

Shelby County 4-H July Newsletter



In this edition:

- Welcome – Lisa Mott
- 2025 4-H Fair Premium Checks
- Fair Clean-up
- Judges and Project assistants needed
- 1st year member
- Cloverbud Exhibitors
- Thank you cards
- Winner photos at the fair
- Radio Interviews
- Health Papers
- Pool party
- State Fair – Livestock and General Projects
- Master Showmanship
- Junior Master Showmanship
- Club Auction baskets
- Pop Stand Schedule
- Building Sitter Schedule
- Cook Shack
- 4-H Calendar

Welcome summer helper – Lisa Mott

A familiar face has been part of the Shelby County Extension Office team since mid-May, lending a helping hand with summer programming and fair preparations. Please join us in welcoming Lisa! She has been doing an outstanding job coordinating with judges for the General Projects Shows while also assisting with getting everything organized and ready for the fair. Her efforts have been a valuable part of making this busy season run smoothly. If you have questions during the fair, be sure to reach out to Lisa—she'll be happy to assist!

2025 4-H Fair Premium Checks

4-H members who exhibited at the 2025 4-H Fair may now pick up their premium checks at the Shelby County Extension Office. Emails were sent to families with checks available, in case you are unsure if you have one to receive.



Checks can be picked up Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM–12:00 PM and 1:00–4:30 PM. Please note that the Extension Office will be closed on July 3 in observance of the Independence Day holiday. If a parent or guardian would like to designate someone else to pick up a check, please complete the form linked in the email by July 31. When arriving at the office, individuals will be required to sign their name and provide a valid form of identification.

If you are unable to pick up your check during the designated times, please contact the Extension Office at 217-774-9546 by July 31 to make alternative arrangements.

Please remember: Premium checks are only valid for 60 days from the date issued, so be sure to cash them as soon as possible.

Link for email form <https://go.illinois.edu/2025premium>

Shelby County 4-H & Junior Fair Clean-up

Fairground clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, July 11 beginning at 8 a.m.

Please bring necessary working tools (rakes, hammers, gloves, cleaning supplies, etc.).

- 4-H Center clean-up will start at 8 a.m.
- Produce Building clean-up will start at 8:30 a.m. to give the Poultry/Rabbit exhibitors time to move the cages from the building.

This is everyone's fair and we need everyone there to help!

Project and Judges Assistants needed

Older 4-H members and parents are invited to lend a helping hand during the fair! We are currently looking for project assistants to support activities in several areas.

4-H Center Assistance Needed:

- July 18 – Morning or Afternoon
- July 21 – Afternoon

Produce Building Assistance Needed:

- July 20 – Morning
- July 22 – Morning

Volunteer responsibilities include helping tabulate score sheets, calling 4-H'ers for judging, and providing general support to building superintendents and project judges. If you are available to help, please contact Yolanda at nation2@illinois.edu by Thursday, July 16. Your time and support help make the fair a success—we appreciate your willingness to serve!

1st year 4-H members

1st year 4-H members should check in at the 4-H Center or Fair Office to receive their 1st year member exhibitor pin and 4-H bucket. We want to welcome you to the Shelby County 4-H & Junior Fair!

Cloverbud Exhibitors

We are excited to welcome our Cloverbud exhibitors to the fair and can't wait to see your projects on display! When checking in to receive your 4-H project tags, be sure to ask for your Cloverbud button to wear while you're at the fair.

Thank you cards

Exhibitors who receive a trophy, banner, or special award at the fair, should remember to send thank you cards as soon as the fair is over. Without our sponsors, we won't be able to continue to provide the many awards and opportunities for everyone. Addresses will be on the bottom of trophies and the backs of the banners or attached to the awards.

The Thank You Stand will be open on Tuesday and Wednesday from 1-4 p.m., near the Gillett Pavilion. Stop by and create a thank you card for awards and general donation sponsors. A big thank you to Marie Gillett for sponsoring the Thank You Stand! Marie provides materials and prizes for those who stop by and write a thank you card.

Winner's photos during the fair

Exhibitors who receive a trophy, banner, or special award at the fair, are welcome to meet at 3 p.m. daily in front of the flower bed by the Show Arena to have your photo taken. Animals and projects are encouraged to be included in the photo. If you are unable to move your project from the 4-H Center, let Yolanda know so we can meet to have your photo taken.

Radio Interview opportunities

Who wants to talk on the radio and share their fair experience? If you said yes, then check out this fun opportunity. The radio station is looking for 4-H'ers to talk about their fair experience July 20-22 from 4-6 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall. Contact Brittany Reynolds at 217-259-1544 to sign-up.

Health Papers

Health papers will be checked by the vet on Sunday, July 19 starting at 3:30 in the Sheep Barn and working her way around the fairgrounds. Exhibitors should be with their animals with their health papers. Check your fair book on pages 11-15 to determine if you need health papers for your project.

4-H Pool Party

Shelby County 4-H Federation will be hosting the annual swim party at the Shelbyville Aquatic Center on Saturday, July 25 from 6:15 – 8:15 p.m. This is a private party for 4-H families, so bring your friends and family and pack the pool.

State Fair Livestock Projects

Livestock exhibitors wanting to show at the IL State Fair can make online entries at <https://statefair.illinois.gov/competitions/competitive-events/livestock-events.html> Entries must be submitted by on July 15.

State Fair General Projects

4-H general projects **MUST** qualify at the Shelby County 4-H Fair to exhibit at the IL State Fair. Those who qualify will need to complete paperwork at the fair and turn in by Wednesday, July 22. 4-H members may only take one project to the State Fair.

If you are a multiple State Fair winner, please note on the form which project you would like to take so that alternate exhibitors may be contacted.

Shelby County 4-H day at the State Fair is Saturday, August 16.

- Exhibitors 12 and under get in free at the State Fair.
- Exhibitors 13-18 years of age will receive a free ticket.
- Adults 18-59 can purchase discounted tickets for \$5.

Master Showmanship Contest – 2 openings available

To be eligible to participate:

1. Exhibitors who are enrolled in the 4-H beef, sheep, or swine projects are eligible to participate in the Master Showmanship contest. Exhibitors do not need to qualify to participate.
2. Exhibitors will need to pre-register with the provided link by July 13. There will be a maximum of 10 exhibitors. If more than 10 exhibitors sign up, additional exhibitors will be placed on a waiting list.

Rules:

1. Exhibitor must exhibit at least one of the following species: beef, sheep, or swine at the Shelby County 4-H Fair.
2. Must be at least 14 years of age as of 9/1/25.
3. It's your responsibility to find your own animals to compete in the county contest if you are not enrolled in that species. For example, if you are a beef exhibitor but do not have sheep or swine, you must use your own beef and find a sheep and swine to borrow for the contest.
4. A special judge will be used for the Master Showmanship contest.

Awards: Prizes will be awarded, as well as a Grand Champion Master Showmanship trophy. The Grand Champion will be eligible to compete in the Master Showmanship Contest at the IL State Fair on August 14.

Click here to sign up: <https://go.illinois.edu/MasterShowmanshipContest>

Junior Master Showmanship Contest – 6 openings available

To be eligible to participate:

1. Exhibitors who are enrolled in the 4-H beef, sheep, or swine projects are eligible to participate in the Junior Master Showmanship contest. Exhibitors do not need to qualify to participate.
2. Exhibitors will need to pre-register with the provided link by July 13. There will be a maximum of 18 exhibitors, split into three classes broken by age. If more than 18 exhibitors sign up, additional exhibitors will be placed on a waiting list.

Rules:

1. Must be at least 8-13 years of age as of 9/1/25.
2. Junior exhibitors will exhibit only swine. If not enrolled in swine, the youth must find their own animal to exhibit.

Awards: The top two exhibitors in each class will be recognized with a special award.

Signup here: <https://go.illinois.edu/JuniorMasterShowmanshipContest>

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.

Confirmed clubs: Coldspring Copperheads (4-H theme), Coldspring Copperheads Cloverbuds (2 pies), Moweaqua Rustlers (BBQ theme), Oconee Eager Beavers (Red Velvet cake), Shelby Showstoppers (pie), and Silver Spurs (TSC Tool Bucket).

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**. 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

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.

Calendar:

July

- 3 – Office closed
- 11 – Fair Clean-up
- 17 – Lawn Mower and Tractor Driving contest
- 18 – 4-H Foods, 4-H 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 – **ALL EXHIBITORS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND!**
- 25 – Pool Party 6:15-8:15 p.m.

Aug

- 16 – General project day at the Il State Fair

Sept

- 7 – Office closed
- 14 – Secretary & Treasurer books, Year-end records due

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.