What’s Been Happening in the YLP?

The K-State Youth Livestock Program has completed another busy summer. With Livestock Nominations, Discovery Days, K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy, Swine Classic, county fairs, Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes, Kansas Junior Livestock Show, and the Kansas State Fair, it has certainly been a whirlwind but a success nonetheless. The involvement and leadership among Kansas youth is truly impressive. The youth continue to be interested in their projects, always eager to learn more and better themselves as leaders in the livestock industry. Thank you to all youth who have participated in Youth Livestock Program events and to parents/guardians, leaders, Extension Agents, and others those who have influenced the participation and dedication to Kansas 4-H/FFA.

Program Recaps

- Discovery Days
- K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy
- Dr. Bob Hines Kansas Youth Swine Classic
- County 4-H Fairs
- Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes
- Kansas State Fair
- Kansas Junior Livestock Show

Kansas Discovery Days were held June 4th and 5th in Manhattan, KS where youth across Kansas came together to learn about various topics in classes that was led by K-State faculty, KSRE professionals, and other volunteers.

The K-State Youth Livestock program hosted four classes:
  1) KSU Animal Science Farm Tours
  2) Beef Quality Assurance
  3) Bovine Reproduction Technology
  4) Bacon Farming

Look for 2015 classes hosted by the Youth Livestock Program and the K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry!
Helpful Handouts

Handouts and project show guides from Junior Producer Days can be found on the Youth Livestock Programs website at www.YouthLivestock.KSU.edu.

These handouts provide knowledge of how to care for and maintain your youth livestock project. Please refer to these for beginner showmen who need guidance with their projects as well as experienced showmen looking to learn new things.

Twenty high school youth from 16 counties participated in the sixth annual K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy June 11-14, 2014 in Manhattan, KS.

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 stayed 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 final 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. About 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 winning team presented on the use of antibiotics in livestock production.

The event was sponsored by the Livestock and Meat Industry Council (LMIC) and coordinated by the K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry.
The 2014 Dr. Bob Hines Kansas Youth Swine Classic was held July 12-13 at Cico Park on the Riley County Fair Grounds. 111 youth from 34 different counties across the state brought 239 swine projects to exhibit at the show and learning event. Shows included prospect, market, and showmanship. A swine photography contest and extemporaneous speaking contest were also held to test youth’s talent and knowledge in the swine project outside of animal showing. There was a lecture on PEDV by Joel DeRouchey included on Saturday to help youth and adults better understand the virus, signs and symptoms, as well as how to prevent it from getting to your farm. Youth ages 7-18 were invited to participate in the speaking contests, where they were scored on understanding of the topic and presenting ability.

The annual Kansas State 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes was held August 23-24 in Manhattan, KS where youth displayed their livestock knowledge and talent in livestock judging, meats judging, skillathon, and quiz bowl. The Southwind District Team #1 was awarded with the overall sweepstakes title. Congratulations to all competitors and coaches. Good luck to all teams that will be going on to national competitions. All Sweepstakes results can be viewed on the program webpage under the 4-H livestock sweepstakes tab.

The 2014 Kansas State Fair and Kansas Junior Livestock Show were held throughout September in Hutchinson and Wichita. Kansas youth in 4-H and FFA exhibited their horse, cattle, swine, sheep, and goat projects and took great pride in the hard work put into them. Congratulations to all exhibitors at both shows and best of luck with next year’s projects.

Important Updates and Upcoming Events

Kansas Junior Swine Producer Day will be held on Saturday February 28th, 2015 at Kansas State University’s Department of Animal Sciences and Industry’s Weber Hall. All youth, parents, leaders, and Extension Agents are invited to participate in this hands-on educational experience. K-State Faculty and graduate students, vet school professionals, and extension agents and specialists will speak about selection, nutrition, reproduction, general care, and disease prevention. Look for information to come on the YLP website. 

Do you have an idea for improving Youth Livestock Programs at K-State? If so, please contact Hilary Hawkins, Youth Livestock Coordinator, Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, at hhawkins@ksu.edu or 785-532-1264. If you are a parent or other project leader in your area and would like this update as well as other updates on our youth events e-mailed directly to your inbox please e-mail Hilary and let her know which address to add to the listserv. We would love to hear from you!