



# K-State RODEO News

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## K-State Rodeo Advisory Council



Braudrick

### COACH'S REPORT - CHRISTI BRAUDRICK

Greetings K-State rodeo fans! There was no better way to open the spring semester than with the much-anticipated K-State Rodeo in the new Bilbrey Events Center, February 19-22, 2026. A huge thanks goes out to alumnus Tamera Ostrander, who worked diligently planning the rodeo and made the transition the best it could've been for me in January.

K-State hosted close to 500 contestants and more than 11,000 spectators during the four days of competition. Our students and myself are looking forward to hosting next year's K-State Rodeo, which is

scheduled for February 18-21, 2027 in Bilbrey.

Our team had a successful year. The K-State women's team finished eighth for the season. They basically just ran out of time to make a run at the College National Finals Rodeo, with their peak momentum at the end of spring. Kasey Carr ended up in the Central Plains Region all-around standings. She won the all-around cowgirl at the last rodeo of the Central Plains season at Panhandle State University in Guymon, OK. Another highlight was Alli Nippert winning the breakaway roping average at the



Nippert

Fort Hays State Rodeo. The men's team ended up 15<sup>th</sup> for the season, with the high point earner being Stranton Oftedahl, who finished 15<sup>th</sup> in the steer wrestling.

Plans are underway to host the inaugural Kansas State Rodeo Hall of Fame induction ceremony in November. The rodeo team's success isn't just about wins, it's about the culture, discipline, teamwork and respect we are building on from past team members. We look forward to recognizing

our past rodeo team members and rodeo program supporters. All contributions from this event will go toward scholarships for the rodeo team. We look forward to meeting and reuniting past members and supporters for this exciting event!

### K-STATE'S FUCHS TO COMPETE IN COLLEGIATE ALL-STAR RODEO

Learfield College Rodeo and the Professional Bull Riders have partnered to produce the first-ever Collegiate All-Star Rodeo this summer and K-State Rodeo will be represented. It will be held July 10 at the football stadium at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO, with a unique head-to-head, tournament-style format. The event is open exclusively to Learfield College Rodeo schools, of which K-State is one, with \$180,000 being paid out.

The rodeo will be nationally televised and feature a Brad Paisley concert after the performance, creating a one-of-a-kind opportunity for student athletes and a recruiting advantage for coaches. A draft was created and coaches were chosen for the North and South teams. K-State's Karsyn Fuchs was drafted in the goat tying and will be representing our university on the team coached by Trevor Brazile and Dale Brisby. Good luck to Karsyn!



Fuchs



Carr

Clarke Jackman  
Chairman  
Baldwin City  
KSU '88

Jeff VanPetten  
Meriden  
KSU '83

Todd Domer  
Topeka  
KSU '83

Joel Wimer  
Smolan  
KSU '79

Amber Thompson  
Olsburg  
KSU '17

Greg Gardiner  
Ashland  
KSU '81

Jeremy Ostrander  
Winchester  
KSU '95

John McDonald  
Abilene  
KSU '86

Alli Nippert  
Rodeo Club President

Christi Braudrick  
Team Coach  
(Ex-officio)

Teresa Douthit  
ASI Interim Dept. Head  
(Ex-officio)

## STUDENTS TO RECEIVE ENDOWED RODEO SCHOLARSHIPS

The K-State Rodeo Club and K-State Rodeo Advisory Council are awarding nearly \$50,000 in scholarships and stall waivers to students planning to compete on the rodeo team during the 2026-27 school year. Included on the list are 10 returning students and six incoming freshmen or transfers.

K-State Rodeo is fortunate to have a number of endowed scholarships to help students fund their educations. Following are the donors and recipients of this year's scholarships.

### ***Wimer Family Foundation Scholarship***

Bayli Ladner, sophomore, Oregon

### ***J. Michael Christiansen Memorial Scholarship***

Claire Boles, junior, California

### ***Mary Vanier/K-State Rodeo Club Scholarship***

Stranton Oftedahl, junior, Minnesota

### ***K-State Rodeo Advisory Council Scholarship***

Karsyn Fuchs, senior, Missouri

### ***Paul Family Excellence Scholarships***

Katy Prieb, sophomore, Kansas

Taylor Gustafson, sophomore, Kansas

Reece Connor, sophomore, Montana

Braedon Nation, sophomore, Kansas

### ***K-State Rodeo Club Scholarships***

Addison Jones, freshman, Oklahoma

Chesney Gjermindson, sophomore, North Dakota

Callie Olson, freshman, Nebraska

Tucker Arcikowski, freshman, Kansas

Laney McGee, junior, Missouri

Kiley Slavin, graduate student, Oklahoma

### ***Fitzgerald Family Scholarship***

Alli Nippert, senior, Oklahoma

### ***R.B. Warren Memorial Scholarship***

Kacey Carr, junior, Wyoming

## CREATE A LEGACY FOR LOVED ONES THROUGH K-STATE RODEO

A number of K-State rodeo supporters have honored a family member, college classmate or close friend by creating an endowed scholarship in the individual's name. Two recently endowed scholarships, the Bob Clore Memorial and the Matthew Wimer Memorial, will benefit students involved in the rodeo program at K-State. These gifts through the KSU Foundation continue the legacy of cowboys once involved in K-State rodeo and support the university's rodeo program.

Clore, who passed away in 2017, taught art and design on the K-State faculty for 32 years. On the weekends and during the summer, he was an accomplished bareback and bull rider, leading him to serve as coach of the K-State Rodeo Team from 1971 to 1979. He went on to serve as national faculty president for the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. He founded BCR Awards in his basement in Wamego. This successful business designed plaques and trophies for rodeos nationwide.

Wimer, who passed away in 2024, was a member of the K-State Rodeo Club and Team prior to graduating from the K-State College of Veterinary Medicine in 2014. He did an internship in the podiatry department at the renowned Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington, KY. He returned to Kansas to operate Ranchland Forge Veterinary Medicine and Equine Podiatry Services. Wimer was a veterinary certified chiropractor as well. He was active in helping to educate veterinarians and farriers about equine foot and leg issues. His family and friends knew him as someone who loved being around people and truly cared about helping horses.

Alumni, friends and supporters already can give to the Bob Clore Rodeo Scholarship Fund and soon will be able to do the same with the Matthew Wimer Memorial Scholarship. General giving also can be accomplished through donations to the KSU Rodeo Advisory Council Endowed Scholarship, which directly benefits students involved in the K-State rodeo program.

For more information on giving to these funds or to set up an endowed scholarship in the name of someone who was close to you, call Casey Plumberg with the KSU Foundation at (785) 775-2042 or go to <https://giving.ksufoundation.org/campaigns/15136/donations/new> and type "rodeo" in the designation box for a list of funds supporting K-State Rodeo.

## RODEO PROGRAM INCLUDES HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENTS

Congratulations to individuals who recently graduated and have been a rodeo team and/or club member here at K-State! Others have exhausted their eligibility and are soon to be graduating. The graduates include: Olivia Burch, Pelka, IA - Bachelor of Science in Psychology; Grace Elliott, Bakersfield, CA - Bachelor of Science in Animal Science; Madeline Meyer, Ellensburg, WA - Bachelor of Science in Animal Science; Abby Muck, Caledonia, IL - Bachelor of Science in Animal Science/Ag Economics; Kord Ostrander, Glenwood, IA - Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Technology Management; Ava Collins, Lenexa - Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training; Destin Warr, Gainesville, TX - Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering; Kaitlin Peters, Lakin - Bachelor of Science in Agronomy; and Jaren Stover, Dublin, OH - Master of Industrial Design.

Those soon to be graduating and out of eligibility include Brooke Keinhoff, Wathena - Bachelor of Science in Animal Science, spring 2027; Stuart Rose, Long Island - Bachelor of Science in Animal Science, fall 2026; Kassandra Shoemaker, Grover, CO - Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, May 2028.

K-State rodeo proudly proves again its reputation for high-achieving students!

## K-STATE RODEO WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS

New students are the lifeblood of the future for K-State rodeo. Coach Christi Brauderick has announced 10 incoming freshmen and transfers will be enrolling at the university and joining the rodeo program beginning in the fall of 2026.

K-State rodeo welcomes the following: Wade Martin, Dexter, freshman - wildlife; Callie Olson, Bloomfield, NE, freshman - architecture; Addison Jones, Dewey, OK, freshman - physical therapy; Redford Garner, Fort Scott, freshman - animal science; Tucker Arcikowski, Overland Park, freshmen - business marketing; Ava Brighton, Adrian, MI, freshman - horticulture; Laney McGee, Platte City, MO, junior - ag communications; Chesney Gjermundson, Marshall, ND, transfer from Bismark ND College - health and human sciences; Daly Reser, Rossville, transfer from Colby Community College - ag communications/animal science; and Kiley Slavin, Garden City, transfer from Panhandle State University - masters in ag communications.

We're excited to see these talented prospects rodeoing in purple vests starting this fall!

## NEW STUDENT LEADERS, MVPs RECOGNIZED AT YEAR-END BANQUET

The K-State Rodeo Banquet was held May 9 at the Stout Center on campus. Team and club members ate a buffet-style meal and heard Coach Christi Braudrick reflect on a successful year, including hosting the K-State Rodeo for the first time in the new Bilbrey Events Center. In addition, new student executive board members were introduced and most valuable person (MVP) awards were presented.

The new executive board consists of President Alli Nippert, President Elect Claire Boles, Vice President Kasey Carr, Secretary Madisyn Sly, Treasurer Claire Boles, Treasurer Elect Emma Bays, Facilities/Stock Chair Max Howe, Advertising Chair Maddie McDowell, Sponsorship Chair Taylor Gustafson, Student Government Association Liaison Addie Oliver, Social Chair Montana Magritte and Membership Chair Isabelle Barker.

Jake Szukelewicz was the men's rodeo team MVP. The women's rodeo team MVP was Madeline Meyer. Jaron Stover was presented the male MVP award for the rodeo club. The female rodeo club MVP was Candace Koether.



Szukelewicz



Meyer



Stover



Koether

## MEET THE K-STATE RODEO QUEEN

Faith Roten from Fayetteville, AR, is the 2025-26 K-State Rodeo Queen. She just completed her freshman year in pre-veterinary medicine at K-State. Despite being from another state, she says there is nothing she likes more than cheering on the Wildcats and wearing purple!



*Roten*

Roten has done just about everything in the equine industry from show jumping to team roping, barrel racing and showing quarter horses. She has held two queen titles, one in the International Professional Rodeo Association and one in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. She also is a member of the Rodeo of the Ozarks Rounders, where she participated in precision drills. Her current interests are in the areas of horse training and equine rescue.

She will be busy this summer representing K-State at numerous rodeos and events. Among those she has attended or will attend include the Old Fort Days Pro Rodeo in Fort Smith, AR; the Woodward Elks Pro Rodeo in Woodward, OK; the Siloam Springs, AR, rodeo and pageant; the Rodeo of the Ozarks rodeo and pageant; the Wamego 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade; the Kaw Valley Pro Rodeo in Manhattan; the Junction City open rodeo and pageant; and the Wild Bill Hickok Pro Rodeo in Abilene.