What’s Been Happening in the YLP?

It was wonderful to get back to our traditional events over the spring, summer, and early fall! Kicking it off with livestock nominations, to K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy, Swine Classic, Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes, and wrapping it up with the Kansas State Fair and KJLS, it was an exciting time! Thank you to the youth and parents who enthusiastically participated in Youth Livestock and KSU ASI events over the last year. It is always fantastic to see so many smiling faces, of all ages, sharing their passion for youth projects and the livestock industry. We look forward to another great year and wish everyone the best of luck as you select projects for the new year!

Program Recaps

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

Twenty students gathered on the Kansas State University campus June 22-25 to gain livestock industry knowledge and develop leadership skills. These participants comprised a 20-person cohort of the 13th annual K-State Animal Science Leadership Academy (KASLA) in Manhattan, Kansas.

During their time at the KASLA, students participated in interactive leadership development and educational lab sessions led by faculty members from across the K-State campus. Participants completed the college experience by dining at the K-State Alumni Center, completing the K-State Challenge Course and staying in Marlatt Hall. KASLA also included several livestock industry tours, with off-campus stops including: Hildebrand Farms Dairy, Junction City, and Kansas Department of Agriculture, Manhattan. They also enjoyed tours of university farms and ASI department facilities. For their final project, the students were divided into groups during the week to focus on current issues affecting the livestock industry. ASI faculty mentors assisted each group. Using information they learned throughout the academy, the groups were asked to present their subject as part of the closing reception on the final day.

Hosted by the K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry and sponsored by the Livestock and Meat Industry Council Inc., the academy’s goal is to develop young leaders within the livestock industry and prepare them for a future in this field.

Plans are being made for the 2023 program! KASLA will be hosted in June, with applications being due April 15. This program is open to students in grades 9-12. Please watch the KASLA webpage or Facebook page for additional details.

Dr. Bob Hines Swine Classic

The 2022 Dr. Bob Hines Kansas Swine Classic was hosted July 1-2 at the Riley County Fairgrounds in CiCo Park. There were 134 youth exhibitors from 42 counties who brought 274 swine projects to the event this year. Youth exhibited pigs in the prospect show, market show, and showmanship. There were also 72 kids who showcased their knowledge in the swine skillathon and 23 photos entered in the “People’s Choice” photography contest. The 2023 event is scheduled for June 30-July 1 in Manhattan! Watch the website and Facebook page for entry details next spring.
Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes

The annual Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes was hosted August 20-21 in Manhattan, KS, where youth displayed their livestock knowledge and talent in livestock judging, meat judging, skillathon and quiz bowl. Over 300 4-H members from 66 Kansas counties competed in the state contests. Complete results are available on the youth livestock website, under 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes. Plan to join us in late August next year to participate!

The top performing 4-H’ers earned the right to represent Kansas at the national contests this fall. Shout out to the Kansas 4-H Meats Judging Team for winning Champion honors at the national contest! This was a first for the state of Kansas! The all-star livestock judging team and skillathon and quiz bowl teams will compete later this fall at Louisville.

Kansas State Fair & Kansas Junior Livestock Show

The 2022 Kansas State Fair and Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS) were hosted during September and October in Hutchinson. Congratulations to the Kansas 4-H and FFA members who exhibited projects at the shows this year. Each show had over 800 exhibitors showing a combined total of almost 5,000 entries! Information about each show, as well as results, may be found on each show’s respective website and social media accounts — The Grand Drive and Kansas Junior Livestock Show. Best of luck as you select livestock projects for this year!
Important Announcements — Nominations & YQCA

We transitioned to an online state nomination system in 2022 and will be continuing the online platform in 2023. Families will need to plan ahead and prepare prior to the deadline to get everything completed on time. Please watch your email, the website, and the Facebook page for updates as we approach spring. Anyone who ordered extra DNA envelopes last year will be able to use them in 2023.

YQCA will continue to be required for all Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and KJLS exhibitors. Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a national, multi-specie, youth livestock quality assurance program. Youth may complete the training online or through an instructor-led course with an approved instructor. Exhibitors will submit a copy of their certificate at the time of nomination, so make sure to download it to a device when they complete their training. It is an annual training. Certificates must be valid through October 2, 2023 to be accepted.

Upcoming Events - K-State Junior Producer Days

The 2023 junior producer days will be hosted in-person on the K-State campus in Manhattan! The Junior Swine Producer Day will be Saturday, March 11. Tentative topics include selection, nutrition, meat science, reproduction, breeds and ear notching, health, clipping and grooming, and showmanship. The deadline to register is February 15. The cost is $20/person by the deadline, or $25 after. Only those registered by February 15 will receive a t-shirt. Junior Meat Goat Producer Day will be hosted Saturday, March 18. Tentative topics include selection, nutrition, facilities, reproduction, health, clipping and grooming, and showmanship. The cost is $20/person and t-shirts are only guaranteed for those who sign up by the deadline. Registrations received after February 22 will be $25/person.

All youth, parents, leaders and extension agents are invited to participate in these one-day, family educational experiences. K-State faculty members, graduate students, veterinarians, extension agents, guest speakers and specialists will provide the sessions. There will also be an optional instructor-led YQCA training at the conclusion of the program for both events, as well as a session over the state nomination process.


If you are a parent, extension agent or project leader and would like to be added to the KSU YLP listserv, please contact Lexie Hayes at adhayes@ksu.edu.