



Purdue Extension Kosciusko County



Annual Report

March 3, 2014

Our Staff



Our Office Staff – Celebrating Joanie Younce's Retirement After 25 years of Service!

Thank You – Joanie!





Thank You Extension Board Members

Thank You for Guiding the Extension Program

Kassi Rowland

President - Warsaw

Steve Trump

Vice –President - Claypool

Elaine Wakefield

Secretary - Nappanee

Ed Boggs

Warsaw

Tyler Bouse

Mentone

Debbie Colman

Warsaw

Judy Egolf

Warsaw

Brent Hoffman

Silver Lake

David Lash

Mentone

Paula Miller

North Webster

Jenny Nelson

Burket

Gary Parker

Warsaw

Julie Popenfoose

Warsaw

Mindy Truex

Warsaw

Sandra Wise

Mentone

PCARET

Thank You to Our PCARET Representatives

The Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching is a national grassroots organization. P-CARET represents the grassroots needs and concerns of the people of Indiana. Its members are advocates for land-grant agricultural programs in research, extension, and teaching with county officials, state legislators and other decision makers.

Kosciusko County Representatives:

Louise Powell
Doug Shock
Carolyn Zimmerman



Thank You Extension Homemaker Board

Extension Homemaker Board

President: Peggy Parzygnot

President Elect: Rita Irwin

Vice President: Julia Frush

Secretary: Julie Popenfoose

Treasurer: Betty Bowen

Assistant Treasurer: Mary Beth Camden

Past President: Deanna Myers





...To Make the Best Better.

Thank You 4-H Volunteers

2014 4-H Council

President: Brent Lamb

Vice President: Mark Demske

Secretary: Janelle Deatsman

Treasurer: KayTusing

Jarrood Barnhart
Billy Brinkerhuf
Matt Grady
Maxine Haines
Greg Harden
Fred Lechlitrner
Cindy Montel

Scott Nelson
Barry Ostrom
Gwen Ostrom
Christi Sausaman
Rob Seewald
Meghan Tucker
Doug Wise

Jr. Leader
Representatives:
Victoria Fulton
Emmaline Halas
Lacey Helfers

Thank You to Our 4-H Leaders

American Guys & Gals

Linda Stroup

Atwood Neverquitters

Dawn Harris

Beaver Dam Better 4-Hers

Aime Hoffman

Burket Country Neighbors

Shannon Mc Sherry

Claypool Classics

Becky Amiss

Firm Foundations

Ami Pitt

Goat Club

Gretchen Rettinger

Hoosier Llama Lovers

Marsha Yocum

Horse & Pony Club

Randy Shepherd

Charity Trump

Junior Neighbors

Zona Blackburn

KcK9's

Billy Brinkerhuff

Leesburg Mighty Farmers

Sonja Hesser

Lucky Lassies & Lads

Cathy Smith

Mentone United

Marvene Johnson

Milford Helping Hands

Mindy Morehead

Milford Successful 4-Hers

Valerie Tucker

Monroe Go-Getters

Rhonda Wood

Pierceton Hayseeds

Nancy Reiff

Sidney Triple S

Jeff Brubaker

Silver Lake

Rambling Farmers

Aletha Dobbins

Syracuse Community Hands

Cindy Kolber

Wee Webster

Workers

Jeremy Scott

Thank You to Our 4-H Animal Superintendents

Andrea Baker – Rabbit

John Carpenter – Horse & Pony

Tim Collins – Dog

Jennifer Cook – Poultry

Laura Curtis – Dairy

Kathy Gagnon – Cat

Steve Johnson – Sheep

Tim Moore – Goats

Scott Sheets – Beef

Zach Stookey – Swine

April Yocum - Llama



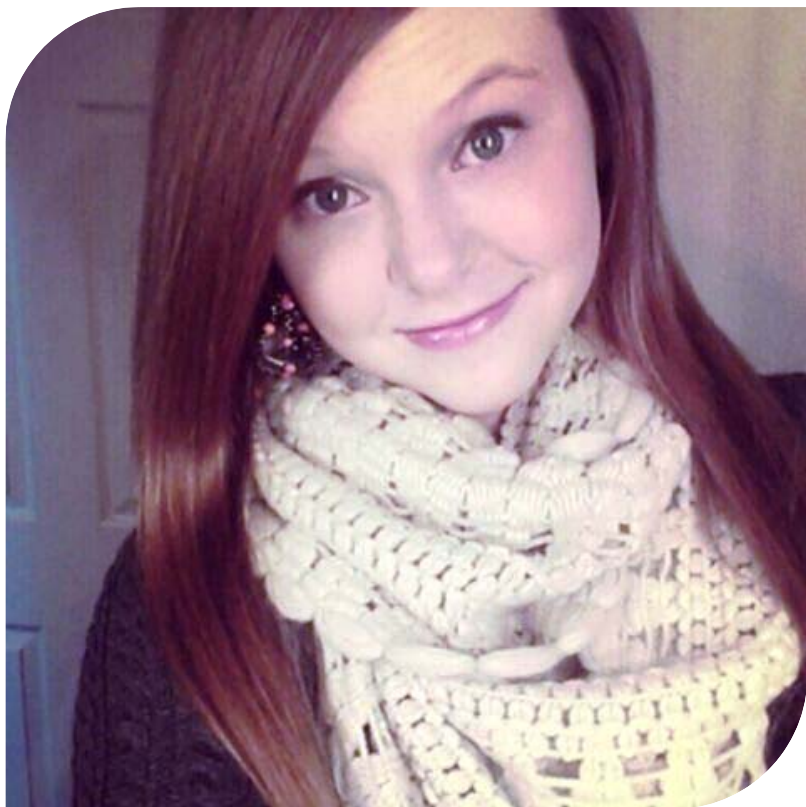


Our Success Stories

Hannah Tucker

“I can’t name all the ways that 4-H has impacted my life, but.....

- 4-H has taught me what hard work means. It’s not always fun, but it’s always worth it.
- The leadership, organizational, and communication skills that I’ve gained through 4-H are priceless.
- The vast majority of my best friends are kids that I’ve met through the 4-H program.
- 4-H has played a key role in determining what I want to do with my future – it has instilled a love for the agriculture industry in me. I hope to attend Purdue in the Spring of 2015 to study Agricultural Communication. “



Cultivating Strong Indiana Farm Family Relationships for Today and Tomorrow



- Participants shared they would like to update their succession plans including ways that a new partner needs to be prepared, have structured family meetings with active conflict resolution, and implement a team approach in the farm operation.
- 87% of increased their confidence in having effective conversations with family members about succession planning
- 93% believed the workshop provided resources to support future succession planning decisions.
- 6 months later, one producer shared his family was successful in setting-up a LLC for their farm operation which was one of the goals he developed during program.



2013 Kosciusko County Heart of 4-H Food Bank Donation

4-Hers donated



- 6 pigs
approximately =
to 575 lbs of pork
- 124 Chickens &
13 Ducks
- 30-35 Turkeys
were donated at
Thanksgiving
- 4-H members
donated
\$1537.42
- Penny Wars
\$709.26 donated
in February



Donations made to: Etna Green Church of God, Claypool, Mary and Jerry's, Salvation Army, North Webster, Syracuse, Nappanee, Salvation Army, Harvest with a Heart, Our Father's House, Combined Community Services, Washington Township

Ashley Helfers



“My experiences in 4-H have helped prepare me for college and my future life. I have learned leadership through the Junior Leaders. Responsibility is key to doing community service projects, raising livestock for fair, and completing my general projects. I have also learned the importance of time management, especially when it comes to general project time. Community involvement is also important to me because of my community service projects through my 4-H club and Junior Leaders.”

Nourish Your Bones and Joints



- As we get older, our bodies break down bone tissue faster. The goal of this program stressed foods that would help maintain bone and joint health.

Impact shows the following after the 3-month follow-up evaluation:

- 52% reported an increase in omega 3 fatty acids
- 78% reported an increase in vegetable intake
- 91% reported in increase in fruit intake
- 70% reported increasing their exercise
- 61% reported they added stretching into their exercise routine

Kosciusko County 4-H Livestock Judging Team

- Coached by Cari Juillerat and Mindy Wise
- Team doubled in size in 2013 with 12 4-Hers
- Placed in the top ten of every competition they attended last year
- 1st place Junior and Senior teams at the Area X 4-H competition
- 8th place finish at State

Other competing members were Madison Dobbins, Scott Hesser, Logan Brown, Abby Curtis, Garrett Rodgers, and Katrielle Rodgers.



Members competing in State were Jake Templin, Mikaela Conley, Madelyn Zimmerman, and Hannah Tucker (pictured).



- 17th Ag Day for the 4th graders
- Over 1,000 4th graders and their teachers attended.
- Pre-post test scores increased by 39.1%
- The teachers continue to rate the event very highly with an overall rating of a 4.64 out of 5.

One teacher shared, “This is the first year I really took the time to teach the material rather than just going to the event, and I think the students benefitted from the lessons. Thank you for all your work to teach the children about agriculture.”

Anna, Rebekah, & Charissa Richardson



“Being in 4-H has given us many opportunities to learn. Opportunities to learn basic life skills like sewing and cooking, or to further our interests in projects like cake decorating, needle craft and photography. Opportunities to learn responsibility in taking animal projects.”

Anna, Rebekah, & Charissa Richardson

- Plenty of opportunities to learn character when things are going wrong, people need you and you also have the pressure of that paperwork that needs finished.
- You can choose to have a good attitude and let the situation make you better, or have a bad one and make everyone else miserable as well.
- Opportunities to lose and realize it's not the end of the world. You may not have won the ribbon you were hoping for on that pie. Sometimes winning is not measured by a ribbon but what you learned.
- And then the opportunity to see hard work pay off when you win a ribbon on that animal you had so much trouble with, but now listens to you. That sweater you knitted and knitted and now it's going to State Fair.
- Has 4-H changed our lives? YES, and we'd say for the better!!!



- 15th anniversary of Taste of Ag
- Over 1,700 in attendance
- 1st Annual Chili Cook-off
- Attendees had the opportunity to taste products grown in the county
- 20 + educational booths.
- Over 150 plus volunteers who contribute to the program
- Donations were the most yet at \$11,959.24



Madelyn Zimmerman



Madelyn received a ISDA Livestock Youth Grant in 2012 to assist her with breeding her cattle and swine.

“It has been a great experience to receive the youth livestock grant, and I have learned so much from it. I had 100% success with AI-ing and live births. Three of the five calves will be showed at the fair this year! I have had a lot of fun learning about them and talking with the vet so I can get even better results. We have had a lot of success with our calves, but this year has been the first year we didn't have 100% success and lost some calves. That was a really hard time for me because I had gotten used to having so many healthy babies.”

GAPs: Good Agricultural Practices for Food Safety for Fruit and Vegetable Producers

More and more buyers of fresh produce are asking about the **on-farm safety practices** of farmers. Producers are being taught via GAPs.

- Taught at GAPs training in January 2013
- Hosted webinar for 6 producers in November 2013
- Will be offered again in March 2014

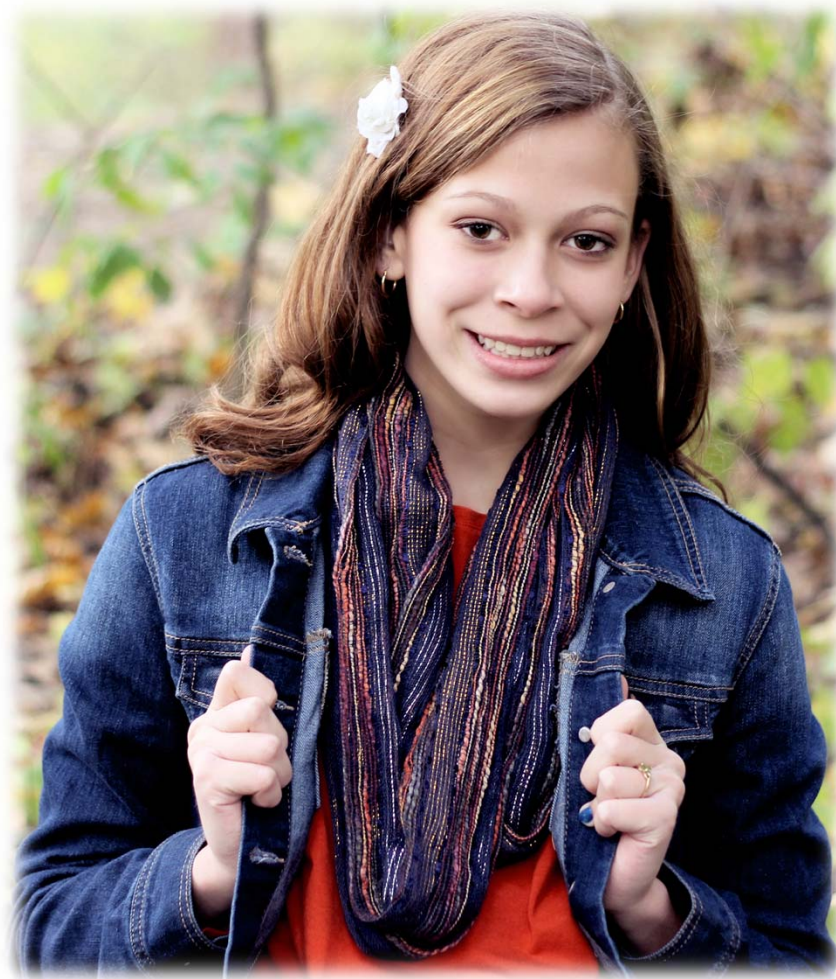


In winter 2013

- 60% of the 11 in attendance shared they planned to make changes in their vegetable production or marketing practices based on what they learned in the animal section especially noting better documentation
- 73% planned to make changes in their documentation and record keeping

Lacey Helfers

“4-H has taught me responsibility by my various general projects and taking care of my chickens. 4-H has also helped me with my public speaking skills through showmanship, general project judging and club demonstrations. I am also learning leadership skills through Junior Leaders.”





Growing Great Gardens



Purdue Extension and the Kosciusko County Master Gardeners has offered the gardening series, "Growing Great Gardens" the past two years.

- The program has made over 400 educational contacts.

At the end of the gardening season:

- 94% of survey participants shared their knowledge and information gained with others
- 56% consumed more fruits and vegetables and added organic matter to the garden soil
- 31% used fewer pesticides and used fertilizers more efficiently.

Garrett Rodgers



Garrett received a Livestock Youth Promotion Grant in 2012 to purchase his sheep.



- ✓ I learned about sheep & how to care for them
- ✓ How to write a good grant proposal
- ✓ How certain breeds differ from others
- ✓ The basics of how to prepare sheep for show & show them
- ✓ Judging animals
- ✓ Genes and probability
- ✓ Reviving sick animals
- ✓ How to process a sheep
- ✓ What to look for when buying livestock

Kosciusko County Master Gardeners



In 2012—Master Gardeners volunteered 1,150 hours with a value to the community of \$25,471 while completing such activities as the Fall Harvest Series, Tomato Fest, Lakes Festival, Ag Day and Windowsill Gardening



Katrielle Rodgers



Katrielle received a Livestock Youth Promotion Grant in 2012 to purchase her cattle. "I've learned a lot since I got the 4-H grant. We would never have gotten cattle without it, and I'm really thankful that we were able too."

"The 4-H grant allowed me to learn a lot about cattle, and have many valuable life experiences. Firstly, it is very hard work getting set up to have cattle, and it takes a long time. There is work you **HAVE** to do every day. Cows are big animals, and you **ALWAYS** have to be cautious. But our Dexters are funny too. Even if cows are hard to take care of, all the work is **DEFINITELY** worth it. Genetics are very important in Dexters. Ever since we got Dexter cattle, I learned a lot about genetics"



What It Means to be a Livestock Producer in 2013

- 52 producers and industry representatives learned about phosphorus, certified livestock producer program, working with your employees and animal welfare, and new rules for fertilizer application.
- The session that attendees gained the most from was on social pressures for today's livestock industries.
- Commercial applicators were appreciative of the opportunity to get CCHs for category 14 and shared topics they would like to learn more about in the future.



Leina Helfers



“4-H has been a great way for me to meet new friends. 4-H has also taught me to have responsibility as I do my projects and take care of my chickens. 4-H also makes me get up and talk in front of people and that is good for me even though I get really nervous.”

2013 Kosciusko County Master Gardeners Intern Class



They improved their post test scores by 26% from their pretest.





Our Success Stories

Family Nutrition Program

Mission of the Family Nutrition Program

Increase the ability of individuals with limited resources to utilize their food dollars appropriately and to provide a safe meal environment.



- Sue Hickaman, Kosciusko County Family Nutrition Program Assistant

Sue shares, “I love what I do..... hoping to continue touching lives one at a time.”



2013 FNP Success Stories



What have you and your family learned from participating in the FNP lessons?

“Rosa* praises the program and the help we have done for her family, a large Latino family . She states she uses skim milk now and doesn't allow pop for supper only for a special treat. She shares now she can cook for her family while not running out of food. Rosa has learned to stretch her food dollars and for the first time in many years, they have left over food stamps at the end of the month. She now freezes meat when she finds it on sale and eats out only once a month.”

*Name has been changed for this story.



What have you and your family learned from participating in the FNP lessons?

- “I now buy more fruits and vegetables for my family and clip coupons. I don't buy boxed meals anymore as I now make them from scratch. I take my kids for walks everyday to get exercise.”
- “I read all labels and it has helped me to make wiser choices with my kids getting more milk and juice with less pop. I buy in quantity when I can checking and comparing local store prices . As a result I have lost 19 lbs and have more energy.”



What have you and your family learned from participating in the FNP lessons?

“Carmen*, an older Latino mother, shared with us via an interpreter. She stated how much she loves our community and the many resources we have to offer .

She stated her family has learned so much of our customs and looks forward to being here for many years to come. Carmen said she eats more protein and is teaching her family all the healthy American dishes we have taught her.”

*Name has been changed for this story.



Thank You to Our Annual Meeting Sponsors

Thank You to Our Annual Meeting Sponsors:



Farmers State Bank

LouisDreyfus 

 **Lake City Bank**
Member FDIC



CREIGHTON
Brothers

*A Family Farm
Since 1925*

Congratulations to Extension for 100 Years!



Please contact us at:

202 W Main Street
Warsaw, IN 46580

574-372-2340

www.ag.purdue.edu/counties/kosciusko/

