

Shelby County 4-H March Newsletter



In this edition:

- Project manuals
- May 1 – Deadline to add/drop projects in ZSuite
- Spring Clean-up at the fairgrounds
- Shelby County 4-H Week
- Multi-County Livestock Clinic
- Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)
- Quality Assurance & Ethics Certification (QAEC)
- Dog Obedience
- Shelby County 4-H BBQ
- Horse & Pony Ownership & Lease Forms due May 1
- Upcoming dates to save
- Contestants needed for Miss & Junior Miss Shelby County
- 4-H Day with the Cardinals
- 4-H Calendar

Project Manuals

4-H members must email Yolanda or call the Shelby County Extension Office to order project manuals. Please note: ZSuite is not set up to order project books.

Some projects require the manual to be completed as part of the 4-H exhibit, so be sure to check your project requirements when the 2026 fair book is released in March. Project book requests should be sent to Yolanda by April 10. Let Yolanda know if you have any questions. Email: nation2@illinois.edu or call: 217-774-9546

May 1 – Deadline to add/drop projects in ZSuite

May 1 is the deadline for youth to add/drop projects in ZSuite. Only projects that are included in ZSuite on May 1, will be allowed to be shown as 4-H projects at the 2026 Shelby County 4-H Fair.



Spring Clean-up at the Fairgrounds

Monday, March 30

Spring Clean-up Day at the Shelby County Junior Fairgrounds is being planned for 6 p.m. on Monday, March 30. The Back-up date is Monday, April 6.

We will be picking up sticks, raking leaves, doing repairs, painting, etc. Bring rakes, shovels, leaf blowers, etc. This will count as a county activity for 4-H members and will also count on year-end records.

Shelby County 4-H Week – March 14-21

The theme for Shelby County 4-H Week is “Rooted in 4-H, Growing our Future”.

- *March 14 – 4-H Fire-Up 9-11 a.m., 4-H Center*
 - Registration is closed.
 - We will see everyone who signed up on Saturday!
- *March 14 – Skating Party 6:15-9 p.m. at Silver Stars Skating Rink in Mattoon.*
 - The 4-H Skating party is planned for Saturday, March 16 from 6:15 - 9:00 p.m. The rink rental is being paid by Shelby County 4-H Federation. There will be a \$1 charge for those needing skates. Families may bring in their own food and drink.
 - Bring your friends and family!
 - We encourage families to sign-up if they plan to attend at:
<https://go.illinois.edu/ShelbyCounty4-HSkatingparty>
- *March 15 – Public Speaking Contest, 6:30 p.m. 4-H Center*
 - Join us at the 4-H Center at 6:30 p.m. and watch 4-H'ers in action as they present their public speaking projects.
- *March 16 – International Night 6 p.m. Nazarene Church Gym*
 - Clubs should plan to prepare 2-3 food dishes to give samples to approximately 200. Clubs should consider decorating their table, creating poster displays, and wearing clothing from their country, etc.
 - Little cards stating what the food dishes are would be a fun touch.
 - The building will be open by 4:30 for clubs to set-up.
 - Clubs need to be ready to serve at 6 p.m.
 - Be sure to bring your own extension cords and serving spoons.
- *March 16 – Window Display judging*
 - **Leaders should contact Yolanda with their window location.**
 - Clubs should have their display up by March 15.
 - Information to include in your display: club name, members and leaders' names, club meeting dates and times, and how to join 4-H.
 - Federation is offering cash prizes.

- *March 17 – 4-H Member Showcase shared on Facebook*
 - Let's showcase our 4-H members! 4-H'ers need to send Yolanda a photo of their 4-H member/Cloverbud with their favorite 4-H project along with a statement about their project, a favorite 4-H event, etc.
 - **Note – the deadline is quickly approaching!** Information needs to be sent by March 11. Email photo and write-up to nation2@illinois.edu.
- *March 18 – Community Service Day with your club*
 - Clubs must complete their community service project between March 14 – March 31 and submit a photo to Yolanda to receive \$25 from Shelby County 4-H Federation.
- *March 19 – Wear your 4-H shirt to school day and submit a photo*
 - Federation will provide candy bars to each 4-H member and/or Cloverbud who submits a photo on March 19 for wearing their 4-H t-shirt to school to promote Shelby County 4-H.
 - **IMPORTANT – Change the name of the picture to your 4-H'ers name so we know whose picture it is.**
Upload to the following: <https://go.illinois.edu/20264-HT-shirtDay>
- *March 21 – Spring Craft Day – 2 sessions, one for 4-H'ers and one for Cloverbuds.*
 - Cost is \$10 for each session and must be paid by **March 13** to the Extension office. Checks can be made out to Shelby County 4-H.

Session 1 – 9-10:30 a.m. 4-H members ages 8-18 as of 9/1/25

Register here: <https://go.illinois.edu/SpringCraftDay>

Session 2 – 10:45-12:15 p.m. Cloverbud members ages 8-18 as of 9/1/25.

Register here: <https://go.illinois.edu/CloverbudSpringCraftDay>

Multi County Livestock Clinic

Saturday, April 18

Ready to level up your livestock skills? Join us for a hands-on, fun, and educational workshop designed for 4-H members who want to learn more about selecting, feeding, grooming, and showing their animals. Shelby County 4-H is partnering with Lake Land College to bring a Multi-County Livestock Clinic to 4-H'ers.

Location: Show Arena, Shelby County 4-H & Junior Fairgrounds

Date: Saturday, April 18

Check-in: 8:30-8:55 a.m.

Time: 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Kickoff Session

- Hear from **Dylan Segrist from Kent Feed** about feed basics and how to help your animals grow and perform their best.

Hands-On Learning Rotations

You'll rotate through two interactive sessions focused on:

- Choosing the right show animal
- Grooming techniques
- Showmanship tips
- Real, hands-on practice with beef, goats, swine, and sheep

Livestock Skillathon

Test your knowledge with stations covering:

- Feed samples
- Breeds
- Equipment

Lunch & Prizes

- Lunch provided - Pizza
- Door prizes
- Awards for the Top 3 Skillathon winners in each age division (8–13 and 14–18)

Event Schedule

- **9:00–9:25** – Opening Speaker
- **9:30–10:10** – Rotation 1 (Beef/Goats)
- **10:15–10:55** – Rotation 2 (Swine/Sheep)
- **11:00–12:00** – Skillathon
- **12:00–12:30** – Lunch & Awards

Who Can Attend - All 4-H members ages **8–18** interested in livestock projects.

Sign up here: <https://go.illinois.edu/MultiCountyLivestockClinic>

Don't miss this chance to sharpen your skills, meet other 4-H'ers, and get ready for a great show season!

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

All 4-H members enrolled in beef, dairy cattle, goats, swine, and sheep are required to take the YQCA training. This training is required to be taken each year. In-person training is \$3 and On-line training is \$12. Shelby County 4-H is offering 4 in-person training sessions. The training is set up to be completed in approximately one hour. All training sessions will be held at the 4-H Center in Shelbyville. Don't wait to get signed up, class size is limited!

Families will need to register at the YQCA website, sign up for which training they would like to attend and pay the registration fee. **Youth will need to complete the Pre-Test before attending the training.** Youth will need to complete the Post-Test before printing the certificate.

Families must register online at YQCA at Link: yqcaprogram.org

- Tuesday, March 24 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 23 6:30-7:30 p.m..
- Thursday, May 21 7-8:00 p.m.

The deadline to complete the training to be able to exhibit at the Shelby County 4-H & Junior Fair is Monday, June 1! No exceptions to this rule. *If completing the training online, email Yolanda a copy of the certificate.* If you need assistance or a copy of the instructions, please contact Yolanda for help.

Quality Assurance & Ethics Certification

First-time animal exhibitors enrolled in alpacas, llamas, cats, dogs, horses, rabbits, and poultry are required to complete the Quality Assurance and Ethics Certification (QAEC). This rule applies to all 4-H members exhibiting live animals *and* poster exhibits in these project areas.

QAEC is a one-time training. Youth who have completed the certification in previous years do not need to retake it. All required members must complete QAEC by June 1. Members who do not complete the certification by the deadline will be removed from the project and will not be allowed to show at the fair.

The QAEC training can be accessed in the Clover Academy section of the ZSuite Enrollment System. ZSuite can be accessed at <https://4h.zsuite.org/>. Families can access directions for completing the course at <https://go.illinois.edu/TakeQAEC>.

Dog Obedience

Tuesday, April 7

Dog Obedience Classes will start on Tuesday, April 7 and run for 8 weeks with graduation at the end of the series. Practice will continue until the fair. Classes will run from 6:30-7:00 each Tuesday night.

Registration on April 7:

- Registration is open from 6-6:30 p.m. in the Fair Office.
- Parent/Adult needs to attend registration.
- Dogs should be at least 6 months old.
- Bring proof of rabies and distemper-parvo vaccinations.
- Training collar and lead \$15 paid at registration.

Who is eligible to attend:

- Youth must be 8 and have not reached their 19th birthday on or before 9/1/25.
- Shelby 4-H Club members enrolled in other clubs do not pay the program fee twice.
- Tailwaggers only members must pay the \$10 program fee.

Questions – Sandy Brix 217-774-4229

Classes are sponsored by Shelby County Tailwaggers 4-H Club

Shelby County 4-H BBQ

Saturday, May 30

Shelby Extension Foundation is excited to introduce a new menu and expanded meal options for this year's annual 4-H BBQ. With ticket sales steadily declining over the past several years, Foundation is refreshing the event by partnering with Griffin's BBQ Crew Catering to bring a high-quality meal and renewed energy to this important fundraiser. This year, attendees will be able to choose from three delicious entrée options:

- Brisket
- Bacon-Wrapped Pork Chop
- Pulled Pork

Each meal will include cheesy potatoes, green beans, a roll, dessert, and water, ensuring a hearty and satisfying dining experience for all.

Pre-Sale Tickets Only - All tickets will be pre-sale only, and leaders will receive tickets soon to begin distribution. Community support is essential to the success of this event, and Foundation appreciates everyone for promoting the BBQ.

“Grilling for Growth” proceeds from the BBQ play a vital role in helping Foundation continue its commitment to Shelby County 4-H youth. Each year, Shelby Extension Foundation supports every 4-H member by paying \$10 of the \$20 program fee. Your participation directly contributes to sustaining this investment in our youth and their development.

Foundation thanks you in advance for your support as we work together to keep “Grilling for Growth” and strengthen opportunities for all Shelby County 4-H'ers.

Horse and Pony Ownership and Lease Papers

Due Friday, May 1

Horse and pony lease and ownership papers are DUE in the Extension office by Friday, May 1. Two pictures (each side) of horse to be shown or as a back-up horse must accompany lease/ownership papers.

If you are planning to show at the State Fair as well as the Shelby County 4-H & Jr. Fair, TWO sets of pictures must be turned in. The correct lease and ownership papers are available at the Extension office or via email.

Upcoming dates to save

- April 25 - Cloverbud Fire-Up will be held at the 4-H Center from 9-11 a.m. Registration details will be sent later.

Contestants needed for Miss and Junior Miss Shelby County Pageants

Let your 4-H and agriculture background plant the seeds for your “crowning moment” this summer! The 2026 Shelby County Pageants will be held on Wednesday, July 8 at the historic and newly renovated Foxmore Event Center in Shelbyville and we are searching for contestants!

Applications are being accepted for both age groups and Shelby County 4-H members are encouraged to apply! Junior Miss contestants should be just completing their 7th, 8th, or 9th grade year of education in a Shelby County school or be a resident of Shelby County. The Junior Miss competition will include: personal introduction, interview with the judging panel, casual wear competition, formal wear competition, and responding to a pop word on stage.

Miss contestants should be between the ages of 16-21 and have or are attending a Shelby County school or be a resident of Shelby County. The Miss competition includes: one-minute speech, interview with the judging panel, swimsuit competition, evening gown competition, and responding to a question on stage. Our Miss Shelby County Queens represent Shelby County at the State Fair Queen Pageant in Springfield. Shelby County has been honored to have 4 queens finish as finalists!

Both the 2026 Junior Miss Shelby County and 2026 Miss Shelby County will receive prize packages and will participate in events at the Shelby County Fair and in other events throughout the county. For more information, please contact Pageant Director Sara Long at shelbycopageants@gmail.com or 217-821-7384.

State Events:

4-H Day with the Cardinals

The Cardinals will be taking on the Kansas City Royals at a 1:15 p.m. game on May 16, 2026. Don't miss out! We have a limited number of tickets, and they go quickly!

- **Tickets must be purchased online by April 13. Groups and families or county groups that wish to sit together must submit one order.**
- Payment by credit card only.
- Tickets are only \$28 each for this wonderful family outing and include:
 - a specially designed t-shirt featuring the 4-H Clover and the Cardinals emblem
 - an entry into a drawing for autographed baseballs and other great prizes. One 4-H member will be drawn to throw out the first pitch!
- During the registration process, only one group lead submits ticket information. Make sure to select the "Attendee" registration type, which applies the shipping cost of your tickets and t-shirts.
- **Timeline**
 - Tickets and t-shirts will be mailed on April 27.
 - Drawing winners will be notified after April 27.
 - Prizes will be mailed to winners after game.

EVENT CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY: All sales are final. No refunds will be granted. Pregame Activities - All members and their leader can take part in the parade around the ball field. That's right, you will get to walk around the field behind your county or club 4-H banner!

To order tickets go to: <https://extension.missouri.edu/programs/missouri-4-h/4-h-projects-opportunities/4-h-opportunities/4-h-day-with-the-cardinals>

Ticket/t-shirt questions – Rhonda Shafer, shaferr@missouri.edu

Parade/Prize questions – Tanner Adkins, tadkins@missouri.edu

Calendar:

March

- March 14-21 – 4-H Week
- 24 – YQCA 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., 4-H Center
- 30 – Spring Clean-up at the fairgrounds, 6 p.m.

April

- 1 – Federation meeting, 7 p.m., 4-H Center
- 7 – Tailwaggers Registration at Show Arena 6-6:30 p.m., Class 6:30-7 p.m. Classes will continue for 8 weeks with graduation and continue until the fair.
- 23 – YQCA 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., 4-H Center
- 25 – Save the date – Cloverbud Fire-Up, 9-11 a.m. at the 4-H Center

May

- 1 – Horse and Pony Ownership and Lease forms due to the Extension office
- 4 – Last day to add/drop projects in ZSuite
- 21 – YQCA 7-8 p.m., 4-H Center

- 25 – Office closed
- 30 – 4-H BBQ

June

- 1 – Fair Entries must be submitted in **Fair Entry**.
- 1 – Junior fair exhibitor cards and entries are due into the Extension office
- 1 – 4-H Scholarship applications are due into the Extension office
- 19 – Office closed

July

- 3 – Office closed
- 11 – Fair Clean-up
- 17 – Lawn Mower and Tractor Driving contest
- 18 – 4-H Foods, Photography (a.m.), 4-H misc. Visual Arts (p.m.) 4-H Center
- 18 – Horse Show 4 p.m.
- 19 – Move-in day, animals in place by 4 p.m.
- 19 – Sheep Show 5 p.m.
- 20-22 – Fair
- 23 Fair Clean-up

Aug

- 16 – General project day at the Il State Fair

Office Information:

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.