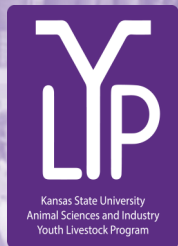


KSU Youth Livestock Program Update

www.YouthLivestock.ksu.edu

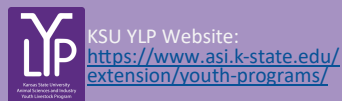
November 2025



In this issue:

Recent Happenings	pg. 1
Program Recaps	pg. 1-3
Upcoming Events	pg. 4

We're Social!



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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 Discovery Days, 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, both in and outside the ring. We look forward to another great year and seeing everyone in 2026!

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



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.

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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K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy

High school students gathered on the Kansas State University campus June 11-14 to gain livestock industry knowledge and develop leadership skills at the 16th 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. ASI faculty mentors assisted each group in developing a presentation given as part of the closing reception.

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 2026 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 2025 Dr. Bob Hines Kansas Swine Classic celebrated 40 years with this year's show, hosted at the Riley County Fairgrounds in CiCo Park. There were 106 youth exhibitors from 33 counties who showed 278 swine projects. Youth exhibited pigs in the prospect show, market show, and showmanship. There were also 87 kids who showcased their knowledge in the swine skillathon and 20 photos entered in the "People's Choice" photography contest. Watch the [website](#) and Facebook page next spring for details on the 2026 show!



KSU Youth Livestock Program Update

The YLP Offers:

- Jr. Beef Producer Day
- Jr. Sheep 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 23-24 in Manhattan, KS, where youth displayed their livestock knowledge and talent in livestock judging, meat judging, skillathon and quiz bowl. Almost 300 4-H members from 60 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 late August next year to participate!

Top performing 4-H'ers earned the right to represent Kansas at the national contests this fall. Shout out to the Kansas All-Star 4-H Meats Judging Team for receiving Reserve Champion honors at the national contest! The all-star livestock judging team, as well as skillathon and quiz bowl teams will compete later this fall in Louisville.



Kansas State Fair & Kansas Junior Livestock Show

The 2025 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 this year! The Grand Drive had over 900 exhibitors showing over 2,000 entries. KJLS had almost 850 youth showing 1,500 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

Save the Date!

November 30

KSU YLP Internship Applications Due

February 13

Jr. Beef Producer Day Reg. Due

March 7

Jr. Beef Producer Day

March 20

Jr. Sheep Producer Day Reg. Due

April 11

Jr. Sheep Producer Day

April 15 (tentative)

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 10-11

Dr. Bob Hines Kansas Swine Classic



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Important Announcements — 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 2026.

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 1, 2026 to be accepted.



Upcoming Events - K-State Junior Producer Days

We are excited to announce the dates for the 2026 [K-State Junior Producer Days](#)! The **Junior Beef Producer Day** will be Saturday, March 7. Tentative topics range from selection to health, and showmanship. The deadline to register is February 13. The cost is \$20/person by the deadline, or \$30 after. Only those registered by February 13 will receive a t-shirt. **Junior Sheep Producer Day** will be hosted Saturday, April 11. Tentative topics include selection to nutrition, and showmanship. Registration will be due March 20. The cost is \$20/person and t-shirts are only guaranteed for those who sign up by the deadline. Late registrations will be \$30/person.

All youth, parents, leaders, extension agents, and ag teachers are invited to participate in these one-day, family educational experiences. K-State faculty members, graduate students, veterinarians, extension agents, guest speakers and former exhibitors will provide the sessions. There will also be an optional instructor-led YQCA training at the conclusion of the program for both events.

A new registration system will be used this year for the junior day events. Watch the website and Facebook page for details!



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](#).