



Bimonthly Newsletter

SC4-H NEWS



August – September 2025

FROM THE EDUCATOR

I can't believe how quickly the past 6 months have gone. Thank you for helping make my first Shelby County Fair go so well! I loved every minute of talking to the members and families at project judging events, the animal shows, and all the moments in between. It was my privilege to cheer you on and watch you shine! And of course, it cannot go unsaid – we have some amazing staff and volunteers! Thank you to our summer staff (Teresa Collier, Jessica Collier, Heidi Stickford and Jessika Thomas) and all the volunteers who made sure that 4-H activities at the fair went so smoothly.

The past few months have been a whirlwind. We went straight from an awesome 4-H Camp (my first time!) at the end of May with some amazing campers, counselors and chaperones....to a busy pre-fair week with several project judging events.....to a fairly mild weather week during the fair seeing the outcome of everyone's hard work.....to a fun Mini 4-H Camp.....to now prepping for the State Fair. I hope you have taken the time to recover from the festivities and to set new goals for the upcoming 4-H year. I know that I have a list of goals and hopes for the future success of our program. If you do have suggestions or ideas to help improve Shelby County 4-H, please make sure to submit those on the Google Form (linked on our social media) and attend our upcoming Program Evaluation Meeting on August 20th in the Brinson Building at 6:30pm. This meeting will look different than you've experienced in the past, so be prepared for an interactive meeting with engaging break-out groups.

I know most of our student population is probably not excited that summer is over, and everyone is headed back to school, but I am excited about the school year. I hope to see many of you during the year in class visits or other activities where 4-H joins the schools. I have been busy working with the superintendents and principals to plan my visits. Last but certainly not least, I'd like to give a shout out to our phenomenal Junior Leaders! This group keeps me (and my co-leader, Tatem Hodge) laughing, works hard, dreams big and shows up whenever I ask for help. We had a fun day recently to celebrate all their achievements with a trip to Rascal's Fun Zone. If you're in 7th-12th grades, I hope you'll consider joining us this fall as a Junior Leader. I'm excited to see all they accomplish in the future.

This year you'll be hearing about 4-H being #BeyondReady. I am certain that Shelby County 4-H is #BeyondReady to take on the challenges of growth, service, leadership and intentionality. Thank you for giving your time, talents and passion to this special organization!



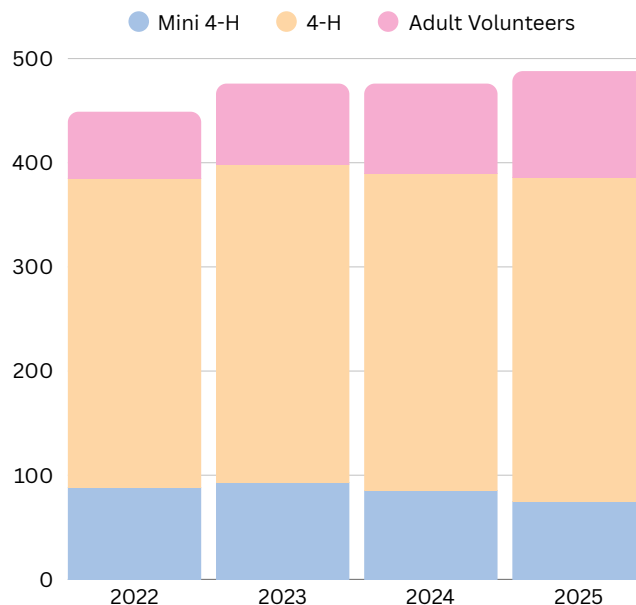
Erin

FAIR RECAP

- To see all results for classes and placing from the 2025 Fair, please use this link (<https://bit.ly/Fairresults>)
- Be sure to give your feedback from Fair on the program evaluation! <https://bit.ly/4e2Empo>
- Below, you can find a graph displaying 4-H enrollments over the past four years. We are on the uphill climb! The best way to grow our program is by telling others your experience!

4-H ADVISORY COUNCIL

- 4-H Advisory Council Election Results- The newly elected members of the Shelby County 4-H Advisory Council are Whitney Carson-Mahin and William Bell. The newly re-elected members are Hayley Clark, Trey Davidson, and Katie Fix. The new term will begin at the conclusion of the November 2025 meeting at which time the new council will elect officers for 2026. Thank you to all who agreed to run as candidates for this election. Your willingness to serve is greatly appreciated!



THANK YOU!

- A big THANKS! to Shelby County Farm Bureau, Waldron Baptist Church, Shelby County 4-H Advisory Council and Shelby County Ag Promotion who helped sponsor the meal and snow cones at our Sunday evening Family Fun Night at the fair this year! The open house was well attended and a great success!



JUNIOR LEADERS

- Shelby County Junior Leaders will hold a callout meeting for both current and prospective members on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Join us for an enjoyable evening featuring swimming, pizza, drinks, and a brief business segment! Please RSVP for this event using the provided link. Once your RSVP is submitted, you will receive the exact address for the meeting.
- <https://JLpoolparty.4honline.com>



MEMBERS DOING GREAT THINGS

- 4-H Youth Educator, Erin Padgett sent out an email to our volunteers at the beginning of April explaining a new system to recognize the hard work and good things the youth in our program are doing (inside and outside of 4-H). Erin has created a google [form](#) for parents, leaders, teachers, and volunteers to submit the great things that the Shelby County 4-H members are accomplishing! Information submitted will be used by 4-H Youth Educator, Erin Padgett, to praise and encourage members for their hard work, service, etc.



4-H FOR NEXT YEAR

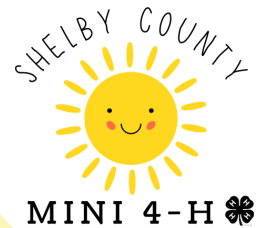
- 4-H Enrollment for the 2025-2026 program year will begin October 1st!
- Please remember to use your same login information as in prior years! Please do not make a new account as this will slow down the approval process.
- As always, our 4-H staff are happy to assist with enrollment questions or issues. Please reach out to Natalie, Erin and Cindy with any questions you have!
- All members, Mini 4-H members, and adult volunteers must re-enroll for each program year.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

- This form is to reflect the 4-H program during the 2024-2025 program year (October 2024-August 2025).
- Please submit or present a plan of action to implement your suggestion. The 4-H Program Evaluation Meeting will be held on August 20, 2025. The 4-H Program Evaluation Meeting is a time where you (4-H members, parents, leaders, etc.) can attend, voice your concern or idea and propose a plan moving forward. ALL suggestions submitted will be given to the appropriate committee/ board for consideration. Attendees will be expected to engage in conversation and break-outs during the meeting.
- Complete the form here: <https://forms.gle/MmaAhS8MCBwxCeeQA>

MINI 4-H

- Mini 4-H enrollments for 2025-2026 will start on October 1, 2025 at v2.4honline.com. You must re-enroll each year. The 2025-2026 Mini 4-H enrollment fee is \$5 per child. This fee includes access to Mini 4-H manuals and workshops. Please enroll under the same profile you used last year. Duplicate profiles must be deleted and will result in enrollment delays.
- All workshops will be held at the Family Arts Building at the Shelby County Fairgrounds (500 Frank St. Shelbyville, IN 46176) beginning at 6:00 PM.
- Mini 4-H Camp was a blast! Campers swam their way through fun activities, science experiments and project exploration in an Under the Sea theme. Thank you to our outstanding counselors: Jackson Bentz, AJ Bridges, Hannah Bridges, Farah Coen, Mariah Davidson, Deacon DeWitt, Grady Fiesbeck, Ollyvea Fiesbeck, Pipar Hodge, Kendra Loller, Kenley Morgan, Katelyn Morrow, Emmersyn Raley, Ashlyn Ramsey, Rose Tormoehlen and Ella Weaver!



CONGRATULATIONS!

- We are proud to recognize each of our ten year 4-H members! Our office has enjoyed watching this group grow from 3rd graders into fine young men and women. We wish all of them a fantastic future!

- Jacob Hawk
- Samantha Smith
- Aurora Belton
- Shelby Higdon
- Libby Weinanz
- Brooklyn Blankenship
- Morgan Justus
- Charlie Graham
- Terra Decker
- Brock Kelley
- Lillian Dove
- Parker Douglas

- Shelby County Royal Showmanship Competition– Hannah Bridges is our 2025 Royal Showmanship Champion! We are incredibly proud of all Royal Showmanship contestants.

- Carter Fogle
- Lillian Dove
- Deacon DeWitt
- Maryn Sprinkle
- Abigail Bridges
- Hannah Bridges

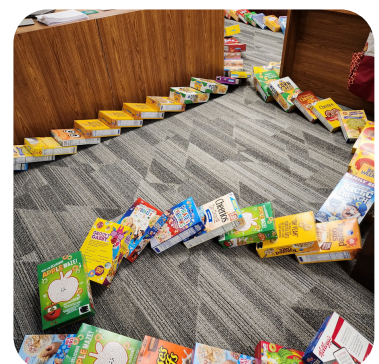
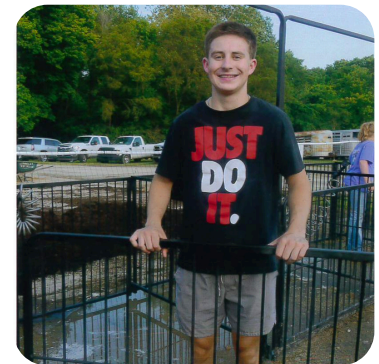
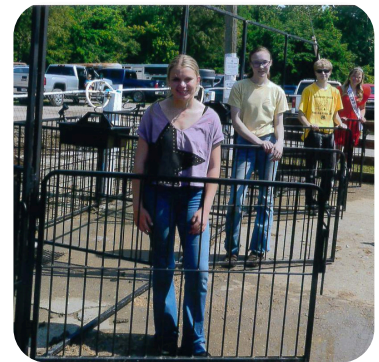
WOW!

LEGACY GROUP

- A special message from the Legacy Group leaders, "Thank you to the 4-H Legacy Group members who participated in the wash rack rejuvenation project. We had lots of positive feedback from 4-H'ers and the families that used it. The members are Jackson Bentz, Hannah Bridges, Farah Coen, Parker Douglas, and Lillian Dove."

CRUNCH FOR A CAUSE

- The Shelby County 4-H Junior Leaders partnered with S.A.S.S. (Shelby Accessing Social Supports) to collect cereal in order to provide breakfast for the first week back to school for all children receiving school supplies from the 5th Annual S.A.S.S. Back to School distribution. The first 250 people who brought 2 boxes of breakfast cereal to the office in the 4-H Building during the Shelby County Fair and the Extension Office would receive one (1) FREE Indiana State Fair admission ticket. The State Fair tickets are valued at \$16 each, so for less than the price of 1 ticket, you helped us give back to those in need here in Shelby County! There were 250 Indiana State Fair tickets passed out.
- Shelby County 4-H collected almost FOUR HUNDRED boxes of cereal! THANK YOU!!



4-H VOLUNTEERS

- A BIG Thank You to all of our adult volunteers for helping us before, during, and after the fair. We greatly appreciate the help of all of our volunteers who pitch in whenever and wherever needed.
- All project superintendents and project leaders: Please contact the office with your 2026 4-H project workshop dates so they can be included in the 2026 Handbook. The deadline for this is October 1, 2025.
- Adult Volunteers are what keeps our 4-H program running smoothly all year long. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an Approved Adult Volunteer for Shelby County, please refer them to the Extension Office for more information. As our program continues to grow, we need volunteers to grow with it. If this interests you, please complete this form <https://bit.ly/becomea4hleader>
- Don't forget to pick up your ISF ticket at the Extension Office! Each approved volunteer found in the 4-H Online system has been allotted 1 general admission ticket this year.
- Volunteers, a letter will be mailed out this fall with instructions for enrollment renewal. When enrollment opens (October 1st), please renew your commitment to our program. Completing this process sooner rather than later is necessary. Our office gets busy quickly as the year progresses- enrollments submitted after January 1st are subject to delay.
- To properly recognize each of our hard-working volunteers, we are hosting a Volunteer Recognition night on October 25, 2025. This event is being provided for all 'Approved' 4-H volunteers for the 2024-2025 program year including a plus one. Please RSVP for this event using this link: <https://bit.ly/43rbVxV>
- Volunteers were mailed a 'Letter of Intent' in July. All volunteers are asked to complete the form and mail it back by August 29, 2025. This form is quick with only a few questions.



Scan QR Code to
RSVP for Volunteer
Recognition Night!



OFFICE CLOSINGS

Monday, September 1, 2025

Monday, October 13, 2025

INDIANA STATE FAIR

- ***The ISF has adopted a NEW mapping system for gates/entrances at the State Fair. Please familiarize yourself with the map here.
- Congratulations to all of our 2025 Indiana State Fair eligible Exhibitors!
- Approved Adult Volunteers will receive ONE Indiana State Fair ticket.
- One ticket will be allotted for each 4-H member who has a non-animal 4-H project exhibited at the State Fair.
- State Fair Project Pick Up Night is Monday, August 18, 2025 from 5:00–7:00 PM at the Shelby County Fairgrounds. If you are unable to pick up your own project, please arrange for someone else to do it for you. Due to lack of storage space, NO projects will be brought back to our office.



PROJECT PICK UP

- **LAST CHANCE**—If you forgot to pick up your projects (4-H or Mini 4-H) from the Shelby County Fair, you will have one more opportunity to pick them up from the 4-H Building at the Shelby County Fairgrounds. The date is Monday, August 18th and they will be available from 5:00–7:00 PM. This is your last opportunity to pick these items up. NO projects will be brought back to our office due to lack of storage space. All projects not picked up on this date will be discarded.



317-392-6460



20 W Polk Street, Suite 201,
Shelbyville, IN 46176



8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Monday – Friday