Press Release

MANHATTAN, Kan. --- Twenty students from 16 Kansas counties gathered on the Kansas State University campus to take part in the sixth annual K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy (KASLA) June 11-14, 2014.

Participants included: Samantha Albers, Bendena; Anna Anderson Johnson, Mayetta; Tristan Davis, Princeton; Wyatt Durst, Morrowville; Brooke Falk, Harveyville; Taylor Goering, McPherson; Jake Grinstead, Hutchinson; Brooke Jensen, Courtland; Casey Jensen, Courtland; Katherine MacGregor, Emporia; McKenzie Miller, Hutchinson; Jamie Nemechek, Goodland; Jake Nikkel, McPherson; Taylor Nikkel, Maple Hill; Alex Rogers, Paola; MaRyka Smith, Hoyt; Ty Stewart, Washington; Karley Stockton, Meade; Emily Updegrove, Fall River; and Cody Wondra, Ellinwood.

During their time at the K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy, students were given tours of the farms and corporations, and engaged in interactive leadership development sessions led by faculty members from across the K-State campus. Participants also lived in the dorms and ate in the KSU dining halls, adding to their college experience.

The Academy also included a day of livestock industry tours near Kansas City with stops including: Ceva Biomune, Lenexa; Bayer Animal Health, Shawnee; Seaboard Foods, Mission; Bichelmeyer Meats, Kansas City; and Livestock Marketing Association, Kansas City. They also enjoyed university farm tours on Wednesday and an evening tour to Downey Ranch near Wamego on Friday.

For their capstone project, the students were divided into groups during the week to focus on current issues affecting the livestock industry. Faculty mentors from the K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry assisted each group. Using information they learned throughout the academy, each group was asked to present their subject as part of the closing reception on the final day. More than 100 family, friends, and members of the K-State community attended the closing reception to honor the graduates and hear their thoughts on these important livestock issues.

The event was sponsored by the Livestock and Meat Industry Council (LMIC) and coordinated by the K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry. For more information about future programs visit [www.YouthLivestock.ksu.edu](http://www.YouthLivestock.ksu.edu) or contact Sharon Breiner, Director at sbreiner@ksu.edu.