What’s Been Happening in the YLP?
The KSU Youth Livestock Program is off to an exciting start in 2023! We were fortunate to have some fantastic speakers, volunteers, and participating families join us for K-State Junior Swine and Meat Goat Producer Days. It is wonderful to see youth excited about their projects, while meeting lifelong friends they’ll see in the barn throughout their show careers. We appreciate the support and enthusiasm of youth, parents, agents, and project leaders who are involved in our program. The spring and summer are packed full of events and activities, and we can’t wait to see everyone over the next few months! Good luck with your 2023 livestock projects…and Go Cats!

Program Recaps
- K-State Junior Swine Producer Day
- K-State Junior Meat Goat Producer Day

Upcoming Events
- Kansas 4-H Animal Science Webinar Series
- KASLA
- Discovery Days
- “Champions” K-State Livestock Judging Camp
- Horse Judging Camp
- Dr. Bob Hines Swine Classic
- Social Media
- YQCA
- State Livestock Nominations
- Livestock Sweepstakes

Important Dates
- May 1 - Market Beef Nominations Due
- June 15 - Small Livestock & Commercial Heifer Nominations Due
The YLP Offers:
- Jr. Producer Days
- KASLA
- 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes
- State Livestock Nominations
- Dr. Bob Hines Swine Classic
- ASI @ Discovery Days
- Local Show & Clinic Links
- Educational Materials

Check out the materials posted on the KSU Youth Livestock Program website!

Junior Swine Producer Day
Over 350 youth, parents, and project leaders from 46 Kansas counties and 2 Nebraska counties participated in junior swine producer day on March 11, 2023. Guest speaker, Pat Arkfeld, kicked off the program with a presentation on swine project selection. Next, families chose breakout sessions that most closely fit their interests, including meat science with Meat Science Grad Student, Lindsey Decker, reproduction and sow management presented by Pat Arkfeld and K-State Swine Graduate Student Abigail Jenkins, breeds and ear notching with Ethan Stas, and a discussion on facilities and equipment with K-State Swine Graduate Student, Rafe Royall. Following lunch, Dr. Trevor Martin from Abilene Animal Hospital opened the afternoon program by giving a presentation on health. Then, families selected two breakout sessions from beginner nutrition with K-State Swine Graduate Students Andrew Boschert and Max Corso, advanced nutrition with K-State Extension Specialist Dr. Joel DeRouchey, a showmanship demonstration with Pat Arkfeld and K-State Swine Grad Student Ty Kim, and a clipping, hair care, and show day prep discussion with Rafe Royall. Lexie Hayes shared about the state livestock nomination process at the conclusion of the program for those interested in showing at the state fair or KILS, while agents Charlene Miller and Shannon Spencer offered an instructor-led YQCA training. The event was sponsored by the Kansas Pork Association, Valley Vet Supply, Essential Show Feeds, K-State Department of Animal Sciences & Industry, K-State Research & Extension, and the KSU Youth Livestock Program. The K-State Swine Show Guide is available on the KSU Youth Livestock Program website, under Educational Resources.

Junior Meat Goat Producer Day
Over 425 youth, parents, and project leaders from 62 Kansas counties attended Junior Meat Goat Producer Day hosted March 18, 2023, in Weber Arena. Guest Speakers for the day, Dale and Tara Hummel, kicked off the program with a presentation on meat goat project selection. Then, families selected two breakout sessions to attend from nutrition with Dale Hummel, a discussion on facilities and equipment with Tara Hummel, and meat science with K-State Graduate Student, Lindsey Decker. Before lunch, Dr. Emily Reppert from the K-State College of Veterinary Medicine shared information about goat health. To round out the day, families attended three afternoon breakout sessions including showmanship with Dale and Tara Hummel, a clipping and grooming demonstration with K-State Sheep and Meat Goat Center employees Gavin Beesley and Brenna Oschel, and a presentation on reproductive technologies in goats with Jocie Kleiman representing ReproLogix. Lexie Hayes offered an optional session over the state livestock nomination process after the program concluded, while extension agent Charlene Miller and Kansas 4-H Ag Sciences Specialist Kelsey Nordyke taught an instructor-led YQCA class. The event was sponsored by Valley Vet Supply, Essential Show Feeds, Triple Creek Trail, Hummel Livestock, ReproLogix, the K-State Sheep & Meat Goat Center, the Department of Animal Sciences & Industry, K-State Research & Extension, and the KSU Youth Livestock Program. The K-State Meat Goat Show Guide is posted under the Educational Resources tab of the website.

Plan to join us in 2024 for the Junior Beef and Sheep Producer Days!
Kansas 4-H Animal Science Webinar Series

The Animal Science Webinar Series is a program in its second year designed to give Kansas 4-H’ers an opportunity to learn more about the livestock industry, career opportunities, and good animal husbandry practices. Webinars will be posted the third Monday of the month and cover a variety of topics throughout the year. Participants may submit questions related to the webinar topic to Kelsey Nordyke at knordyke@ksu.edu. For more information, visit the Kansas 4-H Animal Science webpage.

K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy

The K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry is currently accepting applications for the K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy (KASLA). The program will be hosted June 21-24 on the K-State campus. Students will participate in tours and workshops, have mentor time with faculty, and evaluate current events within the industry. Participation is limited to high school students. The program is sponsored by the Livestock and Meat Industry Council (LMIC) Inc., with the goal to develop young leaders within the livestock industry and prepare them for a successful future in this field. Applications are due April 15. The forms and details are available under the K-State Animal Science Leadership Academy tab of the youth livestock program website. For further details, contact Sharon Breiner at sbreiner@ksu.edu.

Animal Science at Discovery Days

Several animal science-related sessions will be offered at Discovery Days, from reproduction to meat science to chuck wagon cooking, and earning your YQCA certification. Check out the course catalog for opportunities to join us at KSU ASI!

K-State “Champions” Livestock Judging Camp

The K-State Livestock Judging Team recently released their annual “Champions” livestock judging camp dates for this summer. Camp sessions will be hosted June 5-7, 12-14, and 15-17. In addition to evaluating livestock, this camp focuses on reason development and presentation. It is open to youth 14-18 years old and participation is filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit the K-State Judging Camps webpage for additional details and registration forms.

K-State Horse Judging Camp

The K-State Horse Judging Team will be hosting two camps this summer. The Beginner Camp will be June 14, with the Advanced Camp offered June 13-14. This year, the Kansas 4-H State Horse Judging Contest will be hosted in Salina after the camps on June 15. Additional details and registration information will be released soon and will be located on the K-State Judging Camps webpage.
Dr. Bob Hines Swine Classic

The 2023 Dr. Bob Hines Kansas Youth Swine Classic will be hosted June 30-July 1 at the Riley County Fairgrounds in CiCo Park in Manhattan. This two-day event is comprised of educational opportunities, including a swine skillathon, photography contest, showmanship, and a prospect and market hog show. All Kansas youth ages 7 and older are invited to exhibit. Entries must be submitted online by 5:00pm on June 15. Payment needs to be postmarked by June 15 as well. The brochure, additional details, and the entry link may be found on the Youth Livestock Program website later this spring!

KSU YLP Social Media

The KSU Youth Livestock Program uses a variety of social media platforms to make announcements, release program information, distribute updates, and share photos. Make sure to “Like” us on Facebook, “Add” us on Snapchat, and “Follow” us on Instagram and Twitter.

We will be releasing a weekly tip for the nomination process on Tuesday evenings. Follow #NominationTipTuesday to learn more about making sure nominations are complete. There will also be Zoom sessions for families over the state livestock nomination process. On April 4, market beef and commercial heifers will be the focus. Then, on May 16, we will cover small livestock (hogs, sheep, meat goats). The sessions will include information over the process in general, tips and reminders, as well as a demo of logging in and using the system. Keep your eye on our Facebook page for those events! Registration is required and may be accessed by using the specie hyperlinks above. Both sessions will begin at 7:00PM.

The KSU Department of Animal Sciences & Industry also has active social media accounts, so go “Like” their page to follow all events related to KSU ASI!

The Kansas State Fair and KJLS disperse valuable information via their Facebook pages. If you are interested in those events, make sure you are following The Grand Drive and Kansas Junior Livestock Show.

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a national, multi-species livestock quality assurance program that focuses on food safety, animal well-being, and life skill development for youth producing and/or showing livestock. Youth may participate in an instructor-led class for $3/child, or complete the web-based course for $12/child.

The YQCA program transitioned to a new platform in March of 2022. All families will need to create a new account on this platform to complete and manage certifications for children in their family. The new website is www.yqcaprogram.org. The YQCA requirement will continue for all Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and KJLS exhibitors. Families completing the instructor-led course will need to complete the pre-test prior to the class. After you login and hover over the username, it is located under “Enrolled ILT Trainings”. Youth are encouraged to complete their certification as soon as possible and it must be completed prior to state nomination. Nominations received without a valid YQCA certificate will be considered incomplete. Families who are only showing registered breeding females will submit their number during show entry. Visit the YQCA program website or local extension office for details on class options.
2023 State Livestock Nominations & Updates

The 2023 state livestock nomination season has arrived! The current materials have been released and are posted on the KSU Youth Livestock website under Nomination Information. We transitioned to an online nomination system last year. All families are highly encouraged to plan ahead and use the resources, specifically the Rookie Guide. To be eligible to exhibit in the Kansas State Fair Grand Drive &/or KJLS, market animals and commercial females must be formally nominated by the appropriate deadline. Also, there is not a registered breeding doe division at either show, so ALL meat goats (wethers and does) must be nominated to be shown. State Nomination includes four major steps. No paper forms will be accepted. Extension Agents and FFA Advisors will be approving nominations online, so families will not be obtaining these signatures for their materials. An informational Zoom session will be hosted for families April 4 and May 16 at 7:00pm - click the date to register and receive the link!

4-Step Nomination Process:

1. Purchase Official DNA Envelopes in advance online; Must be purchased in 2022-23.
   * Order Deadlines: Market Beef - April 20; Small Livestock - June 5
2. Enter animal & exhibitor data through online system (ShoWorks) by deadline.
   * New Exhibitors - create an account.
   * Returning Exhibitors - use last year’s password and account!
3. Mail completed & signed DNA Envelopes, with submission receipt, by deadline.
4. Online approval by Extension Agents (4-H) and FFA Advisors (FFA).

• All animals that are nominated for the Kansas State Fair &/or KJLS are required to be tagged with a Kansas 4-H EID tag.
• DNA hair samples are required for all nominated animals & must be submitted in an official DNA envelope purchased through the online system. The signatures of all exhibitors within the family & a parent/guardian are required on the DNA envelope. Old DNA Envelopes (purchased prior to 2022) will not be accepted.
• The updated 2023 Declaration Form will be completed and uploaded into ShoWorks when each child enters their first animal into the system; use one copy of the family form for all exhibitors within the family - typed signatures will be accepted this year.
• YQCA certificate for each child will be uploaded into system. Get certified early!
• Animals will need to be entered in the system under each child in the family, in addition to everyone signing the DNA envelopes. Otherwise, only those who sign the DNA AND have the animal listed under their name can show it. Piloting an option in 2023 to dual nominate females in the market/commercial breeding divisions.
• The nomination fee of $12.00/animal will be paid through purchasing official DNA envelopes. No payment will be included when DNA samples are mailed to KSU.
• Ear notches are required for all swine.
• Sheep & meat goats must submit full scrapie tag numbers, including flock ID & animal number (correct format: KSS0035 18151).
• Nomination entries must be submitted online by the deadline & DNA samples must be postmarked by the listed deadline. These dates are strictly enforced. No late nominations will be accepted.
• Nomination is NOT entry. After the nomination process is complete, families must officially enter each child for the show in which they would like to participate! Follow each show’s website & social media pages (Grand Drive, Kansas Junior Livestock Show) for details. Only online entries will be accepted for both shows.
Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes
The Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes is being planned for August 19-20. This event includes the state 4-H livestock judging contest, meat judging contest, livestock skillathon, and quiz bowl, all in one, action-packed weekend. In addition to being the Kansas qualifier for the national 4-H contests, sweepstakes awards will also be tabulated for teams and individuals who participate in all of the contests throughout the weekend. Registration must be submitted by the local extension office by August 1. Watch the KSU YLP website for more details in June!

Meet the YLP Interns
Look for these new faces at KSU Youth Livestock Program events and activities! We welcome Morgan Gaines and Jessica Jensen who will be serving as our 2023 interns. They have already helped with the junior producer days, tag distribution, as well as filled DNA envelope orders for state livestock nominations, and we are excited to have them be part of the team as we gear up for summer!

Morgan Gaines
As the 4th generation living on the family farm, Morgan Gaines has grown up in agriculture. She lives and works on a diversified farm raising row crops and livestock. Her favorite part of farm life is definitely showing livestock. She started showing at just 6 years of age and has exhibited at local, state, and national shows. Participating in 4-H and FFA has fueled her passion for agriculture. Morgan is currently finishing her junior year at Kansas State University and plans to graduate in 2024, with a degree in Animal Sciences & Industry and a minor in business. During her time on campus, she has worked in the Animal Science business office, participated in Block and Bridle, and collegiate Cattlewomen’s. This summer, she is excited for the opportunity to work with livestock and help promote agriculture with the next generation as the youth livestock program intern.

Jessica Jensen
Jessica Jensen grew up on a registered Hereford operation in Courtland, Kansas. She was involved in 4-H and FFA competing at the county, state and national levels. She is currently involved in the Kansas Junior Hereford Association, serving as president, and the National Junior Hereford Association. Jessica is a junior at K-State majoring in agricultural communications and journalism with minors in agricultural sales and hospitality management. She will graduate in May of 2024 and hopes to work in the livestock industry focusing on video, writing, and design. She is excited to serve as the communications and marketing intern with the youth livestock program this summer.

To be added to the KSU YLP email listserv, email Lexie at adhayes@ksu.edu.