Register Now - Dr. Bob Hines Kansas Swine Classic

The 2026 Dr. Bob Hines Kansas Swine Classic is scheduled for July 10-11 at the Riley County Fairgrounds in CiCo Park in Manhattan. This two-day event includes an educational swine skillathon, photography contest, showmanship, and a prospect and market hog show. It is open to Kansas youth ages 7-18 as of January 1, 2026. Entries must be submitted online by 5 pm on June 22, with payment postmarked the same day. The flyer is available www.asi.ksu.edu/swineclassic. For more information, contact Joel DeRouchey (785-532-2280 or jderouch@ksu.edu) or Lexie Hayes (785-532-1264 or adhayes@ksu.edu).

Save the Date - Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes Scheduled for August 22-23

The 2026 Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes is scheduled for August 22-23 in Manhattan, KS. The Sweepstakes event includes the state 4-H livestock judging contest, meat judging contest, livestock skillathon, and livestock quiz bowl. Rules and entry details will be released to extension offices soon and the entry link will be available by July 1. The deadline to enter will be August 1. All entries must be made by local Extension Units using the link provided directly to agents and K-State Extension staff. For more information, contact Lexie Hayes (785-532-1264 or adhayes@ksu.edu).

KSU Youth Horse Judging Camp will be Hosted June 22

The KSU Youth Horse Judging Camp will be hosted on June 22 at the Stanley Stout Center in Manhattan, KS. This is for 4-H and FFA youth with experience in giving reasons or participating in horse judging competitions who are looking to enhance their knowledge and will offer both a beginner and advanced session. The day begins with registration at 7:30 a.m., followed by a seminars from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration is $85 per individual or if you have 4 team members, $75 per person. This fee includes lunch, judging materials and a t-shirt. This camp is filled on a first-come, first serve basis and pre-registration is required. For more information or to register visit asi.k-state.edu/judgingcamps or contact Celsey Crabtree (celseyb@ksu.edu).

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HACCP Workshop in September

Implementing Your Company's HACCP Plan will be hosted September 23-25 2026, in Manhattan, KS. This workshop uses curriculum recognized by the International HACCP Alliance for meat and poultry processors. The registration fee is $450 per person and is available online at http://bit.ly/HACCPCourse. For more information, contact Dr. Liz Boyle (lboyle@ksu.edu or 785-532-1247).

Upcoming Events

June 22, 2026
KSU Horse Judging Camp

July 10 - 11, 2026
Dr. Bob Hines Kansas Swine Classic

August 22-23, 2026
Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes

September 23-25, 2026
HACCP Workshop - Manhattan, KS

September 24, 2026
Beef Stocker Field Day

November 19, 2026
Swine Day

Upcoming Events

Kansas State Livestock Nomination Deadlines Approaching

All small livestock and commercial heifer state nominations are due June 15. This includes commercial breeding heifers, market swine, commercial breeding gilts, market lambs, commercial breeding ewes, and ALL meat goats. Market animals of any breed or gender, as well as commercial breeding females, must be nominated to be eligible for the Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and/or KJLS. Animals must be submitted online by the deadline, as well as the completed and signed official DNA hair sample envelopes being postmarked by June 15. Families also need to submit a copy of their receipt showing the list of all animals that were entered in the system for their family.

Families must submit the animals under each child within the family for all kids to be eligible to show the animal. All youth must also sign the DNA envelope for each animal. Gilts, ewes, and does may be dual nominated in the market and breeding divisions by entering the animal as market and then sliding the dual nomination checkbox to "yes" in the online system. However, only one DNA hair sample envelope needs to be submitted for the animal. The 2026 state livestock information is available from the KSU Youth Livestock Program website (www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs). All families are encouraged to use the specie checklist as a guide to ensure their nominations are complete upon submission. The Rookie Guide and zoom video recording are also resources people find helpful.

Once the first animal nomination is entered for each child, the system will prompt users to upload the child's YQCA certificate and Declaration Form. They must be submitted at the same time, so families need to have these documents ready before they start. YQCA certification must be completed at the time of nomination and valid through 10/4/2026 to be accepted. Ear notches are required for swine nominations and full scrapie tag numbers are required for sheep and goats. The scrapie tag number must include the Flock ID and individual animal number (example: KSS0035 16121). Nominations received without this information will be considered incomplete and returned to the family for completion. Resources on reading ear notches and submitting scrapie tag numbers are available on the website.

After nominations are submitted online through the Kansas nomination link, the signed DNA envelopes need to be postmarked by June 15. This is a firm deadline, no exceptions. Certified mail, or a commercial mailing option that provides proof of mailing and tracking, is highly encouraged.

Confirmation letters will be sent to families once their DNA envelopes are received and nominations have been processed. Reports showing a list of nominations that have been received and opened will be updated a few times a week. Mail is opened and processed in the order in which it is received. Once the signed DNA envelopes are received and reviewed, animals will appear on the nominated livestock reports. Families are encouraged to check the reports regularly until they appear on the list, as well as use the confirmation letter and online report to verify their nomination information is correct.

REMINDER - A complete nomination does NOT constitute show entry. The Kansas State Fair Grand Drive entries will be available once nominations close. The link to entry will be available on the Grand Drive and KJLS websites, as well as their social media platforms. Kansas State Fair Grand Drive entries will be due July 15, with KJLS entries due August 15. Animals that are nominated, but do not follow the appropriate entry processes set forth by each show, will not be permitted to show. For more information, contact Lexie Hayes (adhayes@ksu.edu or 785-532-1264).

Grand Drive and KJLS Show Entries

Exhibitors must submit an official entry and pay the entry fees directly through each state show in which they would like to participate. This includes entries for state nominated market animals and commercial breeding females, as well as registered breeding females. A complete nomination does NOT constitute show entry. Nomination only makes animals eligible for subsequent show entry. The Kansas State Fair Grand Drive entries will be available once nominations close. The link to entry will be available on the Grand Drive and KJLS websites, as well as their social media platforms. Typically, Grand Drive entries open around July 1. Kansas State Fair Grand Drive entries will be due July 15, with KJLS entries due August 15.

Animals that are nominated, but do not follow the appropriate entry processes set forth by each show, will not be permitted to exhibit. Each show manages their own rules and entries. All families should review the show rules prior to entry. Exhibitors will login and submit their show entries using the same exhibitor accounts they used for state nominations – including exhibitor name and password. For nomination questions, please contact Lexie Hayes at adhayes@ksu.edu. Questions regarding show rules or
entries should be directed to each specific show (KSF Grand Drive 620-669-3623 or KJLS 785-817-1350).
Kansas State Fair Grand Drive Website - https://www.kansasstatefair.com/p/competitions/grand-drive1
KJLS Website - https://www.kjls.net/

What's New

Management Minute

"Are you a manager or a leader"

Justin Waggoner
KSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist
Garden City, KS

I recently came across an article that contrasted management and leadership ("Learning for future and personal and business success" by Bob Milligan). Many of you like myself who always arrive at the most logical conclusion quickly are likely saying "a manager is a leader" and yes that is true. However, there is a difference between the roles and responsibilities of managers and leaders. Leaders give an organization direction. Leaders focus on the future by motivating individuals or groups of individuals. Leaders provide vision and strategy for the organization (Chief Executive Officer; CEO). Managers tend to be less focused on the future, and more on the here and now. Managers organize, plan, budget and ultimately implement the vision of the leader (Chief Operating Officer). Are you a leader (CEO) or manager (COO)? Is it possible to be both? As organizations and businesses grow larger structure becomes more important because of the established fact that it is "hard to see tomorrow, when you are buried in today."

Feedlot Facts

"Water Requirements of Cows"

Justin Waggoner
KSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist
Garden City, KS

Most cattle producers fully understand the importance of water. After all, providing an adequate supply of clean, fresh, water is the cornerstone of animal husbandry and there are very few things that compare to the feeling of finding thirsty cows grouped around a dry tank on hot day. Water is important, and in situations where the water supply is limited or we are forced to haul water one of the first questions we find ourselves asking is "how much water do cows need"? The old rule of thumb is that cattle should consume 1-2 gallons of water per 100 lbs of bodyweight. Accurately determining the amount of water cows will voluntarily consume is difficult and is influenced by several factors (ambient temperature), moisture and salt content of the diet, body weight, lactation etc.) Water consumption increases linearly as ambient temperature increases above 40° Fahrenheit such that cows require an additional gallon of water for every 10 degree increase in temperature. Additionally, lactation also directly increases the amount of water required by beef cows. The table below summarizes the daily water requirements of beef cows of several different body weights, milk production levels and ambient temperatures (Adapted from Spencer, 2016).

		Average Daily Temperature, °F		
		40	65	90
Cow weight, lb	Milk Production, lb/d	Gallons of Water/day		
1100	0	8.2	10.8	13.4
	10	10.5	13.1	15.7
	25	12.8	15.4	17.9
1300	0	9.2	11.8	14.3
	10	12.2	14.8	17.4
	25	14.5	17.1	19.7
1500	0	10.2	12.7	15.3
	10	14.0	16.5	19.1
	25	16.3	18.8	21.4

Water is important. The daily water requirements of beef cows in this article are estimates and water consumption varies greatly during the summer months when the temperatures exceed 90° Fahrenheit. Therefore, these recommendations are minimum guidelines. There are a number of excellent resources available on the web, regarding livestock water requirements and water site development.

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

KSU Cow-Calf Checklist - June 2026

"Management Considerations for August 2026"

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

Cow Herd Management

- For spring-calving cowherds:
  - Monitor BCS through late summer, particularly on young females.
    - Use the BCS Record Book from KSRE to record scores!
  - 2–4-year-old females and thin females will respond most to early-weaning.
  - If you plan to early-wean:
    - Develop your plan for feeding and marketing calves.
    - Prepare weaning/receiving pens and waterers in advance.
    - If feeding early-weaned calves, test your forages and have your ration plan and ingredients in place 2-3 weeks prior to weaning.
  - Schedule early pregnancy checking activities if not already done.
  - For managing cull cows, evaluate the cost of gain relative to the value of gain for marketing decisions.
- For late-summer and early-fall calving cowherds:
  - Evaluate cows for BCS and adjust your plan to ensure mature cows are ≥ 5.0 and 2–4-year-old females are ≥ 6.0 at calving.
  - The final 60 days prior to calving represents the last opportunity to add BCS economically.
  - Review your calving health protocols as needed.
  - Have calving equipment cleaned and available to use as needed.
- Closely manage free-choice salt and mineral programs through late summer.
  - Record date and amount of salt and mineral offered and calculate herd consumption on a pasture or group basis.
  - Adjust how you are offering product to cattle if needed to achieve target intake.
  - If consumption is 2X the target intake, then cost will be too!
- Continue to monitor bulls and their activity throughout the breeding season.
  - Monitor BCS, particularly on young bulls.
  - If bulls are BCS ≤ 5.0 after breeding, consider supplementing to regain BCS going into fall.
  - Schedule breeding soundness exams for bulls used for fall service.

Calf Management

- If creep feeding calves, closely monitor intake and calf condition/fleshiness.
- Monitor calves for summer respiratory illness.
- Schedule any pre-weaning vaccination or processing activities.

General Management

- Evaluate grass growth and adjust your grazing plan as needed.
- Employ multiple strategies, chemistries for late-season fly/insect control.
- Begin taking inventory of harvested forages for fall feed needs.
  - Use the forage inventory calculator (https://www.agmanager.info/hay-inventory-calculator).
- If planning to harvest corn silage, prepare your pile/bunker site and equipment.
  - If using a custom harvester, communicate with them well in advance.
  - Closely monitor whole plant moisture levels.
  - Have silage tarps in place and ready to cover once harvest is complete.
- Use the Management Minder tool on KSUBeef.org to plan key management activities for your cowherd for the rest of the year.
- With high feeder calf prices, consider price risk management tools.
- Visit with your local FSA and extension office if you plan to utilize CRP acres for emergency forage use or for information on other assistance programs.

What's New for Swine Producers

Effects of Increasing Soybean Meal in Diets with or without Distillers Dried Grains with Solubles on Growth Performance and Carcass Characteristics of Pigs in Early and Late Finishing Phases- This study aimed to determine the minimum soybean meal (SBM) inclusion in diets with or without distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS) to optimize growth performance and carcass characteristics in finishing pigs. For the early finishing period (Exp. 1), a total of 4,080 pigs were used in a 28-day trial. Dietary treatments were arranged in a 2 × 4 factorial with main effects of DDGS (none or 30%) and increasing SBM (low, low-medium, medium-high, and high). There were 34 pigs per pen and 15 pens per treatment. Diets without DDGS contained 17.5, 23.3, 29.1, or 34.9% SBM, while diets with DDGS contained 3.9, 12.8, 21.8, or 30.6% SBM. For the late finishing period (Exp. 2), a total of 3,984 pigs were used in a 28-day trial. Diets were also arranged in a 2 × 4 arrangement with main effects of DDGS (none or 15%) and SBM (low, low-medium, medium-high and high). There were 30 to 34 pigs per pen and 15 pens per treatment. Diets without DDGS contained 6.5, 11.5, 16.4, or 21.3% SBM while diets with DDGS contained none, 6.4, 12.8, or 19.2% SBM. The NE of corn was assumed to be 1,228 Kcal/lb and soybean meal was assumed to be 1,267 Kcal/lb (103% of corn NE). Following the 28-day growth study, pigs were marketed on a fixed weight basis across three marketing events, and carcass characteristics were collected. Between experiments, from 140 to 175 lb, pigs were fed a common diet with 7.5% DDGS. In Exp. 1, a tendency ($P = 0.088$) for a linear interaction between DDGS and SBM level was observed for ADG, where increasing SBM decreased ADG in diets with 30% DDGS but did not affect diets without DDGS. Pigs fed 30% DDGS had decreased ($P \leq 0.01$) ADFI and poorer F/G than pigs fed the corn-SBM-based diet without DDGS. Increasing SBM, regardless of DDGS inclusion, decreased ADFI (linear, $P = 0.001$) and improved F/G (linear, $P = 0.043$). In Exp. 2, from d 0 to d 28, an interaction (linear, $P \leq 0.05$) between DDGS and SBM level was observed for ADG and ADFI, where increasing SBM reduced ADG and ADFI only in diets containing 15% DDGS. Pigs fed diets without DDGS had a tendency ($P = 0.094$) for improved F/G compared to pigs fed 15% DDGS. Increasing SBM improved F/G (linear, $P < 0.001$) but did not affect final BW. Marginal interactions between DDGS and SBM for percentage lean and loin depth ($P \leq 0.10$) were observed with increasing SBM improving these traits to a greater extent in diets with 15% DDGS. Pigs fed diets without DDGS had increased ($P < 0.05$) HCW, carcass yield, and backfat depth. Increasing SBM decreased carcass yield (linear, $P < 0.001$) and backfat depth (quadratic, $P = 0.033$), regardless of DDGS inclusion. In conclusion, 30% and 15% DDGS negatively affected ADG and F/G in the early and late finishing periods, respectively. Feeding 29.1% SBM without DDGS and 21.8% SBM with 30% DDGS in the early period improved F/G without compromising ADG, while feeding 16.4% SBM without DDGS and 19.2% SBM with 15% DDGS in the late period improved F/G and carcass characteristics. Caloric efficiency was not changed with increasing SBM, suggesting that our initial estimate for SBM of 103% of the NE value for corn was appropriate. More information is available on this experiment and others at KSUSwine.org. *(This study conducted by Paula Giacomini, Katelyn N. Gaffield, Robert D. Goodband, Jason C. Woodworth, Mike D. Tokach, Joel M. DeRouchey, Jordan T. Gebhardt, Amy Petry, Margaret Putnam, Aaron Gaines, R. Dean Boyd, Caleb Shull, and Omarh Mendoza).*

Effects of Thermo-Mechanically Processed Soybean Meal on Nursery Pig Growth and Fecal Characteristics- A total of 1,254 mixed-sex pigs (PIC 800 × [Fast York A × PIC L02]; initially 12.4 ± 0.22 lb) were used in a 28-d study to evaluate the effects of thermo-mechanically processed soybean meal (TM-SBM; Provisoy; Cargill; Wayzata, Minnesota) on nursery pig growth and fecal characteristics. Pens of pigs were randomly allotted to one of five dietary treatments in a randomized complete block design with body weight (BW) and nursery entry date as blocking factors. There were 18 to 20 pigs per pen and 12 pens per treatment. The experimental diets were cornsoybean meal-based with increasing TM-SBM replacing soybean meal on a standardized ileal digestible (SID) Lys basis in the diet (0, 25, 50, 75, and 100% in phase 1 and 0, 12.5, 25, 37.5, and 50% in phase 2). Treatment diets were fed in two phases from d 0 to 7 (phase 1) and d 7 to 21 (phase 2) followed by a common diet from d 21 to 28 (phase 3). At the end of phases 1 and 2 (d 7 and 21), fecal samples were collected from three randomly selected pigs in each pen to determine fecal dry matter (DM). Fecal scoring was also conducted on collected fecal material using a 0 to 4 scoring system, with 0 indicating firm feces and 4 indicating diarrhea. From d 0 to 21 (experimental period), ADG and ADFI increased then decreased (quadratic, $P \leq 0.038$) with the best performance observed when TM-SBM replaced 25 to 50% of the SBM in phase 1 and 12.5 to 25% in phase 2. Moreover, feed efficiency improved (quadratic, $P = 0.036$) with TM-SBM replacing 50 and 25% of the SBM in phases 1 and 2, respectively, but worsened thereafter. No differences were observed for ADG, ADFI, and feed efficiency during the common period (d 21 to 28). Overall (d 0 to 28), ADG and ADFI tended to increase then decrease (quadratic, $P \leq 0.089$) with the best performance observed when TM-SBM replaced 25% of the SBM in phase 1 and 12.5% in phase 2. For fecal DM, a treatment × day interaction was observed (quadratic, $P = 0.024$) indicating that the response to added TM-SBM differed across days. On d 7, the greatest increase in fecal DM occurred when TM-SBM replaced 25% of the SBM SID Lys (quadratic, $P = 0.004$) but decreased with 50% replacement of SBM SID Lys and then remained relatively stable. There were no fecal DM treatment differences observed on d 21. In summary, increasing TM-SBM to replace up to 25 to 50% of the SID Lys of SBM in phase 1 and 12.5 to 25% in phase 2 resulted in improved growth performance throughout the experimental period. Fecal DM on d 7 was greatest when 25% of the SID Lys of SBM was replaced with TM-SBM in phase 1. Higher inclusions of TM-SBM above 50% of the SID Lys of SBM in phase 1 and 25% in phase 2 were associated with decreased ADG and worsened feed efficiency. More information is available on this experiment and others at KSUSwine.org. *(This study conducted by Jessica L. Smallfield, Jason C. Woodworth, Joel M. DeRouchey, Mike D. Tokach, Robert D. Goodband, Katelyn N. Gaffield, Jordan T. Gebhardt, Alan J. Warner, Chad W. Hastad, Sabrina T. May, Wesley P. Schweer, and Chad M. Pilcher).*

What's New for Cattle Producers

Effects of 28-day Rotation of Monensin and Laidlomycin Propionate on Commercial Cattle Performance During the Growing Phase- Investigate the effects of multiple 28-day rotations of monensin (Rumensin 90; Elanco, Indianapolis, IN) and laidlomycin propionate (Cattlyst 50G; Phibro Animal Health Corporation, Teaneck, NJ) on growing commercial heifer performance.

Study Description: A total of 584 heifers (639 ± 57 lb initial body weight [BW]) were randomly divided among 10 pens at a commercial feedyard. All heifers were limit-fed a growing ration with treatment assigned as: 1) monensin (MON) included at 18.8 g/ton on a dry matter (DM) basis; or 2) 28-day rotation (ROT) of monensin (included at 18.8 g/ton on a DM basis) to laidlomycin propionate (included at 7.4 g/ ton on a DM basis) repeated twice during the 112-day trial. Performance was assessed with BW measurements every 28 days.

The Bottom Line: Rotating monensin and laidlomycin propionate every 28 days during the growing phase improved the performance of limit-fed beef heifers by 8.7% compared to consistent monensin feeding, indicating a label-compliant strategy with possible performance value. More information is available on this study and others like it at KSUBeef.org. *(This study conducted by Madison L. Bemisderfer, Cody J. Schneider, Logan R. Thompson, and Haley E. Larson).*

Effects of an Alleyway Brush on the Behavior of Commercial Beef Heifers and Cows During a 7-day CO-Synch + CIDR Protocol and Pregnancy Outcomes-The objective of this study was to explore the effects of using a cattle brush device as positive reinforcement during the handling events of the estrus synchronization (ES) protocol on temperament and pregnancy rates of beef cows and heifers.

Study Description: A total of 71 heifers and 162 cows at the Agricultural Research Center, Hays, KS, were stratified by reproductive/physiological status and randomly assigned to treatment (TRT) or control (CTRL). During the ES protocol, TRT animals encountered a spring-mounted brush before entering the chute, while CTRL animals did not. Chute score (CS) and exit velocity (EV) were recorded on each day. Estrotect indicators were applied and measured. Pregnancy was diagnosed by ultrasound 33 days post-timed artificial insemination (TAI) for heifers and 68 days for cows.

The Bottom Line: Bovine temperament can be improved through sequential handling events, but additional research is needed to determine the effects of positive reinforcement with a brush in the chute alley on reproductive production measures. More information is available on this study and others like it at KSUBeef.org. *(This study conducted by Danielle M. Ellinghuysen, Allen G. Schwartz, Cassia A. Gruis, Sydney B. Noel, Nicholas Steinkamp, Victoria Axman, Ava Carlson, Jacie Bonneau, Samuel H. Costa, Emma A. Briggs, Sandy K. Johnson, and Nicholas W. Dias).*

Effects of Dietary Inclusion of an Omega-3 Fatty Acid-based Supplement on Biological Parameters and Sperm Characteristics of Developing Beef Bulls- This study was to evaluate the impact of including an omega-3 fatty acid-based supplement in the diet of developing beef bulls on growth and semen characteristics.

Study Description: Weaned beef bull calves (n = 39) from the Kansas State Purebred Beef Unit were supplemented with an omega-3 based fatty acid-based supplement through one of three dietary treatments: 0.00 (CON), 0.48 (MOD), or 0.96 (HI) lb/head/day (dry matter basis; extruded flaxseed and algae-based supplement, Better Fed Foods/NBO3, Manhattan, KS). Treatments were applied for 80 days in precision intake management bunks, allowing for the monitoring of performance data. Bulls were evaluated for semen characteristics through breeding soundness exams conducted three times throughout the trial.

The Bottom Line: Results suggest that omega-3 supplementation may impact sperm cell motility in young bulls within the inclusion levels and duration of this experiment, which may ultimately help counter the negative effects of overfeeding on semen quality. More information is available on this study and others like it at KSUBeef.org. *(This study conducted by Allen G. Schwartz, Brandon J. Fraser, Danielle M. Ellinghuysen, Jordana Zimmermann, Eduarda Bortoluzzi, Adam Bassett, Saulo M. Zoca, Nicholas W. Dias, and Jason M. Warner).*

What's the Beef with Consumer Appeal?- The objective of this study was to determine the specific color consumers most prefer as the appealing bright, cherry-red beef color.

Study Description: Color samples were created from an original hexadecimal score that was assumed to be the ideal bright, cherry-red beef color, with variations to reflect beef colors consumers may encounter in retail. A 5 × 5 grid was generated from this hex: darker tones extended left, brighter shades upward, lighter hues right, and duller tones downward. Each trait (darkness, brightness, lightness, dullness) included two adaptations, producing nine base color squares. From these nine, four additional hexes were developed by combining two traits within each quadrant. Consumers (n = 192) then completed a survey with 10 randomly selected samples, rating their overall liking and indicating whether they would purchase beef steaks of that color.

The Bottom Line: Consumers prefer moderately light and bright shades of beef color over darker hues. As beef color becomes darker, consumers become more critical regardless of brightness. More information is available on this study and others like it at KSUBeef.org. *(This study conducted by Kelli G. Garrett, Stephanie L. Witberler, Greta E. Huber, Erin S. Beyer, Jessie L. Vipham, Morgan D. Zumbaugh, and Travis G. O'Quinn).*

ASI Faculty Highlight

Katelyn Gaffield (gaffield@ksu.edu or 785-532-1239)
Assistant Professor - Swine Nutrition

Originally from Illinois, Katelyn completed her bachelor's degree in Animal Science at the University of Illinois. As an undergrad, she was heavily involved in undergraduate research and completed internships with Smithfield and Cargill, which established her interest in graduate school. Katelyn completed her master's degree with a focus on meat science at the University of Illinois in 2021 where she conducted applied pork quality research. Katelyn joined the Kansas State University Applied Swine Nutrition Team in August of 2021 for her PhD.

Following completion of her PhD in 2024, Katelyn started her position as an Assistant Research Professor in Swine Nutrition with a 100% research appointment. Katelyn focuses on conducting applied swine nutrition research including improving profitability, efficiency, and sustainability for pork producers. This work includes addressing some of the industry's leading challenges as a part of the K-State Applied Swine Nutrition Team. In 2026, Katelyn accepted a new position as an Assistant Professor with an 80% research and 20% teaching appointment. As part of this appointment, Katelyn teaches graduate level courses including Applications in Swine Nutrition (ASI 879) and Advanced Swine Nutrition (ASI 835), along with leading the swine laboratory section of the Undergraduate Research Course (ASI 560). Katelyn aims to utilize her inter-disciplinary background to conduct collaborative, applied research that can directly benefit swine producers along with facilitating the learning of the next generation of swine nutritionists.

Josh Flohr (flohr@ksu.edu)
Assistant Professor / Extension Specialist

Dr. Josh Flohr was raised in Emmitsburg, Maryland. As a child, he spent most of his time outside of school on his grandparents diversified dairy farm, as his parents worked full time careers off the farm. His passion for agriculture led to his participation in 4H youth development programs including exhibition swine and livestock judging. In 2006, Josh joined the Butler Community College Livestock judging team and received his associate's degree in agriculture in 2008. From there he continued his education at Texas Tech University where he received his B.S. in Animal Science in 2010. Then he received his M.S. (2012) and Ph.D. (2015) from Kansas State University in Swine Nutrition.

After completing his degrees, Josh first entered the swine industry as a consulting nutritionist with NutriQuest in Mason City, IA. In 2016, he transitioned to Seaboard Foods. Over the nearly 10 years at Seaboard Josh's responsibilities grew from leading nutrition and live operations research to overseeing health services, genetic supply, feed milling and biosecurity. Josh was responsible for helping shape strategic initiatives, cultivating high-performing teams, and driving operational execution to achieve organizational objectives. In 2026, Josh re-joined the Applied Swine Nutrition team at KSU and is currently an Assistant Professor. Josh's appointment is 50% teaching and 50% extension.

A brief listing of Josh's Extension interests involve: 1) mentoring and training graduate and undergraduate students; 2) Conducting applied management and nutrition research focused on operational efficiencies; 3) working with producers to train and develop their work force and align strategic efforts to achieve their goals; 4) Continue to innovate and improve operational execution of biosecurity and disease prevention efforts. Josh and his wife, Sara, have 3 children, Leo, Dane, and Jonah and currently live by St. George, KS.

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