

Since 2020, thousands of Indiana 4-Hers have benefitted from funds provided through the generosity of Premier Companies. For the Fall 2023-2024 cycle, they committed \$100,000 to 4-H projects serving 9,924 young people across much of southern Indiana. The following is an overview of some of the most recent projects made possible by the Premier Companies grants:

### **BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY**

**Educator:** Elisabeth Eaton  
**Funding Received:** \$13,500  
**Youth Served:** 500

Youth were invited to participate in a Chef University camp held during Spring Break. Funds were utilized to purchase an electric stove, microwave, and additional kitchen materials used to prepare food during the three day camp. Remaining funds were used to create educational and safety related signage for the livestock barn, pavilion, and rabbit/poultry barn, as well as to purchase new show arena gates and display materials for static projects.

### **CLARK COUNTY**

**Educator:** Katie Whiteford  
**Funding Received:** \$11,975  
**Youth Served:** 1,300

This gift helped to add 15 more pens to the goat barn at the fairgrounds. Funding also supported a livestock mentorship program for Mini 4-Hers (grades K-2) who worked one-on-one with a high school mentor to learn more about caring for and showing livestock; species workshops; and the Mobile Ag Day Project, where youth created their own farm in the classroom, learned how health and ag go hand in hand, and created straw rockets as a STEM project.

### **CRAWFORD COUNTY**

**Educator:** Molley Hasenour  
**Funding Received:** \$5,000  
**Youth Served:** 775

Funds supported Progressive Ag Safety Day; Classroom Clovers (multiple sessions and learning events in elementary schools); school gardens; environmental well-being; Nature of Teaching; Marengo Cave Excursion; Senior Housing container gardens; 4-H County Fair events; and STEM Days in the Schools.

### **DAVISS COUNTY**

**Educator:** Wes Richardson  
**Funding Received:** \$255  
**Youth Served:** 85

The Premier gift covered the cost to families for the 4-H Quality Livestock Care workshop required for all livestock exhibitors. In this program, youth learn about animal care and husbandry, proper show ring etiquette, animal production safety, and leadership skills.

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY**

**Educator:** Elizabeth Simmermeyer  
**Funding Received:** \$1,650  
**Youth Served:** 10

These funds helped establish the Discover Franklin County SPARK Club. Youth were able to gain a larger sense of pride for their community as they explored in a safe and fun way, including rafting down the Whitewater River, horseback riding, paddle boarding on Brookville Lake, and touring historic Oldenburg and Metamora.

### **HARRISON COUNTY**

**Educator:** Rebecca Wilkins  
**Funding Received:** \$9,750  
**Youth Served:** 30

Funds enabled expansion of the fall and spring educational Vet Camp, adding grades 6-8 to the established offering for grades 3-5.

### **JACKSON COUNTY**

**Educator:** Richard Beckort  
**Funding Received:** \$4,097  
**Youth Served:** 261

The gift provided funds to upgrade/replace equipment used by the 4-H Dog Club members for the Agility Training and the County Fair Dog Show, and to add lighting to the livestock wash rack area at the Jackson County Fairgrounds. The new lighting allows 4-Hers to wash the animals earlier in the morning and later at night, before and after the fair crowds and before and after the August midday heat.



*Above: Crawford County 4-Hers are proud to partner with Premier Companies*

### **JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**Educator:** Britt A. Copeland  
**Funding Received:** \$3,000  
**Youth Served:** 25

Funding for this program was used to hire clinicians and provide food, housing, and equipment for 4-Hers at the Jefferson County 4-H Horse and Pony Camp. For three days and two nights, 20 members stayed at the fairgrounds for an intensive camp where they learned to improve their riding skills, care for their animals through proper nutrition and herdsmanship. This camp significantly boosted the Horse and Pony Project, doubling membership to 43 members in 2024.

### **JENNINGS COUNTY**

**Educator:** Rebekah Cartwright  
**Funding Received:** \$2,700  
**Youth Served:** 50

These funds provided supplies needed to establish two new in-school 4-H clubs, which brought over 180 projects into the Jennings County 4-H Program. The club members learned about many different topics including creative writing, animal science, beekeeping, and other project areas.

### **JOHNSON COUNTY**

**Educator:** Heather Dougherty  
**Funding Received:** \$2,836  
**Youth Served:** 200

Funding was used to teach youth in schools using Sphero Robots. Previous funding was used to purchase a classroom set of robots,

but the club didn't have enough tablets to utilize the whole classroom pack. This year, the club asked for funds to purchase more tablets so more robots could be used at one time. Funds were also used to provide transportation to and from 4-H Camp.

### LAWRENCE COUNTY

**Educator:** Lesley Lodmell  
**Funding Received:** \$3,222  
**Youth Served:** 740

During the county fair, the club hosted nightly hands-on activities at the 4-H Exhibit Hall, such as llama demonstrations, sewing, gardening, wood working, wildlife, nutrition, and arts and crafts. The club has also commissioned a limestone clover statue to use in a photo back drop set. The clover statue will have a plate with the Premier Companies logo on it. Funds were also used for online project support, updating FairEntry settings to make it much more friendly to families entering their exhibits.

### MONROE COUNTY

**Educator:** Clint Deck  
**Funding Received:** \$10,000  
**Youth Served:** 4,575

This initiative provided educational experiences for youth by organizing field trips to three local farms. The program served students from all 7 Title I elementary schools in Monroe County, giving them the opportunity to learn about agriculture, food production, nutrition, and natural resources. The Monroe County 4-H Camp engaged youth in life skills, independence, and leadership through camping activities. The Children's Farm Festival brought Pre-K through 1st grade students together for interactive agricultural experiences.

### ORANGE COUNTY

**Educator:** Julie Carrell  
**Funding Received:** \$4,400  
**Youth Served:** 350

Funding allowed this club to collaborate with a group of young people at a local career center to construct new A-frames for project presentations at community events. This initiative not only provides practical solutions for displaying projects but also empowers the youth involved by giving them hands-on experience in design and construction.

### OWEN COUNTY

**Educator:** Jennifer Abrell  
**Funding Received:** \$2,440  
**Youth Served:** 18

Premiere Companies funding supported this club's community production of The Jungle Book. They were able to create sets and costumes, supply quality stage makeup, purchase a production rights package that allowed live streaming, and provide cast and crew with snacks and water during rehearsals and performances. The 2024 cast and crew was made up of 44 percent new-to-4-H youth (8 out of 18) making this project a key recruiting tool for Owen County 4-H.

### RUSH COUNTY

**Educator:** Sarah Gettinger  
**Funding Received:** \$5,000  
**Youth Served:** 250

Funding supported the Class To Clover program, providing materials for Chick Embryology, where over 200 Rush County students had hands-on experience with hatching chicks right in their classrooms. The funds also covered 4-H enrollment fees for students who completed a Class To Clover project poster to be displayed at the county fair. Funds were also used for hands-on project workshops and to cover traditional 4-H project needs and scholarships for enrollment fees to youth who otherwise would not be able to participate in 4-H.

### SCOTT COUNTY

**Educator:** Megan McNeely  
**Funding Received:** \$3,200  
**Youth Served:** 60

This club held a plant science workshop where youth were taught how to plant tomatoes and herbs, and then completed a project for the county fair. Two of the herb projects advanced to the Indiana State Fair. Funding also supported several equine events: a program for youth who do not have horses but want to learn about them; a program with beginner/intermediate horse owners; and two clinics where youth rode their horses and were taught to be better horsemen.

### SHELBY COUNTY

**Educator:** Bailey York  
**Funding Received:** \$1,375  
**Youth Served:** 23

Through RT2 Celebration at the Fair, a Purdue Extension 4-H Youth Agent met with participants in grades K-3 bimonthly

leading up to the Shelby County Fair in June. The primary purpose of RT2 is to promote reading, good nutrition, and agriculture awareness among preschool and early elementary aged children.

Funding also provided supplies for the Animal Science Fetal Pig SPARK Club where youth engaged in the dissection of a pig, and learned about feed rations and ear notching.

### WASHINGTON COUNTY

**Educator:** Taylor Chastain  
**Funding Received:** \$5,000  
**Youth Served:** 200

The Clovers in the Classroom program engaged youth who displayed their projects in the 4-H Building at the fair. Along with recruiting new members, several members who previously only worked on livestock projects were able to complete their first static projects. Three had their work selected for the State Fair, with one earning an orange merit. Funding also supported the Carnival of Fun to promote new 4-H projects and generate excitement for the upcoming year. Remaining funds were used to purchase new turkey pens for the fair.

### AREA 1 ACTIVITY FUND

**Educator:** Kyle Weaver  
**Funding Received:** \$2,600  
**Youth Served:** 120

Premier Grant funding provided a leadership program by Ted Wiese from Hear Ted Talk for 4-H Camp Counselors, including meals, training supplies, and insurance.

### AREA 2 YOUTH EDUCATION FUND

**Educator:** Lesley Lodmell  
**Funding Received:** \$8,000  
**Youth Served:** 352

The Southern Indiana 4-H Camp and Camp Counselor Retreat offered environmental education, outdoor recreation, and leadership workshops.

The Camp Counselor Retreat, held prior to camp, equipped teen leaders with essential skills in communication, conflict resolution, and mentoring to ensure a successful camp experience for all attendees. The program fostered personal growth, strengthened peer connections, and enhanced community engagement among participants, creating lasting impacts within their local 4-H clubs and communities.