KSU YOUTH LIVESTOCK PROGRAM UPDATE

www.YouthLivestock.ksu.edu

November 2026

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WE'RE SOCIAL!

Facebook:
Kansas State
Youth Livestock Program
@ksuylp

Snapchat:
K-State Youth Livestock
Program
@ksuylp

Instagram:
@ksuylp

KSU YLP Website:
https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/

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WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN THE YLP?

It was fantastic to interact with so many Kansas livestock families throughout 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. Thank you to the youth and parents who enthusiastically participated in Youth Livestock and KSU ASI events over the last year. It is always wonderful to see so many smiling faces, of all ages, sharing their passion for youth projects and the livestock industry, as well as make new friends along the way. We look forward to another great year and are excited to see everyone in 2027!

PROGRAM RECAPS

- K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy
- Dr. Bob Hines Kansas Youth Swine Classic
- Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes
- National Champion 4-H Meat Judging Team
- Kansas State Fair
- Kansas Junior Livestock Show
- KSU YLP Internship









KSU YOUTH LIVESTOCK PROGRAM UPDATE

HELPFUL HANDOUTS

Handouts and project show guides from Junior Producer Days can be found on the Youth Livestock Program website:

www.YouthLivestock.KSU.edu

These handouts provide knowledge of how to care for and maintain your youth livestock project. Please refer to these resources for the beginner showman who needs guidance with their project as well as experienced showman looking to learn new things.

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K-STATE ANIMAL SCIENCES LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

High school students gathered on the Kansas State University campus June 10-13 to gain livestock industry knowledge and develop leadership skills at the annual K-State Animal Science Leadership Academy (KASLA) in Manhattan, KS. During their time at 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 staying in the dorms, touring the animal science facilities, and engaging in several livestock industry tours. For their final project, the students were divided into groups during the week to focus on current issues affecting the livestock industry and were guided by an ASI faculty mentors.

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 2027 program! KASLA will tentatively be hosted in June, with applications being due in the spring. This program is open to students in grades 9-12. Please watch the KASLA webpage or Facebook page for additional details.





DR. BOB HINES KANSAS SWINE CLASSIC

The 2026 Dr. Bob Hines Kansas Swine Classic hosted the 41st show at the Riley County Fairgrounds in CiCo Park. There were 103 youth from 30 counties who showed 244 swine projects. Youth exhibited pigs in the prospect show, market show, and showmanship. There were also 74 kids who showcased their knowledge in the swine skillathon and 7 photos entered in the "People's Choice" photography contest. Watch the website and Facebook page next spring for details on the 2027 show.







KANSAS STATE FAIR & KJLS

Congratulations to the Kansas 4-H and FFA members who exhibited projects at the 2026 Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and KJLS this fall! The Grand Drive had over 800 exhibitors showing almost 2,000 entries. KJLS had over 725 youth showing almost 1,600 entries! Information about each show, as well as results, may be found on their respective websites and social media accounts — The Grand Drive and Kansas Junior Livestock Show. Best of luck as you select livestock projects for this year!

KSU YOUTH LIVESTOCK PROGRAM UPDATE

THE YLP OFFERS:

- Jr. Swine Producer Day
- Jr. Meat Goat Producer Day
- 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 educational materials posted on the KSU Youth Livestock Program website.

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KANSAS 4-H LIVESTOCK SWEEPSTAKES

The annual Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes was hosted August 22-23 in Manhattan, KS, where youth displayed their livestock knowledge in livestock judging, meat judging, skillathon and quiz bowl. Almost 300 4-H members from 63 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 August next year to participate!





NATIONAL CHAMPION 4-H MEAT JUDGING TEAM

Top performing 4-H'ers earned the right to represent Kansas at the national contests this fall. Shout out to the All-Star 4-H Meats Judging Team for bringing the National Champion honors back to Kansas this year! Team members were Jewell Endicott, Logan Ploeger, Hope Pracht, and Jensen Vandike. All individuals finished in the top 10, with Jewell Endicott being the high individual. Thanks to Dr. Erin Beyer, Hayden Lott, and Alex Volk, as well as the local agents and volunteers, for the time and energy they invested in coaching these young people! The all-star livestock judging team, as well as the livestock skillathon team, will compete in their respective national 4-H contests later this fall in Louisville.





WE'RE HIRING - KSU YLP INTERNSHIP!

We're hiring! The youth livestock program is currently accepting applications for our undergraduate college student internships. These positions are part-time during the spring 2027 semester and transition to full-time in the summer. Professional, detail-oriented students with high integrity and an interest in educational program development are encouraged to apply. Up to two students will be selected. One is 100% youth livestock and the other is 50% youth livestock/50% communications and marketing. Both internships are in-person, based in Weber Hall on the K-State campus in Manhattan. Application requirements, additional details, and contact information are provided on the flyer, which is posted on the youth livestock program website. The deadline to apply is November 30.







KSU YOUTH LIVESTOCK PROGRAM UPDATE

SAVE THE DATE!

April - August dates are tentative

November 30
KSU YLP Internship Apps. Due

February 8
Jr. Swine Producer Day
Registration Due

February 22
Jr. Meat Goat Producer Day
Registration Due

March 6
Jr. Swine Producer Day

March 20
Jr. Meat Goat Producer Day

April 15
KASLA Applications Due

April 20
Market Beef
DNA Envelope Order Deadline

May 1
Market Beef
State Nominations Due

June 5
Small Livestock &
Commercial Heifer
DNA Envelope Order Deadline

June 15
Swine, Sheep, Meat Goat , &
Commercial Heifer
State Nominations Due

July 9-10
Dr. Bob Hines Swine Classic

August 14-15
Kansas 4-H
Livestock Sweepstakes

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IMPORTANT REMINDERS – NOMINATIONS & YQCA

State livestock nominations transitioned to an online process in 2022. Families will need to plan ahead and prepare prior to the deadline to get everything completed on time. This includes ordering DNA envelopes in advance. Please watch your email, the website, and the Facebook page for updates as we approach spring. Spread the word to any new families who will be nominating for the first time this year! Anyone who ordered extra DNA envelopes through the online system since 2022 will be able to use them in 2027. The state livestock nomination deadlines are traditionally the same from year-to-year, but are tentative until they are formally released with the 2027 state livestock nomination information in early March!

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, or when they order DNA envelopes, so make sure to download it to a device when kids complete the course. It is an annual training. Certificates must be valid through October 3, 2027. The platform has been updated in the last few weeks, so make sure to check it out!

K-STATE Research and Extension

UPCOMING EVENTS - K-STATE JUNIOR PRODUCER DAYS

We are excited to announce the dates for the 2027 K-State Junior Producer Days! The **Junior Swine Producer Day** will be Saturday, March 6. Topics will range from selection to health, meat science and showmanship. The deadline to register is February 8. The cost is $25/person by the deadline, or $35/person after. Only those registered by February 8 will receive a t-shirt.

Junior Meat Goat Producer Day will be hosted Saturday, March 20. Topics will include selection to nutrition, health, daily management and showmanship. Registration will be due February 22. The cost is $25/person and t-shirts are only guaranteed for those who sign up by the deadline. Late registrations will be $35/person.

Youth of all ages and skill levels, parents, leaders, extension agents, and ag teachers are invited to participate in these one-day, family educational experiences. Both events will be hosted at the Bilbrey Family Event Center, north of the K-State campus in Manhattan. K-State faculty members, graduate students, veterinarians, extension agents, guest speakers and former exhibitors will provide the sessions.

Watch the website and Facebook page for additional details, the tentative schedule, and registration link!







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.