** This news release from K-State Research and Extension is available online at www.ksre.k-state.edu/news/stories/2022/07/agriculture-animal-science-leadership-academy.html

**Note to editors:** A photo to accompany this story is at https://www.flickr.com/photos/ksrecomm/52183619807

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**Next Generation: High school students get lessons in livestock leadership**

K-State hosts annual animal science leadership academy

*K-State Research and Extension news service*

MANHATTAN, Kan. – Twenty students from across Kansas and beyond came together to build their knowledge and leadership skills in the livestock industry during the 13th annual K-State Animal Science Leadership Academy June 22-25 at Kansas State University.

Hosted by the [K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry](https://www.ksre.k-state.edu) and sponsored by the Livestock and Meat Industry Council Inc., academy director Sharon Breiner said the academy’s goal is to develop young leaders within the livestock industry and prepare them for a successful future in the field.

Breiner said students participated in interactive leadership development and educational lab sessions led by faculty members from across the K-State campus. KASLA included several livestock industry tours, with off-campus stops at Hildebrand Farms Dairy (Junction City) and the Kansas Department of Agriculture (Manhattan). Students also were given tours of university farms and department facilities.

For their final project, the students were divided into groups to focus on current issues in the livestock industry, assisted by K-State faculty mentors. Using information they learned throughout the academy, the groups were asked to present their subject as part of the closing reception on the final day.

This year’s class included:
- Madison Baker, Union City, Michigan.
- Hailey Butler, Wamego.
- Creed Caldwell, Parker.
- Emma Deghand, Mayetta.
- Nick Doering, Basehor.
- Jenna DeRouche, Wamego.
- Carly Dreher, Iola.
- Trinadee Fetters, Council Grove.
Adelle Higbie, Overbrook.
Bryce Hoeltzel, Olsburg.
Brianna Hula, Manhattan.
Kaylen Langhofer, Plains.
Strid Loudon, Goodland.
Kaylee Noll, Oskaloosa.
Paisley Palmer, Satanta.
Ainsley Pecenka, Spring Hill.
Lacey Rust, Hartford.
Grace Schmeidler, Hays.
Katrina Turner, Derby.
Kaden Weltmer, Smith Center.

More information about the academy and future programs is available on the[K-State youth livestock program website. Additional questions can be directed to Breiner at sbreiner@ksu.edu, or 785-532-6533.

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FOR PRINT PUBLICATIONS: Links used in this story
K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, [https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs](https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs)

K-State youth livestock programs (Department of Animal Sciences and Industry), [https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs](https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs)

The Kansas State University Department of Animal Sciences and Industry serves students, livestock producers and the animal and food industries through teaching, research and education. The K-State ASI department prepares students for careers in the animal and food industries. The curriculum includes the study of nutrition, reproduction, genetics, behavior, meat science and food science with production, management, and agribusiness skills. For more about K-State’s ASI department visit asi.ksu.edu.

The Livestock and Meat Industry Council is dedicated to facilitating interdisciplinary research that identifies and addresses issues/opportunities facing animal agriculture and the efficient production of food. The Council solicits volunteer contributions including money, land, livestock, equipment and other bequests in support of approved priorities and initiatives within the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, in cooperation with the College of Agriculture at K-State.

K-State Research and Extension is a short name for the Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service, a program designed to generate and distribute useful knowledge for the well-being of Kansans. Supported by county, state, federal and private funds, the program has county extension offices, experiment fields, area extension offices and regional research centers statewide. Its headquarters is on the K-State campus in Manhattan. For more information, visit [www.ksre.ksu.edu](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu). K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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