As the COVID-19 pandemic continued in 2021, it was exciting to be able to host modified in-person activities through the summer and fall. We missed seeing your smiling faces live and in 3-D just as much as you missed in-person events! From being flexible and willing to try traditional activities in a new format to pitching in where we needed an extra set of hands, we appreciated the patience and cooperation of youth, parents, and volunteers as we incorporated modifications that allowed us to safely return to some normalcy. We ask for that continued cooperation as we move forward with planning our events and programs in 2022! We look forward to seeing everyone in 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

The K-State Animal Science Leadership Academy offered a hybrid format program hosted June 15-18 that included virtual instruction, followed by a closing, one-day, in-person experience on the Kansas State University campus.

Students participated in tours and workshops virtually for the first part of the week, which included: Dr. Kerry Priest from the Staley School of Leadership; Melissa Hildebrand-Reed of Hildebrand Farms; Joe Bichelmeyer of Bichelmeyer Meats; Dr. Joel DeRouchey for K-State Swine; Tamra Kott on behalf of K-State Sheep and Meat Goat; Scarlett Hagins, Sharla Huseman, and Shelby Wiggs from the Kansas Livestock Association; Mark Gardiner of Gardiner Angus Ranch; and Debbie Lyons-Blythe of Blythe Family Farms.

Participants gathered on the K-State campus Friday, June 18, to connect with their cohort and faculty. After completing Strengths Quest, students had lunch in small faculty groups with Dr. Joel DeRouchey, Dr. Karol Fike, and Dr. Cassie Jones. Following lunch, they enjoyed a hands-on repro lab with Dr. David Grieger and Ashley Hartman. The program concluded with a closing dinner at the K-State Alumni Center with Dr. Mike and Toni Day, as well as a keynote address from Dr. Dave Nichols.

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

Plans are being made for the 2022 program! KASLA will be hosted in June, with applications being due April 15, 2022. 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 2021 Dr. Bob Hines Kansas Youth Swine Classic was hosted July 9-10 at the Riley County Fairgrounds in CiCo Park. There were 109 youth exhibitors from 41 counties who brought 261 swine projects to the event this year. Youth exhibited pigs in the prospect show, market show, and showmanship. There were also 57 participants who showcased their knowledge in the swine skillathon and 14 photos entered in the “People’s Choice” photography contest. The 2022 event is scheduled for July 1-2 in Manhattan! Watch the website and Facebook page for entry details later this spring.
The annual Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes was hosted August 21-22 in Manhattan, KS, where youth displayed their livestock knowledge and talent in livestock judging, meat judging, skillathon and quiz bowl. Approximately 350 4-H members from 65 Kansas counties competed in the state contests. Complete results are available on the youth livestock website, under 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes. Mark your calendars to participate next year — tentatively scheduled for August 20-21, 2022!

The Kansas 4-H’ers represented us well at the National 4-H contests throughout the fall. This included the all-star livestock judging team and inaugural all-star meat judging team. Shout out to the Kansas 4-H Meats Judging Team for earning Reserve Champion honors at the national contest! Additionally, the Greenwood County team was 3rd at the Western National Roundup in Denver.

The 2021 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. Both shows had approximately 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 will be transitioning to an online system for state livestock nominations in 2022! No more paper forms and overlooking a field of information for an animal! This announcement was made with last year’s nomination materials. Specific details will be released later this spring. Families will need to plan ahead and prepare prior to the deadline this year. Please watch your email, the website, and the Facebook page.

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, 2022 to be accepted.

**Upcoming Events - Kansas Junior Producer Days**

The 2022 junior producer days will be hosted in-person on the K-State campus in Manhattan! The Junior Beef Producer Day will be Saturday, March 5. Topics include selection, nutrition, meat science, reproduction, heifer development, international agriculture, health, grooming, and showmanship. The deadline to register is February 11. The cost is $15/person by the deadline, or $20 after. Only those registered by February 11 will receive a t-shirt. Junior Sheep Producer Day will be hosted Saturday, March 19. Tentative topics include selection, nutrition, facilities, reproduction, health, wool judging, meat science, clipping, and showmanship. The deadline to register is February 25. The cost is $15/person and t-shirts are only guaranteed for those who sign up by the deadline. Registrations received after February 25 will be $20/person.

All youth, parents, leaders and extension agents are invited to participate in these one-day 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.


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.