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

What is a nomination? A nomination is documentation that you have owned, possessed and cared for your animal since a certain date in order to show at a state show.

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

What are the nomination dates?
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 $8.00 per animal, for all species.

What is the Declaration form? The declaration form is required by all 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 able 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, a parent/guardian, and extension agent/advisor. Each family/household must complete a declaration form annually, which includes all eligible exhibitors for that year.

Is a Nomination the same as an entry for the show? NO! You must first nominate your animal in order to declare that you own, possess and care for them. Then, you must actually enter that animal for the show following the specific entry processes set forth by the Kansas State Fair (KSF) and Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS). You must do both of these things in order to show.

Nominations are sent to the KSU Youth Livestock Program office, but the entries for KSF and KJLS are sent directly to and managed by the respective Livestock Show offices.

How will I know if my Nomination is complete? Once your nomination is put into the nomination database, you will receive a letter in the mail from the KSU Youth Livestock Program. This letter will list all of the animals that we have in the system from you. A family/household will receive a separate letter for each species nominated. If you are missing information, it will tell you what you are missing and how to fix that issue. In addition, we post the nomination information on our website www.YouthLivestock.KSU.edu under Nominated Livestock so you can see if your nomination is complete. We update this often during the nomination season and highly recommend that you use this tool.

What if I don’t get everything in the first time? If your confirmation letter states that something is missing or wrong, there is a one-time fee of $20.00. This includes declaration or nomination form, DNA Envelope, and signatures (exhibitor, parent and agent/advisor). The $20.00 incomplete fee must be submitted with the missing or corrected information for the nomination to be complete.

Where do I get ear tags and DNA envelopes? Animals must be tagged and DNA Hair Sample envelopes obtained through your local Extension Office. Make sure you communicate with your local Extension Office far enough in advance for them to have enough tags and official envelopes available for the number of animals you plan to nominate. DNA must be submitted in an official DNA envelope. One type of envelope is available for all species. Please refer to the Step-by-Step page in the “Rookie Guide” for detailed information on obtaining DNA samples from your animals.