

Shelby County 4-H November Newsletter



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Congrats to the Livestock Judging Team

On October 16, four members of the Shelby County Livestock Judging Team competed at the 2nd annual Clark, Crawford, and Edgar 4-H Livestock Judging Contest. There were 169 youth competing. The Junior Team of Nora Ahrens, Brandt Richards, and Tymberlee Glick brought home 5th place out of 19 teams. Grace Slifer competed as an individual in the Senior division. Wonderful job representing Shelby County 4-H.

4-H Enrollment in ZSuite

Have you enrolled in ZSuite for the new 4-H year? If not, now is the time! To complete enrollment, visit: <https://4h.zsuite.org/> Contact Yolanda with any questions.

As you complete your enrollment, please take a moment to review these important reminders.

- Select your child's primary club and at least one project. Additional projects may be added or dropped through May 3.
- The annual 4-H program fee is \$20 per member. Thanks to the generous support of Shelby Extension Foundation, families are responsible for only \$10 per member, with the Foundation covering the remaining \$10.



- Families enrolling more than three children should submit their enrollment, but do not pay online until the fourth-child discount has been applied. Yolanda will contact you once the adjustment has been made. Unfortunately, refunds cannot be issued if payment is made before the discount is applied.
 - Program fees may be paid: Online by credit card, by cash or check through your club leader, or at the Extension Office.
- Please note that some clubs pay member fees on behalf of their families. If you are unsure whether your club does so, please check with your club leader before submitting payment.

Important: Members must be enrolled and approved in ZSuite before participating in any county 4-H activities, including Shooting Sports, workshops, camps, parades, contests, and other events.

Shelby County 4-H Achievement Night

Shelby County 4-H will celebrate the accomplishments of its members during Achievement Night on Saturday, November 7, at the Nazarene Church Gym in Shelbyville.

Invitations were emailed on October 21 to families of 4-H members who will be receiving awards. Dessert will be served at 6:30 p.m., followed by the awards program at 7:00 p.m. To help us plan for seating and refreshments, please **RSVP by November 5** at the following link: <https://go.illinois.edu/AchievementNight2026>

Questions? Contact Yolanda at nation2@illinois.edu or call 217-774-9546. We look forward to celebrating with you and recognizing the outstanding achievements of Shelby County 4-H!

4-H Achievement Night Donation Collection

Brady and Alicia Rivas, members of the Shelby Sparklers 4-H Club, need your help with a special service project! Their goal is to brighten the days of children staying in the pediatric unit at Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital by providing fun items that can bring comfort and smiles. They are collecting donations of: Play-Doh, small new plastic toys (no stuffed animals, please), bubbles, baby toys, small baby dolls, teethingers, and rattles.

Donations can be brought to 4-H Achievement Night on November 7 or dropped off at the Extension Office by November 6. As a thank-you for supporting this project, 4-H'ers will receive one prize drawing ticket for every five items donated! Prizes will be drawn at Achievement Night. Short on time? Monetary donations are also welcome. Brady and Alicia will use the funds to purchase needed items for the children. Thank you for helping make a difference in the lives of young patients and bringing a little extra joy to their hospital stay. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Awesome Autumn Photography Contest

Shelby County 4-H Federation is once again sponsoring the Awesome Autumn Photography Contest for 4-H members in Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties. The contest will run from September 27 through November 14, giving youth an opportunity to showcase their photography skills while capturing the beauty of the autumn season.

Enrolled 4-H and Cloverbud members are invited to submit their best "Awesome Autumn" photograph via email to nation2@illinois.edu. Entries must include the member's name, county, and age. Cash prizes will be awarded by Shelby County 4-H Federation in each age division.

Contest Rules

- Photos must reflect the theme of "Awesome Autumn"
- Only one photo entry per 4-H member will be accepted.
- Entries will be judged in three age divisions:
 - Ages 5-7, Ages 8-13, Ages 14-18
- 4-H age is based on the member's age as of September 1, 2026.
- Photos must be taken by the 4-H member submitting the entry.
- If a submitted photo includes an individual who is not a family member or relative, a completed photo release form must accompany the entry.

Participation in the contest will also count as a multi-county activity for the Illinois 4-H Experience Award. Grab your camera, head outdoors, and capture the colors, scenery, and special moments that make autumn such an amazing season!

Shelby County 4-H Sponsorships for 2026–2027 T-Shirts!

Help us celebrate and unite over 800 4-H members across Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties with our annual 4-H t-shirts! We would love to have 4-H Clubs, businesses, or anyone who would like their name on the back of the 800+ t-shirts. Share with your friends, local businesses, etc. to help cover the back of the shirt. Sponsorships are due by November 30.

Sponsorship Opportunities:

- \$200 Sponsorship – Your name will be proudly listed on the back of the t-shirt.
- \$400 Sponsorship – Your logo will be featured on the back of the t-shirt.

Your support directly contributes to the success of our youth programs and helps build community pride in 4-H! Click here for the form

<https://extension.illinois.edu/media/10293/download?inline>

For more information or to become a sponsor, contact Yolanda Nation at nation2@illinois.edu. Thank you for investing in the future of our youth!

Winter Craft Day

Get ready for one of Shelby County 4-H's favorite traditions! Join us on Saturday, December 5 at the 4-H Center for Winter Craft Day. Participants will create fun winter crafts and decorate the famous gingerbread houses!

- Don't forget to bring a bag of candy to share for gingerbread house decorating!
- 4-H member Session 1: 9:00-10:30 a.m.
- 4-H member Session 2: 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
- Cloverbuds: 1:15-2:30 p.m.
- **Workshop fee: \$10 fee and RSVP are due by November 25. The workshop fee can be mailed or dropped off at the Extension office.**
- **Register here: <https://go.illinois.edu/WinterCraftDay>**
- Sign-up soon as space is limited!

We look forward to a fun day filled with creativity, holiday spirit, and gingerbread house decorating!

Community Service Workshop: Crafting Christmas Cheer

Looking for a fun way to give back this holiday season? Join us for the Shelby County 4-H Community Service Workshop on Friday, November 20 at the 4-H Center! The evening begins with pizza and snacks from 6:00-6:30 p.m., sponsored by Shelby County 4-H Federation. From 6:30-8:30 p.m., 4-H members will put their creativity to work making a variety of holiday crafts that will be shared with residents at local nursing homes in early December.

This workshop has become a favorite tradition because 4-H'ers know their handmade creations will brighten someone's day and spread joy throughout our community. It's a wonderful opportunity to spend time with friends, have fun creating, and make a difference all at the same time! Older 4-H'ers are encouraged to attend and put their crafting skills to use.

When registering, be sure to include your pizza choice: Cheese, sausage, pepperoni. Space is limited to the first 30 4-H members who register, so don't wait! RSVP via the <https://go.illinois.edu/CommunityServiceWrk2026> by Tuesday, November 17 so we can plan for pizza and supplies.

Bank Steer Program

Are you interested in raising, showing, and selling a steer as a 4-H project? The Shelby County State Bank is offering interest-free loans to eligible Shelby County 4-H members to assist with the purchase of a steer for exhibition at the county fair.

To participate, members must have been enrolled in 4-H for at least one previous year and must complete their enrollment in ZSuite and pay the \$10 program fee by November 13. New families will receive an on-farm visit from the Bank Steer Committee prior to market animal weigh-in, and all participants will receive a spring on-farm visit. Shelby County State Bank reserves the right to deny participation in the program. The deadline to sign up for the Bank Steer Program is November 13. Steers will be picked up on February 13 at the county steer weigh-in. For more information, contact Yolanda at nation2@illinois.edu or 217-774-9546.

Officer Training – January 16 (save the date)

Ready to lead, learn, and make a difference in your 4-H club? Mark your calendars for the Shelby County 4-H Officer Training Workshop on Saturday, January 16, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the 4-H Center.

This workshop is open to all current club officers and any 4-H member interested in learning more about serving as a future club officer. Through hands-on activities, team-building exercises, and leadership lessons, participants will gain valuable skills to help them confidently serve their clubs and communities.

Whether you're currently serving as president, vice president, secretary, reporter, treasurer, or simply thinking about running for an office someday, this workshop is for you!

Join us for a morning filled with learning, leadership, and fun as we explore what it takes to be an effective 4-H leader. Registration information will be available soon. We hope to see you there!

Recruiting a new member

Help Shelby County 4-H grow by inviting your friends to join! Members who recruit a new 4-H member will receive a prize. Recruitment forms are available from club leaders, or you can contact Yolanda. For more information, contact nation2@illinois.edu or 217-774-9546.

Shelby County 4-H Week

Shelby County 4-H Week is being planned for March 13-20. The 2027 4-H Week Theme is “4-H – the Recipe for Success”.

Countries for International Night that have already been taken are Coldspring Copperheads (Australia), Moweaqua Rustlers (Germany), Rural Feeders (Madagascar), Silver Spurs (Italy), Strasburg Tailtwisters (Mexico), and the Clover Kids (USA).

State Opportunities

IL 4-H Building Brick Build Challenge Series Returns - Our free monthly building brick challenge series is back for the 26-27 year! Each month from October to December, youth can create their own original builds following the month's theme and size limits and then submit info and photos of their build electronically. Our favorite builds (based on creativity, technical skills demonstrated, and alignment to theme) will be selected as the winners in 3 different age divisions: 8-10 year olds, 11-13 year olds, and 14-18 year olds. Winners will receive some cool buildable prizes! **The October theme is "Fall Fun"**. There is no cost to enter, but youth **MUST** be currently enrolled Illinois 4-H club members to participate. Learn more and enter at <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/state-events/building-brick-challenge-series>

Grand Holiday Gift Showcase - Celebrate the season through creativity and craftsmanship! The *Grand Holiday Gift Showcase* invites youth to enter their handmade holiday gifts for judging on originality, festive appeal, creativity, and effective use of the elements and principles of art and design. This event is hosted by the 4-H Creative Collective Art Ambassadors.

Who: 4-H youth, ages 5 - 18

When: December 1, 2026 – January 1, 2027

Showcase Divisions:

- Cloverbuds (5-7 years old)
- 8-12 years old
- 13-18 years old

Challenge Rules: Parents/guardians must submit entries via the following link: go.illinois.edu/GrandHolidayGiftShowcase by January 1, 2027. Participants must be enrolled members of a 4-H club. One entry per youth.

How to Win: First, second, and third place will be selected for each age division. We will select winning entries based on creativity, originality, festive spirit, outstanding use of art and design principles, and alignment to challenge rules. Parents/guardians of winning families/youth will first be emailed, and then announced on Illinois 4-H social media 2-3 weeks following the challenge deadline (January 1).

Nov

- 7 – 6:30 p.m. Achievement Night
- 13 – Bank Steer Sign-up deadline
- 20 – Community Service Workshop, 6-8:30 p.m. 4-H Center
- 26 & 27 – Extension office closed

Dec

- 5 – Winter Craft Day, various session times, 4-H Center

- 24-31 – Extension office closed

Jan

- 1 – Extension office closed
- 16 – Officer Training
- 18 – Extension office closed

Feb

- 13 – Market Animal Weigh-in 8 a.m.

Mar

- 1 – Early enrollment deadline
- 13-20 4-H Week
- 29 – Spring Clean-up

April

- 4/5 – Rain date for Spring Clean-up
- 4/24 – Livestock Clinic

May

- 5/3 – Deadline to add/drop projects in ZSuite
- 5/22 – 4-H BBQ

June

- 6/3 – 4-H & Junior Fair Entry deadline
- 6/12 – Clover Chase

July

- 7/10 – Fair Clean-up
- 7/16 – Tractor & Lawn Mower driving p.m.
- 7/17-7/21 – Shelby County 4-H & Junior Fair
- 7/22 – Fair Clean-up

Staff:

County Director: Jessie Streit

4-H Program Coordinator: Yolanda Nation

Office Support Assistant: Diana Litteral

4-H Youth Educator: Krista Houk

Shelby County 1125 W North 2nd Street, Shelbyville, IL 62565, Phone: 217-774-9546

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8 -12, 1-4:30

Find us on Facebook: Shelby County IL 4-H

Website: <https://extension.illinois.edu/ccdms/4-h-shelby-county>

If you need reasonable accommodation to participate, please contact the Shelby County Extension office.