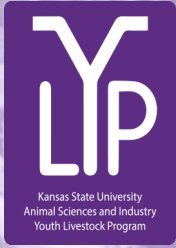


KSU Youth Livestock Program Update

www.YouthLivestock.ksu.edu

April 2025



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We're Social!



Facebook:
Kansas State Youth Livestock Program
@ksuylp



Snapchat:
K-State Youth Livestock Program
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Instagram:
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What's Been Happening in the YLP?

The KSU Youth Livestock Program is off to an exciting start in 2025! We were honored to have fantastic speakers, volunteers, and participating families join us for K-State Junior Swine Producer Day and Junior Meat Goat Producer Day. We appreciated everyone's enthusiasm and flexibility as we transitioned to a new venue for this year's events. It is also wonderful to see youth excited about their projects, while meeting lifelong friends they'll see in the barn throughout their show careers. 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 2025 livestock projects...and Go Cats!

Program Recaps

- ◆ K-State Junior Swine Producer Day
- ◆ K-State Junior Meat Goat Producer Day



Upcoming Events

- ◆ KASLA
- ◆ Discovery Days
- ◆ "Champions" K-State Livestock 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!



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K-State Junior Swine Producer Day

Over 350 youth, parents, and project leaders from 53 counties participated in junior swine producer day on March 1, 2025. Assistant Livestock Judging Team Coach, Jentry Squires, kicked off the program with a presentation on project selection. Next, beginner participants learned about nutrition from Mikayla Spinler and Grady Privett, while Joel DeRouche led a session on advanced nutrition. Next, families chose breakout sessions that most closely fit their interests, including breeds and ear notching with Sierra Collier and Haley Graf, pork cookery and palatability with Meat Science Extension Specialist, Erin Beyer, facilities and equipment with Ty Kim and Wyatt Dooley, and Becoming a Wildcat with Emily Grund and the KSU ASI Mentors. After lunch, Adam Lukert discussed swine health with attendees. Then, families selected two breakout sessions from Creating a Blue-Ribbon Family Experience with the DeRouche Family, showmanship with Jentry Squires, Hannah Tice, and members of the K-State Livestock Judging Team, and clipping, hair care, and show day prep with Ty Kim and Kyanna Lankton. 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 KJLS, while Extension Agent Charlene Miller and Ag Teacher, Anna Lukert, offered an instructor-led YQCA training. The event was sponsored by the Kansas Pork Association, Valley Vet Supply, Primalac On-Feed by Star Labs, Primo Feeds, Buchanan Livestock & Feed, K-State Department of Animal Sciences & Industry, K-State Research & Extension, and the KSU Youth Livestock Program. Educational materials from previous junior swine producer days are available on the KSU Youth Livestock Program website, under [Educational Resources](#).

K-State Junior Meat Goat Producer Day

Over 350 youth, parents, and project leaders from 59 Kansas and Iowa counties attended Junior Meat Goat Producer Day hosted March 22, 2025, at the Stanley Stout Center in Manhattan, KS. Guest speaker for the day, Ryan Page, kicked off the program with a presentation on project selection. Then, families selected two breakout sessions to attend from nutrition with Instructor and K-State Livestock Judging Team Coach, Payton Dahmer, doe management and kid care with K-State Small Ruminant Extension Specialist, Kelsey Bentley, a discussion on facilities and equipment with Ryan Page, and Becoming a Wildcat with Emily Grund and the KSU ASI Mentors. Dr. Emily Reppert from the K-State College of Veterinary Medicine shared information about meat goat health to round out the morning. After lunch, families attended three breakout sessions, including reproduction with Ryan Page, showmanship with Payton Dahmer, and a clipping and grooming demonstration with K-State Sheep and Meat Goat Center employees. Lexie Hayes offered an optional session over the state livestock nomination process after the program concluded, while extension agent Gavin Beesley and Kansas 4-H Specialist Kelsey Nordyke taught an instructor-led YQCA class. The program was sponsored by Primalac On-Feed by Star Labs, Valley Vet Supply, Aker Meat Goats, Page Livestock, the K-State Sheep & Meat Goat Center, Department of Animal Sciences & Industry, K-State Research & Extension, and the KSU Youth Livestock Program. The K-State Sheep & Meat Goat Center student employees were also gracious enough to provide a tour of the unit. The K-State Meat Goat Show Guide and resources from previous junior meat goat producer days are posted under the [Educational Resources](#) tab of the website.

KSU Youth Livestock Program Update

Helpful Handouts

Handouts and project show guides from Junior Producer Events 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 showmen looking to learn new things.



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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 11-14 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

Come join #KSU ASI in June during Kansas 4-H Discovery Days! Several animal science-related sessions will be offered while youth "Build a Mindset for Leadership". Take a tour of the K-State Sheep & Meat Goat Unit, basic and advanced meat judging, beef cattle reproduction, and chuckwagon cooking, are just a few of the classes available. Check out the course catalog for opportunities to join us at KSU ASI!

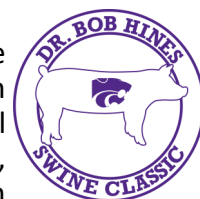
K-State "Champions" Livestock Judging Camp

The K-State Livestock Judging Team recently released their annual "Champions" livestock judging camp dates for this summer. Camp sessions will be June 2-4 and June 9-11. In addition to evaluating livestock, this camp focuses on reason development and presentation, as well as incorporating performance data into the decision-making process. It is open to youth 14-18 years old and participation is filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration will close May 16. Prior livestock judging experience is necessary for this camp. Visit the [K-State Judging Camps](#) page of the website for additional details and registration links.



Dr. Bob Hines Kansas Swine Classic

The 40th annual Dr. Bob Hines Kansas Youth Swine Classic will be hosted July 11-12 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. Kansas youth ages 7-18 are invited to exhibit. Special activities are also being planned to celebrate 40 years of fostering youth swine education and exhibition in Kansas. Entries must be submitted online by 5:00 p.m. on June 24. Payment needs to be postmarked by June 24 as well. Show details and the entry link may be found on the [Dr. Bob Hines Swine Classic](#) page of the [Youth Livestock Program](#) website.



KSU Youth Livestock Program Update

Save the Date!

April 15

KASLA Applications Due

April 20

Market Beef DNA Envelope
Orders Due

May 1

Market Beef Nominations Due

June 5

Small Livestock & Commercial
Heifer DNA Envelope Orders Due

June 11-14

KASLA

June 15

Small Livestock & Commercial
Heifer Nominations Due

June 24

Dr. Bob Hines Swine Classic
Entry Deadline

July 11-12

Dr. Bob Hines Swine Classic

July 15

Grand Drive Entries Due

August 1

Livestock Sweepstakes
Registration Due

August 15

KJLS Entries Due

August 23-24

Livestock Sweepstakes

September 5-7

Kansas State Fair Grand Drive

October 3-5

Kansas Junior Livestock Show
(KJLS)

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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” the Kansas State Youth Livestock Program on [Facebook](#), and “Follow” us on Instagram.

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 10, [market beef and commercial heifers](#) will be the focus. Then, on May 13, 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 ShoWorks 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 6:00 p.m. and be recorded.

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 must have an 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.** *Youth participating in the instructor-led course will need to complete the pre-test prior to the class. After you login, click on your username, then select “Enrolled ILT Trainings” to view the pre-test for each child.* Those taking the online course are encouraged to use [Google Chrome](#) to minimize technical difficulties. Additionally, the YQCA staff has created videos and Help Docs to guide families in obtaining their certification. These materials are located on the YQCA program website.

Youth are encouraged to complete their certification as soon as possible. It must be completed prior to state nomination. Youth who are 7 years old should attend an in-person course with a parent/guardian. 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.



KSU Youth Livestock Program Update

Important Dates!

April 10

Informational Zoom Meeting for Market Beef & Comm. Heifers

April 20

Order Deadline:
Market Beef DNA Envelopes

May 1

Nominations Due:
Market Beef

May 13

Informational Zoom Meeting for Small Livestock

June 5

Order Deadline:
Small Livestock DNA Envelopes

June 15

Nominations Due:
Swine
Sheep
Meat Goat
Commercial Heifer

July 15

KSF Grand Drive Entries Due

August 15

KJLS Entries Due

Resources:

- ◆ Rookie Guide
- ◆ Zoom Meeting
- ◆ 2025 Updates
- ◆ Specie Checklist
- ◆ Quick Tips
- ◆ Deadline Table
- ◆ #NominationTipTuesday
- ◆ Grand Drive Rules
- ◆ KJLS Rules

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State Livestock Nominations & Deadlines

The 2025 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 in 2022. 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, ALL meat goats, regardless of gender or division (wethers and breeding 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. Informational Zoom sessions will also be hosted for families [April 10](#) and [May 13](#) at 6:00pm - 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 2022-25.
* **Order Deadlines: Market Beef - April 20; Small Livestock - June 5**
2. Enter animal & exhibitor data through online system ([ShowWorks](#)) 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).

Reminders:

- All state nominated animals must be tagged with a Kansas 4-H EID tag.
- Families need to have their animals tagged, new YQCA certificates downloaded, and Declaration Form complete before entering nominations into the online system!
- DNA hair samples are required for all nominated animals and 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.
- Families will be prompted to upload their completed [2025 Declaration Form](#) 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.
- [YQCA certificate](#) for each child will be uploaded into system. Get certified early!
- The Declaration Form and the YQCA certificate must be uploaded at the same time!
- **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 have the animal listed under their name at nomination can enter and show it later.
- Nomination fee (\$12.00/animal) is paid through purchasing DNA envelopes online.
- 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). Both parts of number are required.
- Nomination entries (tag IDs) must be submitted online and DNA samples postmarked by the listed deadline. No exceptions. Dates are strictly enforced.
- 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 for details: [Grand Drive](#) - [KJLS](#)

Deadlines

May 1 - Market Beef Nominations DUE (market steers & market heifers)

June 15 - Swine, Sheep, Meat Goat, & Commercial Heifer Nominations DUE

KSU Youth Livestock Program Update

See ya this summer!



Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes

The Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes is being planned for August 23-24. 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](#) and Facebook for more details in June!

Meet the YLP Interns

Look for these faces at KSU Youth Livestock Program events and activities! We are excited to have Lauren Thompson and Chancey Hauck join our team as the 2025 interns. They have already hit the ground running by helping with the junior producer days, tag distribution, filling DNA envelope orders for state livestock nominations, and building graphics. We're thrilled to have them involved as we gear up for summer!



Lauren Thompson

Lauren Thompson from Woodville, Wisconsin is a graduating Senior studying Animal Sciences and Industry and Global Food Systems Leadership with minors in Leadership and Agricultural Sales. She grew up on a diversified livestock operation and found a passion for raising and showing registered sheep across the nation. Her experiences as president of the Wisconsin 4-H Leadership Council, a KSU Peer Strengths Coach, Staley School of Leadership Class Leader, President of Ag Ambassadors and Blue Key, as well as serving as an Animal Science Mentor solidified her desire to combine a love of teaching with her background in agriculture. Lauren looks forward to promoting the livestock project and agriculture for the next generation. She will earn her bachelor's degree in May and continue her education as a graduate student at K-State, focusing on small ruminants. Lauren plans to become an Animal Science Professor or State Livestock Specialist.



Chancey Hauck

Chancey Hauck is from Rush Center, KS and grew up involved in 4-H and FFA where she exhibited cattle at the state and national level. These organizations also helped her discover a passion for helping others and being a leader. Chancey is completing her associate's degree in Agriculture at Hutchinson Community College, while being a devoted member of the livestock judging team and Dragon Tales student magazine. She will be transferring to K-State this fall to pursue a bachelor's degree in Agriculture Communications. Chancey is eager for the opportunities available at K-State and the experiences yet to come through serving as an intern for the Youth Livestock Program.



We're Social!



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