

Shelby County 4-H August Newsletter



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Don't Forget to Send thank you's!

Many of the awards presented at the fair are made possible through the generosity of local businesses, organizations, and individuals who support youth and agricultural programs. **If you received a trophy, banner, monetary award, Clean Barn Award, or Outstanding Exhibitor Chair, please take a few minutes to send a thank-you note to your donor.**

Donor addresses can be found:

- Trophies - on the bottom of trophies
- Banners - on the back of banners – if label is missing, reach out to Yolanda for the sponsor's name and address
- Clean Barn and Outstanding Chairs - in the letters included with Clean Barn Awards and Outstanding Exhibitor Chairs
- Scholarships – in the letters presented at the awards ceremony

A handwritten thank-you note is a simple but meaningful way to show your appreciation for their support and recognition of your hard work. Your message lets donors know that their contributions make a difference and helps encourage continued support of our fair and youth programs.

Thank you for taking the time to recognize the individuals and businesses that invest in our exhibitors and help make the fair experience special each year!



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Rope Sausage & Pork Tenderloin Sandwich Sale

Shelby Extension Foundation invites community members to support local youth at its upcoming Rope Sausage and Pork Tenderloin Sandwich Sale on Saturday, September 12, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., or until sold out, at the Shelbyville VFW.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will directly benefit Shelby County 4-H, helping cover program fees, support educational workshops and learning opportunities, and provide scholarships for local 4-H members. Funds raised through events like this help ensure that youth can continue to participate in leadership development, hands-on learning experiences, and educational programming throughout the county.

The event is being hosted by the Shelbyville Possum Lodge, whose partnership and support help make this fundraiser possible. Every purchase supports local 4-H programs and creates opportunities for young people to learn, grow, and succeed.

The Shelby Extension Foundation appreciates the continued support of the community and looks forward to another successful fundraiser benefiting Shelby County 4-H.

Project Show and Tell with the Villas of Holly Brook

Love sharing with others? If you said yes, then plan to bring your 4-H projects and share it with the residents of The Villas of Holly Brook, Shelbyville on September 16 at 6:30 p.m.

The Villas residents had so much fun meeting our 4-H members and their animals in August that we are doing it again this month, this time showcasing 4-H projects! Bring any of your general project exhibits that you would like to share and talk about with the residents. This activity will count as a community service project for your year-end awards and recognition. Please **RSVP by September 14** by emailing nation2@illinois.edu.

We hope you will join us for an evening of sharing your talents, building connections, and representing Shelby County 4-H!

Year-end Records

As the 4-H year ends, members are encouraged to submit their year-end records for recognition and consideration for awards by September 14. Completing year-end records provides an opportunity for members to reflect on their accomplishments, document project learning experiences, and showcase their growth in leadership, citizenship, and personal development throughout the year.

Members who submit completed records are eligible for a variety of year-end awards and recognition opportunities. Record-keeping is an important life skill that helps youth develop organization, goal setting, and communication skills while creating a lasting record of their 4-H experiences.

Records can be found on the website, picked up at the Extension office, or from your club leader. All records need to be signed and returned to the Extension office by **September 14** to be eligible for awards.

Link for Activity Form: <https://go.illinois.edu/Year-endActivity2025-2026>

Link for Checklist: <https://extension.illinois.edu/media/9881/download?inline>

Cloverbud Year-end Tracking Forms

Cloverbud members should have received the Cloverbud Year-end Tracking form from their club leaders. Forms should be completed, signed by the Cloverbud members, parent and leader and submit the form by August 31 to be eligible for year-end awards.

Link to tracking form: <https://extension.illinois.edu/media/7359/download?inline>

Cloverbud Achievement Night will be held on Saturday, September 26 at 7 p.m. RSVP information for those receiving awards will be sent to families in early September.

Lake Land Simulator Workshop Opportunities

Explore STEM and skilled trades through hands-on activities! Test your skills with a CDL driving or forklift simulator, tackle interactive STEM stations, and discover exciting career pathways in transportation, logistics, and skilled trades. No experience is required. Open to youth ages 10-18. Kids will literally "get in the drivers seat" (in a safe and controlled setting) to get a taste of what it's like to drive a semi and a forklift. While waiting their turn to "drive" there will be interactive STEM stations set up for kids to explore.

This is free but sign up is required!

- To register for the Sept. 12 workshop, visit go.illinois.edu/SimulatorsSept12
- To register for the Sept. 19 workshop, visit go.illinois.edu/SimulatorsSept19

Presented in partnership with Lake Land College.

Shelby County 4-H Federation Kicks Off New Year

Are you ready to take your 4-H experience to the next level? Shelby County 4-H Federation is now welcoming members for the new 4-H year! Federation members must be 14 as of 9/1/26. Junior members can be in 6th or 7th grade.

Federation provides youth with opportunities to develop leadership, public speaking, teamwork, and organizational skills while helping plan countywide activities and events.

Members work together to make a positive impact in their clubs, communities, and the overall 4-H program. Meetings are held monthly, typically on the first Wednesday of each

month. The first meeting of the new 4-H year is scheduled for September 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center.

Members interested in attending are asked to **RSVP by September 1** so that enough copies and supplies can be prepared for everyone. Whether you're a returning member or interested in Federation for the first time, we encourage you to join us for a year filled with leadership, service, friendship, and fun. We look forward to seeing you on September 2!

Become a 4-H Teen Teacher

Do you enjoy working with youth and want to build your leadership and teaching skills? Consider becoming a 4-H Teen Teacher!

The Teen Teacher program consists of six training sessions covering a variety of topics designed to help youth become confident and effective leaders. Participants will learn more about the 4-H program, explore teaching techniques for different age groups, develop lesson plans, and gain hands-on experience while having fun with fellow 4-H members. 4-H'ers do not need to be a member of Shelby County 4-H Federation to participate in this program. Teen Teachers are open to youth ages 14 -18 as of 9/1/26. Youth interested in participating should **RSVP by September 11** to nation2@illinois.edu.

Once interest has been determined, training dates and times will be scheduled. Sessions may be held monthly or once a week for six consecutive weeks, depending on participant availability. Upon successful completion of the training, participants will receive training materials and be rewarded with a special trip and meal.

Join us and discover how you can make a difference as a 4-H Teen Teacher!

Share your "Why I am 4-H" Story this September

As we begin a new 4-H year, let's show our community what makes 4-H so special! Throughout the month of September, we are inviting Cloverbuds and 4-H members to participate in our "Why 4-H?" Facebook Campaign.

Since there are 30 days in September, our goal is to share a different member's 4-H story each day. We want to hear why you enjoy being a part of 4-H and what keeps you coming back year after year.

To participate, send Yolanda a photo along with a few sentences about your 4-H experience. You might share:

- Your favorite 4-H project
- A memorable activity or event
- Skills you have learned through 4-H
- Friendships you've made
- Why you would encourage others to join 4-H

These stories will be featured on our Facebook page throughout September as we promote the many opportunities available through 4-H. By sharing your experiences, you'll help showcase the benefits of 4-H and encourage new youth to join for the 2026-2027 4-H year.

Start sending those stories now through September 25 to nation2@illinois.edu! We can't wait to hear your story and celebrate all the great things 4-H has to offer!

4-H Enrollment in ZSuites

Enrollment for the new 4-H year is tentatively scheduled to open in early October through the ZSuite enrollment system. Families are encouraged to watch upcoming newsletters and the Shelby County IL 4-H Facebook page for the latest enrollment updates and instructions. Please do not attempt to enroll during September, as the system will be temporarily closed for annual updates and preparation for the new 4-H year.

Remember, all youth must be enrolled before participating in county 4-H events and activities. We encourage families to complete enrollment once the system opens to ensure members can take advantage of all the opportunities 4-H has to offer throughout the year. Additional enrollment information, including program fee details and payment options, will be shared as soon as enrollment officially opens.

Scarecrow Daze Parade – Save the date

Shelby County 4-H Federation is excited to participate in the Scarecrow Daze Parade on October 10 in Shelbyville and would love to have 4-H members join the fun! Federation members will be riding in the parade and handing out candy and 4-H informational pamphlets to help promote Shelby County 4-H throughout the community.

This is a great opportunity to show your 4-H pride while helping recruit future members and celebrating all that 4-H has to offer. If you would like to participate, please email Yolanda at nation2@illinois.edu by October 9 so we have an estimate of how many youth will be joining us. If you forget to call but are still able to attend, you're welcome to come and participate.

Parents should drop off 4-H members at the Lions Club parking lot in front of Forest Park. Kids can be picked up at Main Street School following the parade. Participants will then walk to the Federation float before the parade begins.

All participants are encouraged to wear a 4-H t-shirt to help showcase Shelby County 4-H and demonstrate their 4-H spirit. We hope to see lots of members join us for an evening of community pride, 4-H promotion, and parade fun!

Sept

- 7 – Office closed
- 12 – Rope Sausage & Pork Tenderloin Sandwich Sale
- 12 – Lake Land Simulator Workshop
- 14 – Secretary & Treasurer books, Year-end records due
- 16 – 6:30 p.m. Show and Tell at the Villas of Holly Brook, Shelbyville
- 19 – Lake Land Simulator Workshop
- 26 – 7:00 p.m. Cloverbud Achievement Night

Oct

- 10 – 9:30 a.m. Scarecrow Daze Parade

Staff:

County Director: Jessie Streit

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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.