

Shelby County 4-H May Newsletter



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Out of the office

I will be out of the office on Friday, May 8 and will return on Monday, May 18. I will not be available to answer emails or text messages. I will catch up with everyone on my return. Thanks! Yolanda

Project Manuals

4-H members must email Yolanda or call the Shelby County Extension Office to order project manuals. 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. **The LAST book order is June 10.** Don't miss out and get your orders in early! Let Yolanda know if you have any questions. Email: nation2@illinois.edu or call: 217-774-9546

Fair Entry is open

4-H families should have received the 2026 Shelby County 4-H & Junior Fair Books from their leaders in April. If you haven't received the fair book, contact your club leader. 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. These are two separate programs! The deadline to make entries in Fair Entry is June 1. Families can log-in and add entries from April 1 through June 1.

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

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

Fair Entry Workshop

Tuesday, May 26 (date has changed)

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 Fair and the 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 26** 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.

Clover Camp

Monday, June 15

Cloverbuds – it's time for Clover Camp! Federation is planning a fun minicamp for Shelby County Cloverbuds on Monday, June 15. Camp will be held from 9:30-1:30 p.m. at Forest Park – the pavilion east of the Senior Center – Pavilion 1.

Clover Camp is designed especially for Cloverbuds and will include a variety of engaging activities such as crafts, a scavenger hunt, and time to connect with 4-H friends. The cost to attend is \$20 per camper, which covers a camp t-shirt, lunch, and all program supplies.

Registration is required, and space is limited to 15 campers. The deadline to register and submit payment is June 4. Families are encouraged to sign up early, as spots are expected to fill quickly. Clover Camp offers Cloverbuds a unique opportunity to experience a day of learning, creativity, and fun in a supportive 4-H environment.

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

The Clover Chase

Saturday, June 13

Gather your 4-H friends and form a team of 3–4 members. Each team must have a driver (18 years of age or older, 4-H age), as The Clover Chase will take you around the Shelbyville area completing challenges and collecting coins. Sign-up as a team, or as an individual, and we can help find a team for you.

Event Details

- Location: Shelby County 4-H Center & Fairgrounds
- Check-in: 3:30–4:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center
- Kick-off: 4:00 p.m.
- First clue: At the fairgrounds
- Register your team here: <https://go.illinois.edu/TheCloverChase>

Once your team finds the first clue, you'll head to your assigned location, complete the challenge, collect coins, and receive your next set of clues. There are six challenges total, so teamwork and problem-solving will be key! Prizes will be awarded!

Finish Line Fun - After completing all six challenges, teams will meet at Forest Park – North Pavilion for a wiener roast featuring: Hot dogs, Chips, S'mores, Cookies
Dinner is planned for around 6:30 p.m. This is considered a county activity.

Cloverbuds - We haven't forgotten you!

Cloverbuds are invited to:

- Meet at the North Pavilion around 5:45 p.m.
- Head out on the Dacey Trail for a scavenger hunt.
- Join everyone for the cookout at 6:30 p.m.
- Register here: <https://go.illinois.edu/CloverbudScavengerHuntandCookout>

Get ready for an evening full of fun, teamwork, and adventure—we can't wait to see you at The Clover Chase!

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. 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.** The deadline to complete the training to be able to exhibit at the Shelby County 4-H & Junior Fair is Monday, June 1!

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

Thursday, May 21 7-8:00 p.m.

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. 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>.

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.

4-H Club Auction Donation

The Shelby County 4-H & Junior Fair Board is asking clubs to donate a basket of goodies, pies, themed baskets, etc. to auction during the Youth Livestock Auction on July 22.

The goal of this effort is to encourage participation from multiple clubs to help raise additional funds that will be used for improvements to the Shelby County Junior Fairgrounds. Funds raised through the basket auction will directly support projects that enhance the fairgrounds for youth exhibitors, families, and the community.

Clubs interested in participating are asked to notify Yolanda at nation2@illinois.edu of the type of basket they plan to donate by July 10, to assist with planning and organization for the auction. The Shelby County 4-H & Junior Fair Board appreciates the continued support of local 4-H clubs and their role in making positive improvements to the fairgrounds.

4-H Pop Stand

Sunday—July 19

3:00 to 5:00 - Coldspring Copperheads

5:00 to 8:00 - Moweaqua Rustlers

Monday—July 20

8:00 to 9:00 - Federation

9:00 to 11:00 - John Jordan Jaybirds

11:00 to 1:00 - F.A.R.

1:00 to 3:00 - Moweaqua Rustlers

3:00 to 5:30 - Rural Feeders

5:30 to 8:30 - Strasburg Tailtwisters

Tuesday—July 21

8:00 to 9:00 - Federation

9:00 to 11:00 - Ful-O-Pep

11:00 to 1:00 - Oconee Eager Beavers

1:00 to 3:00 - Strasburg Tailtwisters

3:00 to 5:30 - Coldspring Copperheads

5:30 to 8:30 - Shelby Showstoppers

Wednesday—July 22

8:00 to 9:00 - Federation

9:00 to 11:00 - Findlay Feeders

11:00 to 1:00 - Rural Feeders

1:00 to 3:30 - Ful-O-Pep

3:30 to 6:00 - Silver Spurs

6:00 to 8:30 - Shelby Sparklers

Building Sitters

4-H Clubs need to provide at least one older 4-H member or parent to stay in the designated building and work the time listed below. This is for the protection of 4-H exhibits and make sure projects do not leave early. Please contact Yolanda if you have any questions.

4-H Center

Monday—July 20

3:30 to 6:00 - Moweaqua Rustlers

6:00 to 8:30 - F.A.R

Tuesday—July 21

4:00 to 6:00 - Coldspring Copperheads

6:00 to 8:30 - Strasburg Taitwisters

Wednesday—July 22

3:00 to 5:00 - Silver Spurs

5:00 to 6:30 - Shelby Sparklers

6:30 to 8:00 – Coldspring Copperheads

Produce Building

Monday—July 20

3:00 to 5:00 - Findlay Feeders

5:00 to 6:30 - F.A.R.

6:30 to 8:30 - Ful-O-Pep

Tuesday—July 21

3:00 to 5:00 - Ful-O-Pep

5:00 to 6:30 - Strasburg Taitwisters

6:30 to 8:30 - Moweaqua Rustlers

Wednesday—July 22

10:30 to 12:00 - Shelby Sparklers

12:00 to 2:00 - John Jordan Jaybirds

2:00 to 4:00 - Oconee Eager Beavers

4:00 to 6:00 - Shelby Showstoppers

6:00 to 8:00 - Rural Feeders

Summer workshops

Don't miss out on fun in the summer at 4-H workshops. A separate email with the available summer workshops was sent to families with the details last week. Contact Yolanda if you need more information.

Cook Shack

This year the Cook Shack will be open during the 2026 Shelby County 4-H & Junior Fair. On the menu is hot dogs, burgers, taco boats, chips, pulled pork, and homemade pies. Each evening an organization will be serving a meal from 5-8 p.m.

If you would like to donate a fruit pie, cookies, cake or volunteer to work, let Sherry Beals know at 217-460-2083. All profits will go back to the Shelby County 4-H Fair. Thank you for your support.

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
 - May/June – Lawn Mower & Tractor Workshops
 - June – The Clover Chase, summer workshops

Calendar:

May

- 1 – Horse and Pony Ownership and Lease forms due to the Extension office
- 1 – Last day to add/drop projects in ZSuite
- 21 – YQCA 7-8 p.m., 4-H Center
- 25 – Office closed
- 28 – Birkey’s Lawn Mower & Tractor Workshop, 6 p.m.
- 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
- 2 – Sloan Implement (Shelbyville) Lawn Mower & Tractor Workshop, 6 p.m.
- 8 – Card/Scrapbook Workshop, 1-3, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Shelbyville
- 9 - Clay Workshop – design 1-3 p.m., 4-H Center
- 11 - Cloverbud Rocket Workshop – 9-12 p.m., 4-H Center
- 13 – The Clover Chase – check-in at 4-H Center 3:30-4, 4:00 kick-of, 6:30 cookout Forest Park
- 13 – Cloverbud Scavenger Hunt – 5:45 Scavenger Hunt, 6:30 cookout Forest Park
- 15 – Clover Camp – 9:30-1:30 Forest Park
- 17 – Cookie and Cupcake Decorating – 1-3, 4-H Center
- 18 – Rocket Workshop – 9-12 p.m., 4-H Center
- 18 -Barker Implement Lawn Mower & Tractor Driving– 6 p.m.
- 19 – Office closed
- 23 – Clay – glaze project, 1-3 p.m., 4-H Center
- 25 – Legobotics Workshop 9-12 p.m., 4-H Center

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.