



*Bimonthly Newsletter*

# SC4-H NEWS



December 2025–January 2026

## FROM THE EDUCATOR

Hello friends!

It's nearly winter, which is a perfect time for a reset and setting new goals. It's also the "start" of our 4-H year. I look forward to working with all of our 4-H families this year and hope to meet lots of new faces. The past 11 months have been full of growth and change, all of which will lead us forward into more good things for Shelby County 4-H! We have new volunteers lined up to join us this year and I'm excited to watch them all grow in their new roles. The Junior Leader group is growing and thriving. Our clubs are gearing up for meaningful work with our 4-H families. The Advisory Council is dedicated to providing positive change and opportunity for our members and volunteers. The winter brings thoughts of newness and a joy for the simple things...I'm certainly appreciating our Shelby County 4-H family and our new adventures coming in 2026.



As a reminder, our staff is here to help you. Whether you need help logging into your 4-H Online account, have questions about a project or rule change, have interest in becoming a volunteer, or want to get more involved by joining a club, please don't hesitate to reach out!

2025 was a successful year, but we have much to be excited about in 2026! I'm looking forward to celebrating our volunteers (the heart of our organization), working with the Junior Leaders, unveiling the new Grand/Reserve Grand Champion Boards at the fairgrounds, and watching Shelby County 4-H flourish. I know that our members will be Beyond Ready for their futures because of their time spent learning and growing with Shelby County 4-H.

Always Ready,

*Erin*

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With the holidays coming up, the Extension Office will be closed on the following days:

Christmas—December 24–25, 2025. Will return on December 26, 2025.

New Year's Holiday—December 31, 2025 & January 1, 2026. Will return on January 2, 2026.

MLK Day—January 19, 2026. Will return on January 20, 2026.



## 4-H ENROLLMENT

- The Indiana 4-H program opened for enrollments on October 1, 2025, please enroll by January 15<sup>th</sup>. Enrollments submitted after January 15<sup>th</sup> are subject to delay.
- To re-enroll, go to the website [v2.4honline.com](https://v2.4honline.com). Please read all the questions carefully, as 4-H Online has been updated!
- Current 4-H and Mini 4-H members must use the email and password that were used to create your family profile. If you cannot remember your email, contact our office for help.
- If you need to add a family member to 4-H Online, add them to your current Family Profile. Again, do NOT create a new Family Profile!
- If you have moved recently, update your address in your family account under 'Member List' and in each individual profile. If the address is different in both places, you might miss important information!
- ALL 4-H members, Mini 4-H members, and Adult Volunteers MUST re-enroll each year!

## PROJECT MATERIALS

- Did you know our office has supplies on hand (year-round) for many of your 4-H project needs? We have posters, sleeves, electric kits, cake decorating boards, and select styrofoam cake dummies, and salon print mounts!
- Most projects have manuals to assist or correspond with said project, feel free to swing by the office to claim those!

## PARENTS NEEDED!

- Calling all parents! Our program is expanding rapidly (YAY!!), but unfortunately, parent involvement is dwindling. Many of our clubs are grappling with leadership shortages, primarily because of the substantial time commitment required from just one or two individuals. How can you help? Talk to the Leaders of your 4-H member's club, see where they need help.
- Do you have a passion for helping kids grow, learn, and lead? 4-H is looking for caring adults to join our team of volunteers! Whether you can give a little time or a lot, your impact will last a lifetime. Volunteer today—help grow the next generation of leaders!
  - Contact the Extension Office to begin the process!
- We're looking for enthusiastic adults to serve as **4-H Club Leaders**. Share your skills, inspire youth, and help shape tomorrow's leaders. No experience needed—just a heart for helping kids grow!

## CLUB MEETINGS

- Finding a club can be a bit overwhelming as a new family— if you have questions, please reach out the club leader or our office!
- More up to date information regarding club meetings can be found on our website (<https://bit.ly/ShelbyCo4-H>), scroll down to the heading '4-H Clubs & Leaders. Each Shelby County 4-H Club has its own tab, so just select the club you belong to or are interested in and see their information listed!

## 4-H BASICS NIGHT

- This event is open to all Shelby County 4-H families and is especially encouraged for new families and members. We will provide an overview of the 4-H program, review important dates and reminders, and answer any questions you may have.
- Join us on Monday, January 26, 2026, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Education Room at the Extension Office.



317-392-6460



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



8:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Monday - Friday

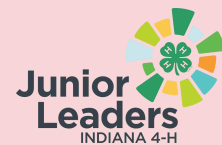
# SCHOLARSHIPS

- In partnership with the Indiana 4-H Foundation, the Indiana 4-H Youth Development Program annually awards more than \$150,000.00 in scholarships to 4-H members to pursue post-secondary education. Scholarships are awarded to recognize youth participating in Indiana's 4-H Youth Development Program on their achievements and life skill development resulting from their participation in a variety of 4-H experiences.
  - Review these opportunities with this link <https://bit.ly/4ei2R0q>
- Shelby County Agricultural Promotion Scholarship is a \$500 renewable scholarship for the student. Scholarships will be awarded the first Wednesday of March at the 'Taste of Shelby County Agricultural' event. Scholarships can be found on our website or in office and must be completed by February 15, 2026.

## JUNIOR LEADERS

### What is Junior Leaders?

- Shelby County 4-H Junior Leaders is a club as well as a project open to all youth in grades 7-12. They participate in various leadership and community service projects throughout the year. There is no additional charge for 4-H Junior Leader membership, but you must re-enroll in it every year.
- Junior Leader Meeting Dates for 2025-2026
  - January 14, 2026 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Extension Office
  - February 11, 2026 beginning at 6:30 PM, meet at Wal-Mart
  - April 8, 2026 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Extension Office
  - May 13, 2026 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Extension Office



## 4-H VOLUNTEERS

- Volunteers, please re-enroll by January 15, 2026. This process needs to be completed sooner rather than later!
- As a reminder, Only approved volunteers in 4-H Online may assume volunteer duties on behalf of the Purdue Extension 4-H Youth Development Program including working with youth, fundraising or making decisions for 4-H.
- Complete your enrollment at least 30 days prior to when you intend to start volunteering.
  - This should provide ample time for your enrollment to be reviewed and the internal steps (registry check, reference check for new volunteers, etc.) to be completed by the 4-H Educator.
- 4-H Club leaders are invited to attend our annual club leader workshop. This event will take place on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 beginning at 6:00 PM at the Extension Office. If you plan to attend, please sign up with the 'Events' tab on your 4-HOnline account.

## WORKSHOPS

- Please mark your calendar for the following workshop dates for 2026. Some workshops may be added to the list below, keep an eye out for changes - they will be updated on the Google Calendar.
- 4-H members are required to register for workshops under the 'Events' tab in 4-HOnline (can be accessed through your 4-HOnline account)

### Rabbit Workshop

March 18, 2026 at the Brinson Building at 6:00 PM

### Cat Workshops

April 16, 2026 in the Brinson Building at 6:30 PM  
May 27, 2026 at the Brinson Building at 6:30 PM

### Sheep Workshop

May 14, 2026 at the Family Arts Building at 6:30 PM

### Swine Workshop

February 28, 2026 at the Cassidy Farms Showbarn at 1:00 PM

### Poultry Workshops

April 2, 2026 at the Brinson Building at 5:00 PM  
May 28, 2016 at the Brinson Building at 5:00 PM

# LIVESTOCK & ANIMAL EXHIBITORS

## PLANNING AHEAD:

- 4-H animal enrollment will again take place through the 4-H Online website. The deadline is May 15.
- All lease forms, auction forms, and pen reservations are also due to the Extension Office by May 15. Digital versions of these forms are available on our website under "Shelby County Forms."

## Animal Ownership Policy (Simplified)

- Leasing Allowed:
  - Dairy cows (if shown by the same 4-Her since 2020), dairy heifers, horses, ponies, alpacas, and llamas may be leased with approval from the appropriate species committee and the County Extension Educator.
- These animals may only be leased by one 4-H member per program year.
- County-Only Leasing:
  - All other species may be leased for county shows only (not eligible for State Fair), with approval from livestock superintendents.
- These leased animals cannot be sold in the Livestock Auction.
- Lease agreements are due to the Extension Office by May 15.

## IQLC

To exhibit **BEEF CATTLE, DAIRY CATTLE, SWINE, SHEEP, MEAT GOATS, DAIRY GOATS, POULTRY, and RABBITS**, 4-H members must be certified through the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care training OR the online Youth for the Quality Care of Animals program (YQCA). Must be an approved member to sign up for IQLC.

1. This certification must be done on an **annual basis**
2. Members must be approved and registered for this event in 4-HOnline **BEFORE** attending the training
3. Members may attend any training dates listed on this flyer
  - a. OR a training in another county
  - b. OR complete the online YQCA training

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026 AT  
9:00 AM IN THE BRINSON BUILDING**

**Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 1:00  
PM in the Extension Office**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026 AT 6:00 PM  
IN THE EXTENSION OFFICE**

**THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026 AT 6:00 PM  
IN THE EXTENSION OFFICE**

To register for the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care training, please use  
<https://shelbyiqlc2026.4honline.com>

## ANIMAL ID DAYS

- **Beef** ID & Weigh In Day will be on Saturday, March 14, 2026 from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM. If you are showing cattle, make plans to have your animals at the fairgrounds.
- ID Day for **Sheep, Goats and Feeder Calves** will be May 9, 2026 from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM, at the livestock barns.
- **Rabbit** ID Day will be Saturday, May 9, 2026 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the 4-H building.
- All steers, commercial heifers and registered heifers and Dairy **MUST** have RFID tags by May 15 to exhibit at the Shelby County Fair.

# OVERNIGHT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Parents, we need your help! To be able to open camp registration, we have to have camp chaperones committed to helping give youth this wonderful opportunity. Camp will run May 27 through May 30 in 2026.
  - Camp chaperones are required to be approved 4-H volunteers. This process can be done online with your 4-HOnline account.
- If this is something you are interested in assisting with, please contact 4-H Educator, Erin Padgett (emenchho@purdue.edu).

## MINI 4-H

- The Mini 4-H Handbooks will be ready after the first of the year! You will be able to download those from our website or stop by the office for your copy! More details to come!
- Mini 4-H is for children in Kindergarten, first grade, and second grade. Mini 4-H workshops will be a time for Mini 4-H members to participate in group activities, mixers, socialize with children their age, and also learn how to work together. At the time of the workshops, parents will be able to ask questions as well as learn how to help their child with the projects that interest them. Some topics that will be covered include; projects available for Mini 4-H members, project deadlines, Mini 4-H Camp, what to expect throughout the year, and other opportunities Shelby County has to offer. Each Mini workshop will have a corresponding theme. All activities, games and learning material will correspond with the theme chosen for each workshop. Workshops for this year will be held at the Family Arts Building on the Shelby County Fairgrounds:



**FEBRUARY 5, 2026 BEGINNING AT 6:00 PM**

**MARCH 5, 2026 BEGINNING AT 6:00 PM**

**APRIL 2, 2026 BEGINNING AT 6:00 PM**



## MINI 4-H COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT

- We are adding a **NEW project to Mini 4-H!** Similar to regular 4-H, Mini 4-H members will now be eligible to participate in the **Communications** project!
- The Mini 4-H Communications project introduces young members in grades K-2 to public speaking and demonstrations in a fun, supportive environment. Depending on grade level, youth may recite a pledge, give a short talk, or present a simple 2-3 minute demonstration showing how to do or make something. Members present in front of judges and a small audience, individually or with a partner, while parents may offer quiet encouragement nearby. This non-competitive event focuses on confidence, enthusiasm, and clear communication rather than perfection. All participants will receive a ribbon and positive feedback, and are encouraged to wear 4-H attire or nice casual clothing.
- All Communications projects will be presented on Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at Lewis Creek Baptist Church at 1:00 PM. This is a free event open to family and friends!

**NEW**



## CHANGES FOR 2026

This is a highlight of changes that you will see in the 2026 Handbook.

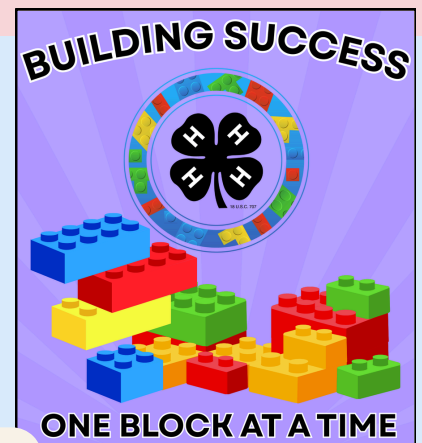
- The following County projects will no longer be offered: Barbeque, Bicycle Rodeo, Bicycle Poster, H.E.L.P., and Weeds Identification.
- Members will be permitted to exhibit two (2) Recycling projects, but each exhibit must be from a different category.
- There will be two (2) Club projects offered this year: Club Banner and Club Achievement. More details to come.
- Royal Showmanship is moving to a new format where competitors will compete in the Royal the same year they earn their spot. As we transition to this format in 2026, there will be two separate competitions at the 2026 Fair. More details will be announced closer to the fair.
- The livestock workshops that were previously offered on Sunday, will be scheduled for a time prior to Fair Week.
- We are aware of several large events overlapping Fair Week. Per the Assistant Showman policy in the handbook, a form has been created for members to request an Assistant Showman for approved reasons. Please contact the Extension Office or check our website for the form.
- There will be Breed Recognition lists for Beef, Dairy Cattle, Goats, Sheep and Swine. Any breed not listed is still eligible to show in an AOB (All Other Breeds) class or in its own breed class if at least 3 animals (3 female/3 male) are registered to show.
- There will be a NEW Bred & Owned designation for Beef, Dairy Cattle, Goats, Sheep and Swine. Bred & Owned animals must have been born into the herd or flock managed by the exhibitor and member should have had continuous ownership. Leased animals are not eligible for this award designation. Bred & Owned will be shown in conjunction with other classes and selected as part of the Grand Drive.

## 4-H THEME FOR 2026

- Our Junior Leaders came up with another great theme for our handbook!

### **"Building Success One Block at a Time"**

- Just like stacking LEGO blocks, each project, meeting, and experience helps build skills, friendships, and confidence that last a lifetime.



## MEMBERS DOING GREAT THINGS

- 4-H Youth Educator Erin Padgett has created a system to celebrate the achievements of our 4-H members—both inside and outside of 4-H.
- She has developed a Google Form for parents, leaders, teachers, and volunteers to share the great things Shelby County 4-H members are doing. The information submitted will be used by Erin to recognize and encourage youth for their hard work and accomplishments.
  - Ex. honor roll, extracurricular awards, leadership awards, sports accomplishments, community service, volunteer work, etc.
- Access the form here! <https://bit.ly/membersdoinggreatthings>

# NEW FAIR EVENTS

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & RULES WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE**

## **Battle of the Barns**

- The Battle of the Barns decorating contest is a fun and friendly competition between all four (Cattle Barn, Arena Barn, Barn 13 – Overflow, Poultry Barn) livestock barns to show off their 4-H pride, creativity and teamwork! Each barn will decorate their space using this year's 4-H theme of legos "Building Success One Block at a Time." Decorations will be judged by a special committee, and the winning barn will earn bragging rights...and a traveling banner!
- Judging will take place on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM. Results will be announced at the start of the Sheep Show.

## **Livestock Skill-a-thon Contest**

- Put your livestock knowledge to the test in a fun and educational way! The Livestock Skill-a-thon challenges 4-H members of all ages and experience levels to demonstrate what they know about animal science and livestock management practices. This hands-on, station-based contest is designed to be both educational and engaging, giving participants a chance to show off their skills, learn something new, and earn bragging rights at the fair.
- There will be two (2) categories: Junior Division – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grades; Senior Division – 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Banners will be awarded to the Overall Junior High Point winner and Overall Senior High Point winner.
- Contest will take place on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 11:00 AM by the scales area in the Arena Barn. Results will be announced at the start of the Hot Dog Feed & Awards on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

## **Goat & Sheep Obstacle Course**

- The Goat & Sheep Obstacle course is a fun event to see which competitor can make it through the obstacle course in the shortest amount of time, including any penalties. Only goats and/or sheep being exhibited in the Shelby County 4-H Goat or Sheep shows will be allowed to participate.
- There will be four (4) categories: Mini – Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade; Junior – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades; Intermediate – 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades; Senior – 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades.
- Possible obstacles: plank, pond/stream with a bridge, jump, weave, a-frame, teeter totter, balance board, backing up, distraction, loading, lifting feet, pulling a sled, etc.
- This fun event will take place on Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Livestock Arena.

## **Adult Showmanship**

- Adult Showmanship will follow the Grand Drive of Beef, Dairy Cattle, Goats, Sheep and Swine shows. It is open to adults of all ages; participants must not be current 4-H members. There will be a fee to sign someone up for the show and a fee to get yourself out of the show if you do not want to participate. The winner earns bragging rights and will split the jackpot! Animals will be provided by 4-H members with permission.

## **Barnyard Olympics**

- Gather up your friends to create a team of four (4) to show off your barn chore skills! Members will participate in activities such as: water trough filling, straw bale stacking, hose untangling/rolling, etc.
- The event will take place on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM in the Livestock Arena.

## **Shaving Cream Fight**

- 4-H members are invited to join together as a group to celebrate the end of the Fair Week with a fun, messy shaving cream fight. Members must provide their own supplies.
- The event will take place on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 5:00 PM in the Horse Arena. Members MUST stay within the boundaries of the arena fence.