <https://wia.unl.edu/prep>.

Also find information at our local Purdue Extension website, www.extension.purdue.edu/whitley.

Would you Like to Become the 2024 Pork Queen or Pork Ambassador?

4-H Swine Club members should have recently received (or soon will receive) a mailing inviting them to apply to be the 2024 Pork Queen or Pork Ambassador. Applications will also be available at the Extension office. All interested youth must turn in their application to the Extension office by March 15.

Pork Producers Meeting Mar. 27

Whitley County Pork Producers will meet March 27 at the Extension office. At 6:00 p.m. they will conduct queen/ambassador interviews, and afterward hold their annual meeting (approximately 7:00 p.m.)

Proposed Changes to Deer Hunting Regulations



The Indiana Natural Resources Commission (NRC) has opened a public comment period for proposed changes to Indiana's deer hunting rules before they vote on final adoption of the proposed changes. Most proposed changes intend to simplify Indiana's deer hunting rules to make them easier to understand.

Public comments can be submitted online at IN.gov/nrc/rules/rulemaking-docket via the "Comment on this rule" link in the Rulemaking Docket for the Deer Hunting Amendments. Comments can also be mailed to:

*Natural Resources Commission
Indiana Gov. Center North
100 North Senate Ave., Rm N103
Indianapolis, IN 46204

The deadline for public comments is March 20. Find more information at:

https://events.in.gov/event/natural_resources_commission_seeks_input_on_proposed_deer_hunting_rule_changes

Becoming the Employer of Choice Program

If you ask farm managers and small business owners what some of their top management issues are, finding and retaining good labor is usually among the top issues.

Whitley and Huntington County Extension plan to offer this program to help you become an employer of choice. The program is tentatively planned for April 2, 3, and 4 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Whitley County 4-H Center (west room). Some topics to be covered include:

- From managers to leaders
- Developing a motivated workforce
- Hiring the right people
- The farm business culture
- Strategic leadership & on-boarding
- Reviews & feedback
- Managing conflict

The registration deadline is March 28, 2024. The registration form can be downloaded from the Purdue Extension - Whitley County website www.extension.purdue.edu/whitley.

The cost is \$45 for the first registrant and \$10 per person for additional attendees from the same business or farm operation. The fee includes handouts, program resources, and snacks.

This program is a collaboration between Purdue Extension and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

For additional details, go to <https://extension.purdue.edu/news/county/whitley/2024/02/program-to-help-farm-managers-and-small-business-owners-become-an-employer-of-choice.html>.



Solar Eclipse April 8, 2024

Although a solar eclipse is not necessarily a subject directly related to agriculture and natural resources, many people are preparing for the eclipse. Find more information at on.IN.gov/eclipse. Remember to adequately protect your eyes.



Celebrate Arbor Day – Plant a Tree

Arbor Day is the last Friday in April in Indiana. If you have been thinking about adding a tree or two to your home landscape, late April is a great time to do it! Find detailed tree planting advice from Purdue Extension publication FNR-533-W, *Tree Installation: Process and Practices*, available at:

www.edustore.purdue.edu.

Additionally, Purdue's Lindsey Purcell has produced videos on tree selection and planting that are posted to YouTube. Search for:

- Tree Planting Part 1: Choosing a Tree, and
- Tree Planting Part 2: Planting Your Tree

Stay Up-to-Date

Access the agriculture and natural resources (ANR) section of our Whitley County Extension website to stay up-to-date on all ANR news, information and programs:

<https://extension.purdue.edu/county/whitley/ANR.html>. This page is also available from our main homepage www.extension.purdue.edu/whitley - scroll down and click on "Agriculture & Natural Resources" under "Whitley County Resources" near the top of the page.

Do You Need to Obtain an Applicator License?

If you need to obtain a private applicator license (to apply pesticides or CFO fertilizer to your own crops, *not* for hire), go to this website for your options:

<https://ppp.purdue.edu/private-applicators/certification/>.

If you need to obtain a commercial applicator license (to apply pesticides for hire), go to:

<https://ppp.purdue.edu/commercial-applicators/certification/>.

Commercial applicator categories are:

- Category 1 - Agricultural Pest Management
- Category 2 - Forest Pest Management
- Category 3a - Ornamental Pest Management
- Category 3b - Turf Management
- Category 4 - Seed Treatment
- Category 5 - Aquatic Pest Management
- Category 6 - Industrial Weed Management
- Category 7a - Industrial, Institutional, Structural and Health-Related Pest Management
- Category 7b - Termite Control
- Category 7d - Fumigation
- Category 8 - Community-Wide Mosquito Control
- Category 11 - Aerial Application
- Category 12 - Wood Destroying Pest Inspection
- Category 13 - Limited Certification
- Category 14 - Agricultural Fertilizer Application
- Category RT - Registered Technician

Refer to information about new or changing RT rules at <https://oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/index.html>.

If you have further questions, feel free to call the Purdue Extension office at 260-244-7615.

Northeast Purdue Agricultural Center (NEPAC) Field Days



Whitley County is home to Purdue's Northeast Purdue Ag Center southeast of Columbia City on county road 400 South (4821 East 400 South, Columbia City, IN 46725). Please pencil in the following tentative dates on your calendars for 2020 events. Check our website and subsequent newsletters for further details closer to event dates.

- June 27 (tentative): Diagnostic Training Clinic (commercial ag focus, Cat. 4, Seed Treatment)
- September 5 (tentative): Field Day (local/area farmers), includes PARP

Highlights of Recent Agricultural Production

Where did Whitley County rank recently in corn production among all other Indiana counties? What was a recent state-wide yield for soybeans? These and other questions are addressed in the annual Indiana

Agricultural Statistics Bulletin, 2022-23, recently posted online. If you are interested in a paper copy, we have a few available free of charge in the Whitley County Extension office.

According to the 2022-23 Indiana Agricultural Statistics bulletin for average crop yields in Whitley County in 2022 (most recent data available), corn came in at 186.7 bushels per acre, soybeans were 54.6 bushels per acre, and wheat was 75.5 bushels per acre. Among all Indiana counties for crop production in 2022, Whitley County ranked 41st in corn, 45th in soybeans, and 9th in wheat. For livestock production, Whitley County ranked 54th in the number of beef cows, and 30th in the number of milk cows (as of Jan. 2023).

Total ag receipts in Whitley County in 2021 totaled \$162.993 million, with crops contributing \$108.996 million, and livestock contributing \$54.027 million.

2021 realized net income (total income minus total expenses) to Whitley County farmers was \$58.121 million. This net was \$36.7 million in 2020, \$30.3 million in 2019, almost \$7.1 million in 2018, almost \$8.6 million in 2017, and just less than \$13.40 million in 2016.

From the 2017 USDA Ag Census, Whitley County ranked 13th in all hogs, 56th in all sheep, 28th in chickens, and 57th in turkeys. Of the 214,764 total acres in Whitley County, 176,255 of those acres were in farms (2017 Census of Agriculture). 154,095 acres were in cropland, 3748 acres were pastureland, and 10,252 acres were woodlands. There were 696 Whitley County farms in 2017, with an average size of 253 acres/farm.

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Indiana Field Office, publishes the Indiana Agricultural Statistics bulletin each year. It contains current and historical data for all major crops, livestock, economic, and related data. Find the current (2022-23) and past reports

at: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Indiana/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/index.php





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