

2026 KANSAS STATE YOUTH LIVESTOCK



NOMINATION GUIDELINES



In order to show at the Kansas State Fair (KSF) or Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS), exhibitors must first nominate the animal.

What is a nomination? A nomination is documentation that youth have owned, possessed and cared for a market animal and/or commercial breeding female since a certain date in order for that animal to be eligible for a state show. It includes exhibitors submitting identifying information about the animal through an online nomination system and providing a DNA hair sample for each animal. Exhibitors must have each animal submitted under their name online, as well as sign the DNA envelope, to be eligible to enter and show the animal.

How are the nomination dates set? The nomination dates are set by minimal guidelines set forth by Kansas 4-H on how long youth should own, possess and care for livestock projects to have gained the optimal educational experience. In addition, the KSF and KJLS Board of Directors agree on these dates.

What are the nomination deadlines?

May 1 - Market Steers and Market Heifers

June 15 - Commercial Heifers, Market Lambs, Commercial Ewes, Market Hogs, Commercial Gilts, and ALL Meat Goats (Market Goats, Commercial Does, and Registered Does)

How do I know what to turn in? The Youth Livestock Program has compiled a list of requirements (checklist) for each species.

How much does it cost? The nomination fee is \$12.00 per animal, for all species.

What is the Declaration form? The declaration form is required for all Kansas families/households who nominate animals and wish to show at Kansas State Shows (Kansas State Fair Grand Drive or KJLS). This form states the family/household name, along with who is eligible to show within that family/household. In addition, it lists the physical location of where the animals are kept, and also has a statement about possession, ownership and care of the animals. It must be signed by all individual exhibitors and a parent/legal guardian. Each family/household must complete a declaration form annually, which includes all eligible exhibitors for the current program year. This form will be uploaded into the online nomination system for each child in the family who plans to exhibit.

Is a Nomination the same as an entry for the show? **NO!** Exhibitors must first nominate animals in order to declare that they own, possess and care for them. Then, youth must enter each animal for the show following the specific entry process set forth by the Kansas State Fair (KSF) and/or Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS). Exhibitors must complete both steps in order to show. *Nomination information and entries are submitted online, using ShoWorks. However, each step in the process utilizes a unique link. Nominations are facilitated by KSU, in partnership with the state shows, with DNA envelopes mailed to the KSU Youth Livestock Program office. However, show entries for KSF and KJLS are managed by those respective Livestock Show offices, independently, using their links.*

How will I know if my Nomination is complete? Once DNA hair sample envelopes are received and nomination information verified, families will receive a letter in the mail from the KSU Youth Livestock Program. This letter will list all of the animals that are confirmed for a family. A family/household will receive a separate letter for each species nominated. If exhibitors submitted incomplete or incorrect information, the letter will notify them what is missing and how to fix the issue. In addition, reports of nominations received are posted on the KSU Youth Livestock Program website: www.YouthLivestock.KSU.edu, under Nominated Livestock. This page is updated regularly during the nomination season and it is highly recommend that families use this tool. Nominations must also be approved by the local extension agent for eligible Kansas 4-H members and FFA advisor for eligible Kansas FFA members.

What if I don't get everything in the first time? If a confirmation letter states that something is incomplete or incorrect, **there is a one-time fee of \$20.00 to correct the error.** This includes information on the Declaration Form, data submitted online, DNA envelopes, signatures (exhibitor(s) or parent(s)/legal guardian(s)), etc. The incomplete fee must accompany the missing or corrected information for the nomination to be complete. Only animals with a complete nomination are eligible for the state shows.

Where do I get ear tags and DNA envelopes? Animals must be tagged through an exhibitor's local Extension Office. Youth should communicate with their local Extension Office in advance, so they have the tags necessary and extension agents/FFA advisors are prepared to approve state nominations. Organizational representatives are a resource for families.

DNA hair samples must be submitted in an official DNA envelope, purchased in advance, through ShoWorks. Families may order them directly. The deadline to order DNA envelopes is 10 days prior to the nomination deadline for each specie (Market Beef - April 20; Small Livestock & Commercial Breeding Heifers - June 5). One type of envelope is available for all species. Refer to the Rookie Guide for detailed information on appropriately obtaining DNA samples from animals. The specie checklists are also valuable resources.