

Registration Now Open - Swine Profitability Conference

Registration is now open for the 36th Annual Swine Profitability Conference happening on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at the Stanley Stout Center.

The schedule includes:

- 9:15 a.m. Coffee and Donuts
- 9:30 a.m. Welcome
- 9:45 a.m. US Pork Market and Opportunities to Grow Market Share
Brian Earnest, Animal Protein for CoBank
- 10:30 a.m. Lessons about Hog Trailer Contamination/
re-contamination at Harvest Plants - *Dr. Cesar Corzo, University of Minnesota*
- 11:15 a.m. How we Implemented On-farm Technology to Optimize Labor - *Fred Kuhr, Dykhuis Farms*
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. Rezac Livestock: Our Generational Legacy Story - *Nicole Harrison, Rezac Livestock*
- 2:15 p.m. In-barn strategies to Address Wean-Finish Mortality - *Dr. Chris Sievers, Swine Vet Center, St. Peter, Minnesota*
- 3:00 p.m. Adjourn



Pre-registration is \$25 per participant if registered by January 23. Registration on/after January 24, or at the door is \$50 per participant. The complete schedule and online registration information can be found at asi.ksu.edu/SwineProfit. For more information, contact Katie Smith (katiesmith@ksu.edu or 785-532-1267).

Registration Now Open - Cattlemen's Day



The 113th Cattlemen's Day will be hosted on Friday, March 6, 2026 at the Billbrey Family Event Center (located directly next to the Stanley Stout Center) in Manhattan, KS. Registration is \$25 per participant if registered by February 20, or \$35 if registered on/after February 21 or at the door. Registration is complimentary for K-State students. Morning refreshments and lunch are included with registration. More information about the schedule, registration, tradeshow and sponsorships is available soon at asi.ksu.edu/cattlemensday. For questions, please contact Katie Smith (katiesmith@ksu.edu or 785-532-1267).

IRM Redbooks for Sale

The 2026 IRM Redbooks are now for sale and will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. The price is \$7.65 per book for orders of 10 or more and \$8.00 per book for orders of less than 10, which includes postage. To order your supply of Redbooks, contact Katie Smith (katiesmith@ksu.edu or 785-532-1267).

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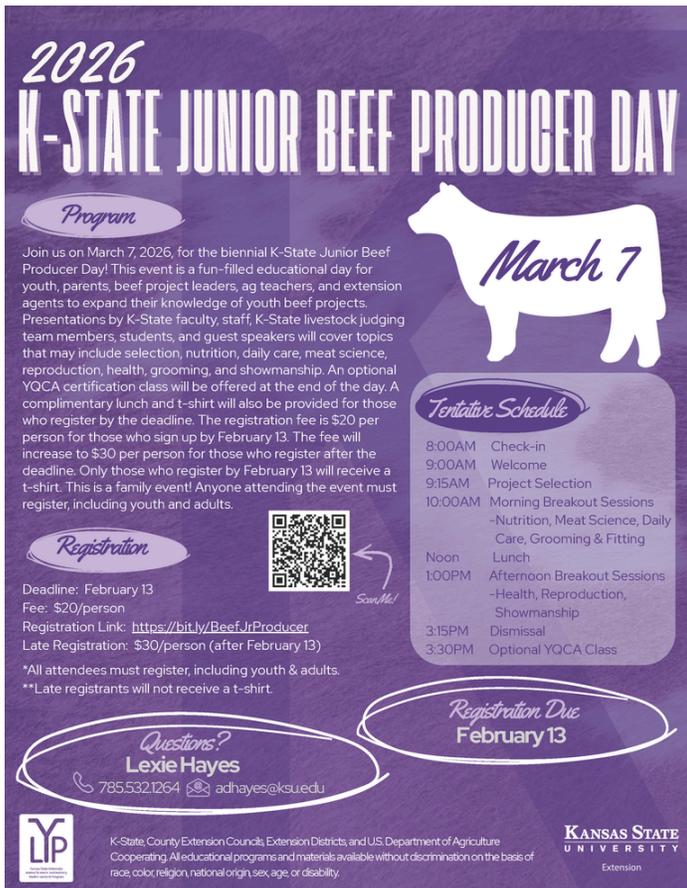


Upcoming Events

- January 7, 2026**
KSU Calving School - Erie, KS
- January 13, 2026**
KSU Calving School - Paola, KS
- January 15, 2026**
KSU Calving School - Sharon Springs, KS
- February 3, 2026**
Swine Profitability Conference
- February 19-21, 2026**
K-State College Rodeo
- March 5, 2026**
Stockmen's Dinner
- March 6, 2026**
Cattlemen's Day
- March 6, 2026**
Legacy Bull Sale
- March 7, 2026**
K-State Junior Beef Producer Day
- March 28, 2026**
K-State Sheep Day
- April 11, 2026**
K-State Junior Sheep Producer Day
- April 18, 2026**
Judging Team Reunion

Upcoming Events

Register Now - 2026 Junior Producer Days



2026 K-STATE JUNIOR BEEF PRODUCER DAY

Program

Join us on March 7, 2026, for the biennial K-State Junior Beef Producer Day! This event is a fun-filled educational day for youth, parents, beef project leaders, ag teachers, and extension agents to expand their knowledge of youth beef projects. Presentations by K-State faculty, staff, K-State livestock judging team members, students, and guest speakers will cover topics that may include selection, nutrition, daily care, meat science, reproduction, health, grooming, and showmanship. An optional YQCA certification class will be offered at the end of the day. A complimentary lunch and t-shirt will also be provided for those who register by the deadline. The registration fee is \$20 per person for those who sign up by February 13. The fee will increase to \$30 per person for those who register after the deadline. Only those who register by February 13 will receive a t-shirt. This is a family event! Anyone attending the event must register, including youth and adults.

March 7

Tentative Schedule

8:00AM	Check-in
9:00AM	Welcome
9:15AM	Project Selection
10:00AM	Morning Breakout Sessions -Nutrition, Meat Science, Daily Care, Grooming & Fitting
Noon	Lunch
1:00PM	Afternoon Breakout Sessions -Health, Reproduction, Showmanship
3:15PM	Dismissal
3:30PM	Optional YQCA Class

Registration

Deadline: February 13
Fee: \$20/person
Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/BeefJrProducer>
Late Registration: \$30/person (after February 13)

*All attendees must register, including youth & adults.
**Late registrants will not receive a t-shirt.

Questions?
Lexie Hayes
785.532.1264 | adhayes@ksu.edu

Registration Due
February 13

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension



2026 K-STATE JUNIOR SHEEP PRODUCER DAY

Date
4.11.2026
Manhattan, KS

Registration
Due: 3.20.2026
Cost: \$20/person
<https://bit.ly/SheepJrProducer>
*All adults & youth must register to attend.
**Only those registered by 3/20/26 will receive a t-shirt.
***Late registration is \$30/person.

Questions
Lexie Hayes
785.532.1264
adhayes@ksu.edu

Program

Join us for the biennial K-State Junior Sheep Producer Day on Saturday, April 11, 2026. Presentations will be provided by featured guests, as well as K-State faculty, staff, and students. This event will be an educational day of activities in which youth, parents, extension agents, ag teachers, and sheep project leaders can increase their knowledge of youth sheep project selection and management. A variety of topics will be shared, including an optional YQCA certification at the end of the day. All ages and skill levels are invited! Lunch and a t-shirt are included. The registration fee is \$20/person for those who sign up by March 20 or \$30/person for those who register after that date. Only those who register by the deadline will receive a t-shirt. This is a family event! Anyone attending, including both youth and adults, must register. There will be an optional tour of the sheep and meat goat center offered on Friday evening and Saturday after jr. day.

Tentative Schedule

Friday, April 10
5:00-7:00PM Optional Tour of Sheep & Goat Center

Saturday, April 11
8:00AM Check-in
9:00AM Welcome
9:15AM Selection
10:00AM Nutrition
10:45AM Morning Breakout Sessions
-facilities & equipment, reproduction, project management purchase to show

NOON Lunch
1:00PM Health
1:45PM Afternoon Breakout Sessions
-wool, showmanship, clipping & grooming

3:45PM Dismissal
4:00PM Optional YQCA Class
4:00-6:00PM Optional Sheep & Goat Center Tour

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension

Registration is now open for the 2026 K-State Junior Producer Days! Junior Beef Producer Day will be Saturday, March 7, with Junior Sheep Producer Day scheduled for Saturday, April 11. Both events will be hosted at the Billbrey Family Event Center, north of the K-State campus in Manhattan. These events are one-day educational events for families to learn more about the selection and management of a specific specie. Youth, adults, extension agents, project leaders, and volunteers of all ages and skill levels are invited to attend!

Presentations will be provided by K-State faculty, staff, students, extension agents, former exhibitors, and guest speakers. Topics range from selection, to nutrition, reproduction, health, clipping and grooming, and showmanship. This is a family learning event! Everyone who plans to attend must register, including both youth and adults. This year, a new registration platform is being used. Families must create a profile online to access the system, then add children and additional adults. The cost is \$20/person by the deadline, or \$30 after the deadline for both events. Only those who register by the appropriate deadline will receive a t-shirt.

Junior Beef Producer Day registrations are due February 13, with Junior Sheep being due March 20. Registration is open now. Families who would like to attend both must register through each unique link. Junior Producer Day event registrations are non-refundable.

[Junior Beef Producer Day Registration](https://bit.ly/BeefJrProducer)

[Junior Sheep Producer Day Registration](https://bit.ly/SheepJrProducer)

An optional YQCA instructor-led training will be offered at the end of each program. Specific details about the YQCA certification will be shared with those who indicate on their registration that they plan to stay for the additional class. The K-State Sheep & Meat Goat Center is also offering an opportunity to tour their facility the night before the junior sheep producer day program, or following the event on Saturday. More information about the junior day events, including each of the flyers, are available on the @ksuylp Facebook page and the KSU YLP website: <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/events/ks-jr-producer>. For more information, contact Lexie Hayes at adhayes@ksu.edu or 785-532-1264.

Upcoming Events

KSU Calving Schools

In anticipation of calving season, Kansas State University Animal Sciences and Industry and K-State Extension are planning a series of calving schools beginning in December and continuing through January. The program will outline overall calving management that includes stages of the normal calving process as well as tips to handle difficult calving situations. A.J. Tarpoff, K-State extension beef veterinarian, explains the goals of these events are to increase knowledge, practical skills, and to increase the number of live calves born if they need assistance. The schools will also share tips on when and how to intervene to assist the cow or heifer. Presenters will also demonstrate proper use of calving equipment on a life-size cow and calf model. "Our goal is for producers to leave better prepared for calving season," Tarpoff adds. "We will discuss timelines on when to examine cows for calving problems, and when to call your vet for help if things are not going well. We will also discuss calf care early in life. It's an excellent program regardless of experience level." The meetings will have other timely educational topics determined by each location.

Remaining meetings scheduled include:

- Wednesday, January 7th, Evening, Neosho Valley Event Center, Erie, KS; RSVP to Southwind District at 620-365-2242, nickell99@ksu.edu
- Tuesday, January 13th, Evening, Miami County Fairgrounds, Paola, KS; RSVP to Marais des Cygnes Extension District Office at 913-294-4306
- Thursday, January 15th, Evening, CAB Building, Sharon Springs, KS; RSVP Sunflower District Extension at 785-332-3171 or Greeley County Extension at 620-376-4284

55th Annual Stockmen's Dinner

The 55th annual Stockmen's Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2026, at the Stanley Stout Center in Manhattan, KS. Plan now to join us as we honor Tracy and Yvonne Brunner as the 2026 Stockman of the Year. Registration is \$50 per person and the deadline to register is February 19.

To register, visit asi.k-state.edu/events/stockmensdinner/. For questions, contact Katie Smith (katiesmith@ksu.edu or 785-532-1267).

K-State Sheep Day March 28

Save the date for K-State Sheep Day to be hosted on Saturday, March 28 at the Stanley Stout Center in Manhattan, KS. The event is sponsored by the Kansas Sheep Council and the K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry. Early registration fees are \$15 per person if registered by March 13, and that fee does include lunch. More information including the schedule and speakers will be available soon at https://www.asi.k-state.edu/events/sheep_meat_goat_events.html. For questions contact Kelsey Bentley (kbentley@ksu.edu or 785-532-6537) or Katie Smith (katiesmith@ksu.edu or 785-532-1267).

Save the Date - K-State Judging Teams Reunion April 18

Save the date for this year's Judging Teams Reunion to be hosted on Saturday, April 18 at the Stanley Stout Center in Manhattan, KS. This year teams that end in 6 will be recognized, along with our current teams attending K-State. If you'd like to sign up to receive future communication, you can fill out your information at the following link: <https://bit.ly/JudgingTeamContactInfo>.

More information about the judging reunion will be available in January, 2026 at <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/events/judging-reunion/>. For questions contact Payton Dahmer (dahmerp@ksu.edu or 417-448-4934) or Katie Smith (katiesmith@ksu.edu or 785-532-1267).

49th Annual Legacy Bull Sale

The 49th Legacy Sale will be Friday, March 6, 2026, at the Stanley Stout Center.

This year's offering will include Angus, Simmental and Hereford bulls, a group of bred cows and commercial heifers.

For more information and to find the catalog after Feb. 10 visit asi.ksu.edu/legacysale

What's New

Management Minute

“Successful teams in the workplace”

Justin Waggoner
KSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist
Garden City, KS

Most of us have had some experience with being part of a team or different groups of individuals. Some teams of individuals are highly successful and some are not. What makes some teams more successful than others? The tech giant “Google” has invested a great deal of time and resources into studying teams and reported their most successful teams have the following traits.

The most successful teams at “Google”

- Establish psychological safety within the team. The team creates an environment where all members of the team feel free to bring new ideas forward to the group.
- Are dependable. The team holds its members accountable, getting things done on time and up to the standards of the group.
- Have structure and clarity. The members of the team know their role in the team and have a clear vision of the team's structure and the expectations associated with their role on the team.
- Have a purpose. The team members believe that what they are doing matters.

One of the key results from the work “Google” conducted was that team effectiveness was more about how the team worked together and not necessarily about the individuals on the team.

A wealth of information on building teams and characteristics of highly successful teams can be found with a simple internet search. The information highlighted in this article may be accessed at <https://rework.withgoogle.com/intl/en/guides/understanding-team-effectiveness>.

Feedlot Facts

“Death Loss and days on feed in the K-State Focus on Feedlots”

Justin Waggoner
KSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist
Garden City, KS

The Kansas State University Focus on Feedlots is a monthly publication that summarizes performance and feedlot closeout data from commercial cattle feeding operations. Recently, an analysis of the Focus on Feedlot historical data evaluated the relationship between feed yard death loss and days on feed from 1994 to 2024 (30 years). The relationship between death loss and days on feed for both steers and heifers are illustrated below.

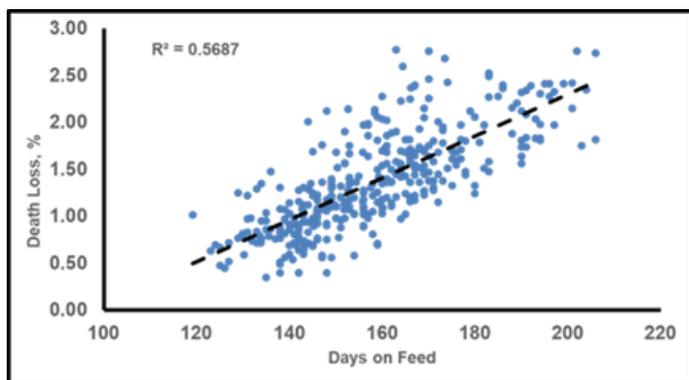


Figure 1. Steer death loss and days on feed

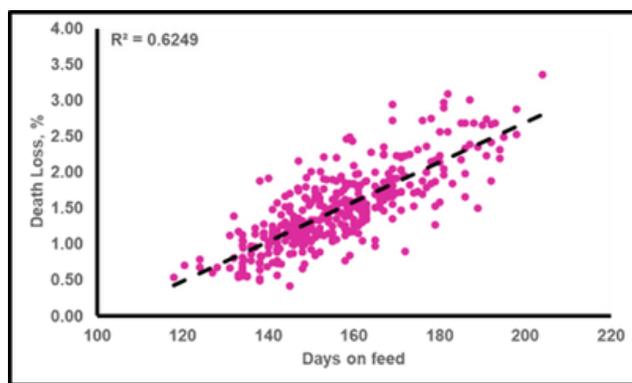


Figure 2. Heifer death loss and days on feed

Feed yard death loss increased with additional days on feed for both steers and heifers ($P < 0.01$). Steer death loss increased 0.02% with each additional day on feed and heifer death loss increased 0.03% with each additional day on feed. The observed R^2 values (0.56 and 0.62) suggests that days on feed is an important factor in feed yard death loss, but does not fully account for all of the variability associated with feed yard death loss.

For more information, contact Justin Waggoner at jwaggon@ksu.edu

KSU Cow-Calf Checklist - December 2025

Management Considerations for February 2026

By Jason M. Warner, Ph.D., Extension Cow-Calf Specialist

Cow Herd Management

- Target BCS at calving for spring-calving cows:
 - 5 for mature cows
 - 6 for young females
- Be ready to start your post-calving nutrition program for spring-calving cows.
- Evaluate fall-calving cows for BCS:
 - Adjust nutrition program as needed relative to weaning date
- If conditions allow, keep grazing crop residues and dormant pastures but be prepared to move cattle or provide supplemental feed.
- Increase energy content 1% for every degree F below the lower critical temperature (LCT) when dry, 2% if they have a wet hair coat.
- Put down bedding, remove snow, ensure cattle have access to wind protection.
- Supply adequate water volume and space in freezing conditions.
- Don't forget about your herd bulls!
 - Bulls need to be in a BCS ≥ 5.0 prior to the next season of use
 - Keep young and mature bulls separate if possible and provide plenty of space to prevent injury
 - Spread sufficient fresh bedding to help avoid testicular frostbite

Calf Management

- Do you have a plan for weaning and marketing fall-born calves?
 - Evaluate your feed resources and cost of gain relative to the value of gain
 - Talk to prospective buyers in advance of selling
- Evaluate calf health protocols, both spring- and fall-born calves.
- Monitor growth and pubertal development of replacement heifers.

General Management

- For spring-calving herds this calving season:
 - How are you going to record your calving data?
 - What information are you going to record?
- Take inventory of supplies and clean equipment prior to spring calving.
- If making bull selection decisions:
 - Review your herd performance relative to your marketing and genetic goals.
 - Study EPDs impacting your marketing and genetic goals and do your homework well before sale day.

What's New for Swine Producers

Evaluating Calcium Administration Protocols Around Farrowing on Sow Performance- A total of 933 mixed-parity sows (Line 1050, PIC) and their litters were used to evaluate the effect of calcium administration protocols around farrowing on sow performance. Sows were blocked by parity category and past stillbirth record, then allotted to one of three treatments with 310 to 312 replications per treatment. Treatments included: 1) control in which sows received no intervention; 2) 25 g of a calcium chloride-based product (CaCl; TRIAD, Alltech, Inc., Nicholasville, KY) top-dressed daily at the morning feeding from the time of entry (approximately d 112 of gestation) until the sow farrowed; or 3) calcium gluconate injection (CaG; VetOne; Boise, ID) where multiparous and primiparous sows received a 20 or 15 mL injection, respectively, if a sow had more than 16 piglets, longer than 1 h since the birth of the last piglet, the litter had two or more stillbirths, or farrowing duration exceeded 4 h. On a subset of females ($n = 74/\text{treatment}$), farrowing duration, sow blood metabolite analysis, sow urine pH, and piglet blood immunocrit were analyzed. Sow blood and urine were collected within 4 and 6 h of the end of farrowing, and piglet blood was collected within 24 h of the beginning of farrowing. Females were categorized in parity groups of P1 ($n = 194$), P2-P4 ($n = 489$), or P5+ ($n = 250$). Parity category, treatment, and their interaction were included as fixed effects, while the previous stillbirth category (< 0.5 , ≥ 0.5 and ≤ 1 , or > 1 average stillborn pigs per litter) was a random effect in the model. There were no differences in total born, percentage born alive, or percentage stillbirths between treatments; however, when at-risk sows (sows with > 16 piglets, > 1 hour since the last birth, ≥ 2 stillbirths, or farrowing lasting > 4 hours) were compared, administration of a CaG injection decreased stillbirths, increasing the percentage of pigs born alive. There was an interaction between farrowing calcium protocol and parity category for birth to cross-foster mortality ($P = 0.035$), where mortality was lowest in P1 control sows ($P < 0.05$) compared to all other combinations of treatment \times parity category except for P1 CaG sows, which were intermediate. Sows fed CaCl had increased blood Cl and ionized Ca ($P < 0.05$) compared to control or CaG sows. Sows injected with CaG had increased blood glucose levels ($P < 0.05$) compared to control sows, with sows fed CaCl intermediate. Sows provided CaCl or CaG had decreased urine pH ($P < 0.05$) compared to control sows. There was a tendency for a farrowing Ca protocol effect on piglet immunocrit ($P = 0.068$), where offspring from CaG sows had a numeric increase in immunocrit ratios. In conclusion, in the overall population, top-dressing CaCl before farrowing or injecting CaG peripartum altered sow metabolites during farrowing but did not influence farrowing performance. However, when comparing at-risk sows among the three treatments, administration of a CaG injection decreased stillbirths, leading to an increase in the percentage of pigs born alive. More information is available on this experiment and others in the KSU Swine Day report at KSUSwine.org. (This study conducted by Abigail K. Jenkins, Sierra M. Collier, Sara Virdis, Olivia J. Cataldo, Mike D. Tokach, Joel M. DeRouchey, Jason C. Woodworth, Katelyn N. Gaffield, Jordan T. Gebhardt, Robert D. Goodband, Kyle F. Coble, Paul J. Corns, Jose A. Soto, and Andrew Bents.)

The Effect of a Cheese Co-product in Nursery Pig Diets from Sows Fed with and Without Cheese Co-Product in Lactation- A total of 395 weanling pigs (DNA 241 \times 600; initially 12.7 lb) were used to evaluate the effects of previous sow lactation feed treatment (control vs. cheese co-product) and nursery diets formulated with or without a cheese co-product on growth performance in a 35-d trial. Pigs were weaned at approximately 19 d from sows fed lactation diets either with or without 4% cheese co-product (Pro88, Keys Manufacturing, Paris, IL). Pigs were placed in pens (five pigs per pen) within sow treatment and were randomly assigned one of two dietary nursery treatments. There were 19 to 21 replications per treatment. Nursery treatments included either a control diet or the control diet with 4% added cheese co-product fed in phases 1 and 2, followed by a common diet fed to all pigs in phase 3. Dietary treatments were arranged in a 2×2 factorial with main effects of sow diet (with or without cheese co-product) and nursery diet (with or without cheese co-product). There were no sow-diet-by-nursery-diet interactions observed throughout the study. Offspring from sows fed cheese co-product were heavier ($P < 0.001$) at weaning than those not fed cheese co-product, and this weight advantage was maintained throughout the study. There was a tendency ($P = 0.058$) for fewer piglets fed the cheese co-product in the nursery to lose body weight from d 0 to 3 after weaning, regardless of the previous sow treatment. During the experimental period (d 0 to 21 post-weaning), pigs weaned from sows fed the cheese co-product tended to have improved ($P = 0.079$) F/G, leading to a tendency for improvement ($P = 0.059$) in overall F/G. There were no effects on ADG or ADFI. In addition, during the experimental period, feeding the cheese co-product in the nursery diet improved ($P = 0.008$) F/G compared to pigs fed the control diet, resulting in an improvement ($P = 0.032$) in overall F/G. There were no effects on ADG or ADFI. In conclusion, F/G tended to be improved in offspring weaned from sows fed the cheese co-product, and feeding it in phase 1 and 2 nursery diets improved F/G and tended to reduce the number of pigs that lost weight in the first three days after weaning. More information is available on this experiment and others in the KSU Swine Day report at KSUSwine.org. (This study conducted by Grady A. Privett, Diego A. Lopez, Jason C. Woodworth, Katelyn N. Gaffield, Jordan T. Gebhardt, Robert D. Goodband, Mike D. Tokach, and Joel M. DeRouchey.)

ASI Faculty Highlight



Alyssa Deters (alyssakay19@ksu.edu or 785-532-6539)
Companion Animal Management Instructor

Dr. Alyssa Deters serves as the Companion Animal Management Instructor in the Kansas State University Department of Animal Sciences and Industry. A K-State alumna, she holds a bachelor's degree in animal sciences and industry, a graduate certificate in genetics, genomics and biotechnology, and a Ph.D. in pathobiology from the K-State College of Veterinary Medicine.

Deters brings experience in virology, vaccine development, and food safety research through her work as an ORISE postdoctoral fellow in the Biologics Development Module at the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility and her research in K-State's Pre-Harvest Food Safety Laboratory. She has contributed to the USDA National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System and has authored multiple peer-reviewed publications and presented at regional and national conferences.

Her teaching background includes veterinary bacteriology and mycology, along with mentoring undergraduate researchers. In addition to her academic work, she has experience as a scientific writer and several years of professional horse training and instruction.



Scott Beyer (sbeyer@ksu.edu or 785-532-1280)
Associate Professor /Extension Specialist

Originally from Galveston, Texas, Dr. Scott Beyer attended Texas A&M University and received an undergraduate degree in Biochemistry in 1983. He obtained his Masters and Ph.D. degrees in the Animal Nutrition Program from the University of Georgia. He then worked as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate for Harvard University in the Department of Nutrition. In 1993, he accepted an Assistant Professor position at Kansas State University where he currently has a 60% teaching, 25% research and 15% extension appointment.

Dr. Scott Beyer has about 50 advisee undergraduate students and 2 graduate students. He teaches multiple courses in the Department, which includes ASI 108, Poultry Lab; ASI 310, Poultry/Production Evaluation; ASI 635, Gamebird Management; ASI 640, Poultry Product Technology; ASI 645, Poultry Management; and ASI 676, Avian Nutrition.

Dr. Beyer is coach of the KSU Collegiate Poultry Judging team, which won the national championship in 2002 and 2003, and has finished well in every contest since then. He also works with numerous 4-H volunteers and FFA instructors and teams. He is involved with poultry judging at counties fairs and supervisor of the poultry division at the Kansas State Fair.

Dr. Beyer is also the Poultry Extension Agent for the state of Kansas and maintains extramural funding for his research program related to poultry and companion animals. He helps with home flock poultry production problems. Dr. Beyer also works with undergraduate students to hold the annual pullet sale each spring. His research focuses on feed manufacturing and poultry nutrition. He has been an invited speaker at almost every nutrition conference in the US. He has been an invited speaker at international conferences in Mexico, Tunisia, Egypt, China, Malaysia, South Korea, Indonesia, Australia, Switzerland, Vietnam, Morocco and the Philippines.

Dr. Scott Beyer resides in Manhattan with his wife, Amy. They have 3 sons, one who is a K-State graduate, another currently at KSU and another hoping to get there soon. When he has some spare time and isn't doing something poultry, he enjoys woodworking, fishing, and gardening.

*We need your input! If you have any suggestions or comments on
News from KSU Animal Sciences,
please let us know by email to katiesmith@ksu.edu*