

# Shelby County 4-H April Newsletter



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## 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 you receive your 2026 Shelby County 4-H & Junior Fair Book. Project book requests should be sent to Yolanda by May 1. The last book order will be sent in early June so don't miss out! Let Yolanda know if you have any questions. Email: [nation2@illinois.edu](mailto:nation2@illinois.edu) or call: 217-774-9546

## May 1 – Deadline to add/drop projects in ZSuite

Log-in and check out what projects you are enrolled 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.



## April 1 – Fair Entry is open

4-H families should be receiving your 2026 Shelby County 4-H & Junior Fair Books from their leaders in April. Instructions for making your entries in Fair Entry should be followed when making your 2026 4-H fair entries.

**NOTE – Every 4-H'er and Cloverbud family will need to make entries in Fair Entry in order to exhibit at the 2026 Fair.** Families enroll in ZSuite, but make entries in Fair Entry. This is two separate programs. The deadline to make entries in Fair Entry is June 1. Families can log-in and add entries from April 1 thru June 1.

Online link for Fair Book: <https://go.illinois.edu/2026FairBook>

Online link for Fair Entry: <https://go.illinois.edu/2026FairEntry>

Contact Yolanda if you have any questions. Do not wait until the last minute and miss out!

## 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

**RSVP deadline:** *Monday, April 13*

**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>

## **Clay Workshop – 2-day workshop**

June 9 and June 23

Join us for a two-day Clay Workshop! 4-H members will learn three techniques: pinch, coil, and slab from workshop leader Kris McEuen.

- **Project area:** Visual Arts Clay
- **When:** Create Project – June 9, 1-3 p.m. & Glaze Project – June 23, 1-3 p.m.
- **Where:** 4-H Center, Shelby County Junior Fairgrounds, Shelbyville
- **Cost:** \$25, checks can be made out to Shelby County 4-H
- **RSVP** and pay fee by June 4.
- **Registration coming soon!**

## **Cloverbud Fire-Up**

Saturday, April 25

The 4-H Cloverbud Fire-Up Workshop will be held on Saturday, April 25 from 9-11 a.m. at the 4-H Center.

Members will have the opportunity to learn about a variety of 4-H projects with hands-on opportunities led by Shelby County 4-H Federation members. There is no cost to attend the workshop. Cloverbuds must RSVP by April 17.

**Register** at <https://go.illinois.edu/CloverbudFire-Up>

## Fair Entry Workshop

Wednesday, May 20

Need help understanding how to make your 4-H fair entries? This workshop is for you. Bring your fair book and your questions and get assistance as Yolanda walks families through the Fair Entry process. She will also discuss the differences between the 4-H and Junior Fair. Families are welcome to bring their own laptops and can make their entries at the workshop.

The workshop will start at 6:30 p.m. at the 4-H Center. RSVP via email by noon on May 20 so plenty of tables and chairs can be set up. This is a great opportunity to have your entries reviewed so changes can be made as necessary.

## 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.

Horse Ownership and Lease papers can be found on the website at:

<https://extension.illinois.edu/ccdms/4-h-shelby-county> - Under Fairs and Shows

## 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](http://yqcaprogram.org)**

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

**Yolanda has received a few free YQCA online coupon codes from the Illinois Pork**

**Producers Association. If you are doing the training online, contact Yolanda for a free code!**

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>.

## 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.

## **4-H Scholarships:**

Due June 1, 2026

Shelby County scholarship applications are due in the Extension office by June 1.

Scholarship information and applications are available on the Shelby County website. Please note eligibility requirements. 4-H’ers may only win the Foundation and 4-H Federation scholarships twice. Forms can be emailed or dropped off at the Extension office. If you need assistance, please contact Yolanda.

Link to scholarship application: <https://go.illinois.edu/2026ScholarshipApplication>

## **4-H Camp Scholarship Opportunities**

There are two scholarship opportunities for Shelby County 4-H members who are planning to attend 4-H Camp this summer. Shelby County 4-H Federation offers up to a \$50 scholarship. 4-H members must complete the Federation scholarship form located on the website <https://go.illinois.edu/FederationScholarshipApp>

Shelby Extension Foundation offers 4-H’ers up to a \$50 scholarship. Members should write a short essay (4-5 sentences) about why they would like to attend 4-H Camp or may create a poster about why they are looking forward to going to 4-H Camp. Scholarships will be reimbursed after the 4-H member has attended camp. Essays, posters and scholarship forms are due into the Extension office by June 1. Questions - contact Yolanda.

## **County Requirements to exhibit at the 2026 Fair**

The following three requirements must be met by Cloverbuds and 4-H members to be eligible to exhibit at the 2026 Shelby County 4-H Fair.

- Attend 3 club meetings (college students must attend 2 meetings)
- Give a talk or demonstration at your own 4-H Club meeting
- Participate in a county activity.
  - October – Fall Bash, Fall Round-Up, 4-H Scarecrow Daze parade

- November – Achievement Night, Community Service Workshop
- December – Winter Craft Day, Greenery Workshops
- January – Canvas Workshop, Officer Training
- February – Public Speaking Workshop
- March – 4-H Week activities – 4-H Fire-Up, Skating party, International Night, 4-H Club Community Service project, Spring Craft Day, Spring Clean-up
- April – Tree planting with the Army Corps of Engineers, Multi-County Livestock Clinic
- June – summer workshops

## **Lego Building Results**

Cloverbud division:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Bryar Shewmaker

8-9 Division:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Titus Anderson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Mela Miller
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Tailynn Slifer

10-13 Division:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Zeke Anderson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Evan Miller
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Naomi Anderson

## **4-H Week Window Display Results**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Coldspring Copperheads
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Silver Spurs
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Moweaqua Rustlers
- Honorable Mention – FAR
- Fan Favorite Facebook Contest – Coldspring Copperheads

## **Calendar:**

### **April**

- 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.