



Bimonthly Newsletter

SC4-H NEWS



October – November 2025

FROM THE EDUCATOR

Hello friends!

It's finally fall...my favorite time of the year! It's a perfect time for a reset and the "start" of our 4-H year. I look forward to working with all of our 4-H families again this year and hope to meet lots of new faces. The past 9 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 fall brings thoughts of gratitude and thankfulness for all that we have, and I'm certainly thankful for everyone part of Shelby County 4-H.



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

Photos below are from our Junior Leader call-out meeting last month. We had a great time and hope you will join us this year! Check the Junior Leaders blurb for more information on upcoming meetings!



4-H ENROLLMENT

- The Indiana 4-H program will open for enrollments on October 1, 2025, please enroll by January 15th. Enrollments submitted after January 15th are subject to delay.
- To re-enroll, go to the website 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.
- All 4-H members must enroll as "Youth," even if they are close to turning 18.
- Do NOT create a new Family Profile! Making a new profile will slow down your enrollment. We will have to delete the second profile, and then you will need to re-enroll under your original profile.
- 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!
- For enrollment instructions, please see the inserted attachment. This guide is for all families.

POINSETTIAS

- Poinsettia sales have begun! Proceeds benefit all 4-H programs in Shelby County. Orders will be filled on a first come-first served basis and may be placed with the order form (found on our website) or called in to our office. Plants come in red, white, pink, shimmer surprise and ice crystals and cost \$10 each. Plant pick up day is December 2, 2025 between 12 noon and 5:00 PM at the Extension Office. Payment can be made at the time of order placement or at pickup via cash or check.

OCTOBER 1

v2.4honline.com

Not sure of the steps to enroll/re-enroll? Review the insert for assistance!



Login Email

Password

Sign in

[Don't have an account?](#)

[Reset password?](#)

4-H FOR NEXT YEAR

- 4-H Enrollment for the 2025-2026 program year will begin October 1st!
- Please remember to use the same login information as in previous years! Creating a new account will slow down the approval process.
- As always, our 4-H staff are available to assist with any enrollment questions or concerns.
- All members, Mini 4-H members, and adult volunteers must re-enroll for each program year. If you are a new volunteer (who was a senior 4-H member last year), please log in using your existing profile and apply. Once your enrollment is complete, we can separate your profile from your family's.

SHOOTING SPORTS

- Orientation meeting will be held on December 2, 2025 beginning at 7:00 PM in the Brinson Building at the Shelby County Fairgrounds.
- This is the meeting to attend if you are interested in joining shooting sports.
- Shelby County 4-H Shooting Sports is a club with the goal of teaching the safe use, understanding and handling of archery equipment as well as firearms. This is taught interactively by 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinators and instructors at a private range in Shelby County. The 4-H member will be expected to be familiar with the range rules, the parts of the equipment they are using as well as how all those parts work together.

Grades
3-12

PARENTS NEEDED!

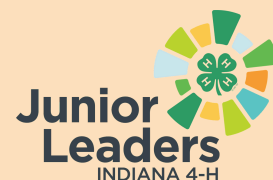
- Calling all parents! Our program is expanding rapidly (YAY!!), but unfortunately, parent involvement is dwindling. Many of our clubs are grappling with leadership shortages, primarily because of the substantial time commitment required from just one or two individuals. How can you help? Talk to the 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!
 - Follow this QR Code!



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.
- The Junior Leaders will be conducting two fundraisers this fall at the same time. Members will be selling the following items: fudge from The Mill Fudge Factory and food gift baskets (nuts, sweet treats, meat sticks, etc.) from Christian Kropf. If you would like to order, please get with a Junior Leader member or reach out to the Extension Office. Orders will be due to Erin Padgett by October 22nd at 4:00 PM. Order forms will be passed out at the meeting on October 8th.
- Junior Leader Meeting Dates for 2025-2026
 - October 8, 2025 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Extension Office
 - November 12, 2025 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Extension Office
 - December 10, 2025 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Extension Office
 - January 14, 2026 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Extension Office
 - February 11, 2026 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Extension Office
 - April 8, 2026 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Extension Office
 - May 13, 2026 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Extension Office



LIVESTOCK & ANIMAL EXHIBITORS

- **PLANNING AHEAD:** keep in mind enrollment of 4-H animals will again be done through the 4-H Online website. The deadline is May 15. All lease forms, auction forms and pen reservations are due May 15 to the Extension Office as well! Digital versions of these forms can be found on our website under 'Shelby County Forms'.
 - **Animal Ownership Policy:** "Dairy cows (as long as the animal is being shown by same 4-Her from 2020 and forward) and heifers, horses, ponies, alpacas and llamas may be leased, subject to approval of both the county 4-H dairy, horse and pony or llama committee and the respective County Extension Educator. 4-H animals (horse and pony, dairy, alpacas and llamas) are only eligible to be leased by a single 4-H member in a 4-H program year. **COUNTY ONLY** - All other species may be leased, but not shown at the state fair, subject to approval of the livestock superintendents. These leased animals are not eligible to sell in the Livestock Auction. The lease agreement forms are due in the Shelby County Extension Office by May 15th." page 177 of 2025 Shelby County Handbook.
- This enrollment allows the animal to be identified as an official 4-H animal that can exhibit at our county show, 4-H fun shows, area shows and the Indiana State Fair. The following species must enroll by May 15th through v2.4honline.com
 - Horse & Pony
 - Cattle (beef & dairy)
 - Goats
 - Llamas
 - Sheep
 - Swine
- All animal lease forms must be turned in to the Extension Office by May 15!
- Poultry Workshop November 3, 2025 in the Brinson Building from 5:00 – 7:00 PM. Topics to be covered: Introduction to the project, rules, Selecting your birds, The Standard of Perfection, feed, and care.

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**

**WEDNESDDAY, MARCH 18, 2026 AT
1:00 PM IN THE EXTENSION OFFICE**

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

**MONDAY, MAY 11, 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>

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 Scrapbook. More details to come.
- Animal project superintendents will be serving terms with limits and moving to a Co-Superintendent format. All superintendents are aware of these changes.
- 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. The 2025 Fair winners will compete at the beginning of the week, and the 2026 Fair winners will compete at the end of the week. More details will be announced closer to the fair.
- There are some species-specific rules that have been added/revised and we encourage you to reach out to project leaders as practices start next year to make sure you understand any changes. All changes will be printed and available prior to those events taking place. If you have specific concerns, please reach out to our 4-H Educator, Erin Padgett.



MINI 4-H

- We have exciting news for our Mini 4-H'ers!
 - Mini 4-H'ers now have a club of their own! Please welcome Tiffany Hamblin and Abby Bridges as the new leaders of the Mini Clovers 4-H Club! This club is specifically for Mini 4-H members!
 - If your Mini 4-H member does not have a 4-H Club to call 'home', consider joining the Mini Clovers!
- Meeting/ Workshop dates
 - **February 5, 2026**, in the Family Arts Building at the Shelby County Fairgrounds, beginning at 6:00 PM.
 - **March 5, 2026**, in the Family Arts Building at the Shelby County Fairgrounds, beginning at 6:00 PM.
 - **April 2, 2026**, in the Family Arts Building at the Shelby County Fairgrounds, beginning at 6:00 PM.

KINDERGARTEN – 2ND GRADE

4-H VOLUNTEERS

Changes for this year (4-H Online)

- Simplified training for returning volunteers, online trainings are dependent on rotation
- Volunteers, please re-enroll by January 15, 2026. This process needs to be completed sooner rather than later!
 - All 4-H Volunteers must be in 'Approved' status prior to assuming volunteer duties with 4-H (including meeting and working with youth and making decisions for 4-H)
- Clubs that do not complete the necessary (annual) financial management forms are at risk of their club being dissolved the following year.
 - There is a 'Volunteer Update' packet that is typically mailed in November.
 - The 'Club Information Form' was due on September 26. This is an annual form that must be completed.
- 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.
- Tips for a successful enrollment:
 - Select the volunteer type and role communicated by the 4-H Educator. Incorrectly selecting a role will require more work for you and your county 4-H Educator. Enrollments submitted with the incorrect roles will be sent back for correction.
 - Use a computer rather than a phone or tablet if possible
 - Once you submit a step (enrollment or screening), wait for the next step before exiting.
 - Give yourself ample time to complete
 - You can start the process and return to it if you cannot complete it in one sitting, but if you allot 15 minutes, you should be able to get through the enrollment and screening process no problem. If you have a training to complete, you will want to add at least 30-45 minutes to that time frame.
 - 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.

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Did you know we welcomed nineteen new volunteers in 2025? This growth is exponential. We are thrilled to welcome new leaders and volunteers! You all are the reason our program continues to grow—thank you!

OFFICE CLOSINGS

- Monday, October 13, 2025 in observance of Columbus Day
- Tuesday, November 11, 2025 in observance of Veteran's Day
- Thursday, November 27, 2025 in observance of Thanksgiving
- Friday, November 28, 2025 in observance of Thanksgiving



SHELBY COUNTY 4-H

***FREE EVENT**

4-H OPEN HOUSE



FALL INTO 4-H

**JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT 4-H CLUBS,
EXPLORE PROJECTS, MEET 4-H LEADERS,
ENROLL IN 4-H, AND ENJOY A FALL TREAT!**

**SUNDAY FROM 2-4PM
NOV 09
2025**

**FAMILY ARTS BUILDING
500 FRANK STREET,
SHELBYVILLE, IN 46176**



317-392-6460



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



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