

THE 4-H NEWSLETTER

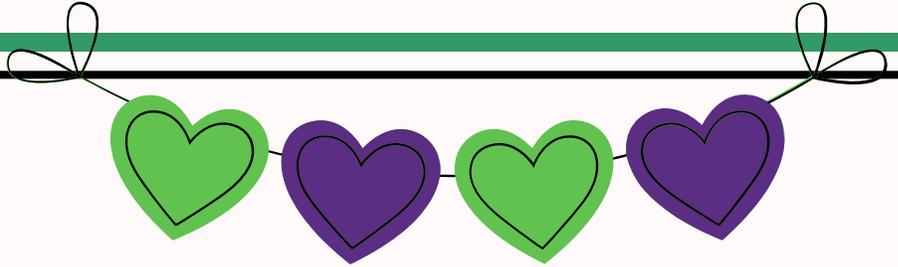
FEBRUARY
2026

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Butler
County

A MINUTE WITH MADELINE



Practicing Self-Love This Valentine's Season

When we think about Valentine's Day, our minds often go straight to cards, candy, and showing appreciation for others. While celebrating friendships and relationships is important, this time of year is also a great opportunity to focus on something just as meaningful: self-love.

Self-love is not about being selfish or putting yourself above others. Instead, it means recognizing your own worth, taking care of your well-being, and giving yourself the same kindness and encouragement you would offer a friend. For youth and adults alike, practicing self-love can build confidence, resilience, and a healthy mindset; all are skills that align closely with the values of 4-H.

One simple way to practice self-love is by acknowledging effort, not just outcomes. In 4-H projects, competitions, and leadership roles, it is easy to focus on ribbons, scores, or results. While those accomplishments are worth celebrating, it is just as important to recognize the hard work, learning, and growth that happen along the way. Taking pride in trying something new, improving a skill, or stepping outside your comfort zone is a powerful form of self-respect.

A MINUTE WITH MADELINE CONT.

Another key part of self-love is taking care of your physical and mental health. This can look different for everyone. It might mean getting enough rest, eating nourishing foods, staying active, or setting aside time to relax and recharge. It can also mean knowing when to ask a parent, 4-H volunteer, teacher, or friend for help when things feel overwhelming. Taking care of yourself allows you to show up more fully for your projects, your club, and your community.

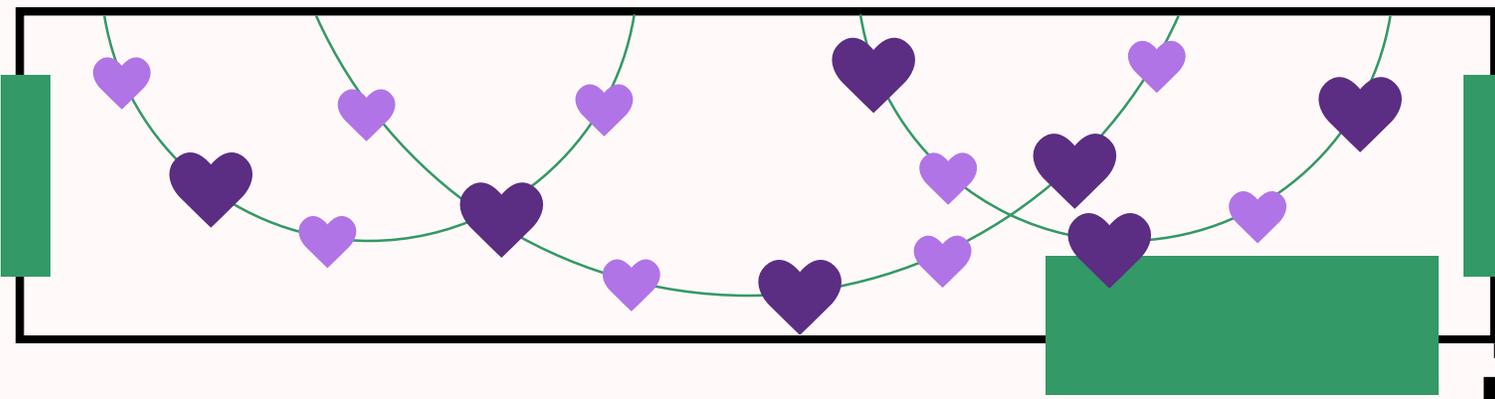
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LEADER'S LOUNGE

February Check-Up

- Encourage 4-H'ers to invite their friends to attend a meeting & join 4-H!
- Encourage 4-H'ers to share what they are doing in 4-H at school!
- Ask your 4-H parents to encourage others to get involved.

Review

- Read the 4-H Newsletter and mark important dates on the calendar
- Review highlights from the 4-H Newsletter at your club meeting

Promote/Recruit

- Volunteer Registration Deadline February 1
- CIA February 15-16
- Beef Weigh-In and Tagging in February
- YQCA for all members enrolled in animal projects
- 4-H Day March 1
- Butler County YEC March 4

To-Do

- Make sure 4-H Council Report is given
- Remind 4-H'ers to complete registration for 4-H Day
- Remind 4-H'ers to prepare presentations for 4-H Day
- Check in with Project Leaders to ensure they are on task and holding meetings
- Check club mailbox at the Extension Office
- Check club's progress toward goals
- Start speaking with your club members on how they can show appreciation to their club volunteers during April's National Volunteer Week.
- Remind 4-H'ers to enroll and select projects in 4-H Online by the May 1st Deadline
- Remind 4-H'ers of the 2 Meeting Requirement for the Butler County Fair
- Remind families to "Subscribe" to the 4-H Online broadcast messages. This is where all newsletters and important information is sent out to families!
- Check out the Kansas 4-H Club Resources page [HERE](#)

Remember

- Work with your co-leader!
- Make it a fun and rewarding year!
- If your Club is planning to have a bake sale, fundraiser, make t-shirts, etc., please contact our office prior to doing so!



IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

February

- February 1: Volunteer Registration Deadline
- February 10: 4-H Council Meeting
- February 13: Jr. Beef Producer Day Registration Deadline
- February 15-16: Citizenship in Action - Topeka
- February 17: YQCA Training In-Person at 6:30 p.m.
- February 17: Office Closed
- February 21: Market Beef Weigh-In & Tagging
- February 21-22: Horse Panorama - Rock Springs
- February 28: Market Beef Weigh-In & Tagging Back Up Date

March

- March 1: 4-H Day
- March 1: 4-H Day with Wildcat Women's Basketball - Manhattan
- March 3: 4-H Judges Training - Parsons
- March 4: Butler County Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge
- March 7: K-State Jr. Beef Producer Day - Manhattan
- March 20: K-State Jr. Sheep Producer Day Registration Deadline
- March 21: 4-H Super Saturday Judging Contest - Hays
- March 22: Regional 4-H Day - Mulvane
- March 25: YQCA Training In-Person at 6:30 p.m.
- March TBA: Clipping Clinic

April

- April 10: Club Quarterly Reports DUE to Extension Office
- April 10-15: National 4-H Conference - Washington, D.C.
- April 11: K-State Jr. Sheep Producer Day - Manhattan
- April 11: Shutterbug Photography Event - Manhattan
- April 14: 4-H Council Meeting
- April 19-15: National Volunteer Week
- April 20: Bucket Calf, Meat Goat, Sheep & Swine Tagging
- April 20: Market Dairy Wether ID Forms DUE
- April 23: YQCA Training In-Person at 6:30 p.m.
- April 24: Spring Into Volunteering
- April 28-29: Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge
- April TBA: Fitting Clinic

***See the full 2025-2026
Calendar [HERE](#)***

2026		FEBRUARY					
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	



4-H DAY

BUTLER COUNTY 4-H DAY

March 1st

2026

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Butler
County

**1:00
P.M.**

BUTLER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

901 S. Haverhill Rd.
El Dorado, KS
Buildings 700 & 1500

4-H Day is an opportunity for all Butler County 4-H members to share their speaking skills, knowledge, talents, and creativity before a larger audience. This is a qualifying event for Regional 4-H Day and the Kansas State Fair.

**WHAT IS
4-H DAY?**

EVENTS

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

TALENT SHOWCASE

FAVORITE FOODS

GAVEL GAMES

INDIVIDUAL, GROUP, AND CLUB DIVISIONS

****Treat for all participants!!****

**REGISTRATION CLOSES
FEBRUARY 15TH, 2026**

<https://forms.gle/4Xuko3unnWFrnJij9>

*Late registrations will NOT be accepted.

**REGISTRATION
INFORMATION**



GUIDELINES:

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/4hday.html>

This institution is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services, and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Language access requests and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, and American Sign Language), may be requested by contacting the event contact, Madeline Wallace, four weeks prior to the start of the event (February 1, 2026) at 316-321-9660 or mgwallac@ksu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.

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BEEF TAGGING LETTER

K-STATE
Research and Extension



January 26th, 2026

To: Butler County 4-H / FFA Beef Leaders and Beef Project Members, Community Leaders, and the Butler County Fair Board

From: Charlene Miller, Butler County Extension Director / Agriculture CEA; Madeline Wallace, Butler County 4-H & Youth Development CEA; Miranda Depenbusch, Bluestem FFA Advisor; Luke Guyann, Bluestem FFA Advisor; and Delayney Mahnken, Flinthills FFA Advisor

WHAT: 1) 4-H / FFA Market Beef (Market Steers & Heifers, Dairy Steers) Weigh-In & Tagging
2) Bucket Calves
3) Commercial Heifers

WHEN: Saturday, February 21st | 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

SET-UP – 7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. (please come help if you're available)

WEIGH-IN – 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. (weigh-in will start sooner if set-up is finished)

TEARDOWN/CLEANUP – at conclusion of weigh-in

WHERE: Flinthills High School, FFA/Ag Facility, 806 SE Rosalia Rd, Rosalia, KS 67132 (**Map on back**)

- Required to be eligible to exhibit at the 2026 Butler County Fair.
- The tags have been sponsored by an anonymous donor. Thank you cards will be available to be signed at weigh-in.
- Bucket Calves and Commercial Heifers are welcome to be brought to this tagging. Please note that Bucket Calves must be tagged by Monday, April 20th and Commercial Heifers must be tagged by 11:30 a.m. June 12th. For Commercial heifers that are not at County Tagging, please contact the Butler County Extension Office to schedule a time to have them tagged. If you have Bucket Calves, please see the beef packet for an additional tagging option.

Requirements:

- ✓ **YQCA:** YQCA is REQUIRED to be eligible to exhibit ALL ANIMAL EXHIBITS (except horses) at the 2026 Butler County Fair and must be completed by May 28th, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. to be eligible to participate. YQCA information can be found at: www.butler.ksu.edu/4-H/YQCA
- ✓ **ENROLLMENT:** Please double-check that your 4-H / FFA members are enrolled in 4-H / FFA for the 2025-2026 year and are also enrolled in the Beef Project by May 1st, 2026.
- ✓ **TWO (2) FORMS FOR MARKET STEERS, DAIRY STEERS, & MARKET HEIFERS:** Animal Care & Housing and Owner Certification of Market Animals. Please refer to the enclosed packet and each form for additional information. Make sure all 4-H / FFA members and Parent/Guardians sign the form. Household nomination has been included with the Animal Care and Housing Form. Paper and electronic forms will be accepted. You can find electronic forms at: <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/livestock.html>
- ✓ **ONE (1) FORM FOR BREEDING HEIFERS & BUCKET CALVES:** Animal Care & Housing. Make sure all 4-H / FFA members and parent/guardians sign the form. Paper and electronic forms will be accepted. You can find electronic forms at: <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/livestock.html>
- ✓ **If you run into a problem on county beef tagging day, contact Extension Director/ Ag Agent, Charlene Miller, at 316-323-7306 or your FFA Advisor.**

Enclosures:

- Beef Project Packet

4-H SPOTLIGHT

KENDRA G. & JACKSON S.

- Lily Lake
- Towanda Rustlers

Kendra G., Lily Lake 4-H Club, and Jackson Strecker, Towanda Rustlers 4-H Club, will be advancing their Project Award applications on to the State Level! Kendra's record book details her dedication to the Shooting Sports Archery Project through mentoring younger archers and competing at the state contest. Through his Dairy Project, Jackson has learned skills to benefit his future career while raising and competing at the national level with his market and breeding dairy goats. Both of these outstanding members are also Butler County 4-H Ambassadors, another sign of their strong representation of all four of the H's. Please wish them the best of luck as they submit their Project Award Applications to the State Level. We are so proud of them!



CLUB NEWS

Benton Busy Bees

"The Benton Busy Bees 4-H Club met on January 4th for their monthly meeting. The club had a breakfast potluck, played Holiday Bingo and enjoyed winning prizes put together by the events committee. "

--Wiley P., Reporter



4-H Council

"The Ambassadors reported Butler County 4-H Days will be held at Butler Community College at 1pm. Regional 4-H Day will be March 22nd. CIA is coming up soon February 15-16! A discussion was had regarding how to raise funds for the upcoming year; it was decided members would bring back ideas to the following meeting. The next meeting will be held February 10th."

--River H., 4-H Council Reporter



2026 BUTLER COUNTY FAIR DATES AND DEADLINES

JULY 16-21, 2026

Butler County Fair Rules

The 2026 4-H/FFA Division Rules will be available on our website after the first week of February! They can be found on at the following link: <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4hfair/>

Important Dates

- February 21: Market Beef Tagging*
- April 15: Bucket Calves Must Be Born*
- April 20: Small Animal Tagging*
- May 1: 4-H Project Enrollment Deadline
- May 28: YQCA Deadline
- May 28: Market Animal Certification and Animal Care and Housing Forms Deadline
- June 1: Horse ID Deadline*
- June 1: Pre-Entries Open
- June 15: Dairy Heifers/Cow ID Deadline*
- June 15: Breeding Animal Tagging Deadline*
- June 15: Livestock Registration Paper Deadline*
- June 22: Pre-Entries Close at 11:59 p.m.
- July 1: Dairy Doe Registration/Ownership Deadline*

*See the 2026 Butler County Fair 4-H/FFA Tagging Guidelines and Forms Table [HERE](#)

Pre-Entries

- Pre-Entries are required for all 4-H/FFA projects
- Cloverbuds will only need to preenter if participating in Fashion Revue
- Butler County will be using FairEntry once again this year for pre-entries
- Make sure you receive your confirmation e-mail!



K-STATE Research and Extension | **Butler County**

Fair Pre-Entry Office Hours

COME-AND-GO ZOOM OFFICE HOURS WITH MADELINE TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR FAIR PRE-ENTRIES!

- MONDAY, JUNE 1 (2:30 PM - 5:00 PM)
- TUESDAY, JUNE 9 (2:30 PM - 5:00 PM)
- WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17 (6:00 PM - 8:00 PM)
- MONDAY, JUNE 22 (2:00 PM - 4:00 PM) & (6:00 PM - 8:30 PM)

Meeting ID: 471 244 7768



4-H DAY WITH K-STATE WBB



Kansas 4-H Day *with* K-State Women's Basketball



K-State Wildcats Vs.
Iowa State
WILL BE TELEVISED



Step 1: Pick a Package:

\$28 Package Includes:

- Ticket
- \$10 Concession Voucher
- T-Shirt

\$18 Package Includes:

- Ticket
- \$10 Concession Voucher

Step 2: Register to get Tickets:

Use the QR Code or the link to register



<https://tinyurl.com/5x84fp33>

- Pick up ticket packages on game day 10:00 am - 12:30 pm Location TBA closer to event.
- Doors open for the general public at 12:00 pm
- Tip-off at 1:00 pm

Online registration for this event will be due February 8, 2026. No paper registrations will be accepted.

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Sunday, March 1, @ 1:00 PM

KANSAS YOUTH RANGE CAMP

Are YOU interested in plants, livestock or wildlife?



KANSAS YOUTH RANGE CAMP

Upcoming High School Sophomores, Juniors, & Seniors

Learn about range plant identification, plant growth, stocking rates, livestock nutrition, and rangeland wildlife management

Enjoy field trips, hands on learning, a steak dinner, swimming, fishing, and hiking!



June 9-12, 2026

COST: \$300

Contact your local Conservation District for scholarship opportunities!



Educating Kansas



Youth for

Contact:

Ethan Walker

KS Youth Range Camp Chair

620-451-1011

ethan.walker@usda.gov



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Kansas Section, Society for Range Management

BUTLER COUNTY YEC



Youth
Entrepreneurship
Challenge

Butler County YEC 2026

Through this contest, youth enrolled in grades 6-12 can showcase their entrepreneurial spirit by developing an executive summary and delivering a formal presentation to business leaders from their community.

COMPETITION DATES:

Executive Summary Submission Deadline: **February 13, 2026**
Trade Show & Final Presentation: **March 4, 2026**

Register

Register for **FREE** to participate in the **Butler County YEC 2026**
[<https://goventuredash.com/competitions/797>]
DEADLINE: Feb 13, 2026

Prepare

Contact your local host to get connected with a mentor. **Local Trade Show: March 4, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.**
El Dorado Civic Center
201 E Central Ave.

Compete

Cash prizes for the top 3 finishers!
*1st place winner secures a spot at YEC State

Connect

Madeline Wallace, 4-H Youth Development Agent
mgwallac@ksu.edu | 316-321-9660



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2026 BUTLER COUNTY YQCA INFORMATION



Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a national, multi-species quality assurance program for youth ages 7 to 18. This program promotes food safety, animal well-being, and character development. With YQCA, you'll discover what it takes to be an informed producer, consumer, and employee of the agriculture and food industries.

YQCA is REQUIRED to be eligible to exhibit ALL ANIMAL EXHIBITS (except horses) at the Butler County Fair.

The YQCA Deadline for Participating in the 2026 Butler County 4-H Fair is **May 28th at 11:59 PM, 2026.**

Youth are required to take YQCA in-person or online; if taken online, a certificate of completion must be submitted to the Extension Office by May 29th at 11:30 a.m. You can find more information about YQCA at <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/YQCA.html>

In person class dates:

- Tuesday, February 17th
- Wednesday, March 25th
- Thursday, April 23rd
- Thursday, May 21st

** All Classes will be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Community/4-H Building(200 N. Griffith, El Dorado)



Frequently Asked YQCA Questions:

• Is YQCA mandatory for all 4-H'ers?

YQCA is required to show animals at the Butler County 4-H Fair, the Kansas State Fair, and the Kansas Junior Livestock Show. 8-18 yr. olds must pass a web-based or instructor-led training. 7-year-olds must attend an instructor-led course.

• How much does getting certified cost?

The online module certification is \$12, and the instructor-led training method of certification is \$3.

• Does the YQCA certification ID sync with 4-H Online?

Yes, you will sign in using your 4-H Online information.

• I only show horses. Do I need to be YQCA certified?

No. Right now, YQCA, is not required for 4-H Horse Project Members.

• Do 4-H'ers need to update their YQCA certification number each year?

Yes, they do. Youth should re-certify around the same time they tested each year.

• Do I need to register before class?

Yes! You must register and pay online before attending an instructor-led class. You will also need to take the pre-test before class.

• Does Butler County 4-H get the registration money?

No, all registration money is online and goes to YQCA.

SHOOTING SPORTS

Archery practices have begun! All practices will be held on Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the Butler County Community Building.

For BB/Air Rifle and Air Pistol, practices will be held on Tuesdays from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Butler County Community Building.

To be able to participate in the Shooting Sports Disciplines, the following must occur prior to the first meeting:

1. Be enrolled in the Shooting Sports Project of choice on 4-HOnline
2. Have a signed waiver on file with the Extension Office
3. Have paid the \$20 discipline fee



LIVESTOCK JUDGING

Are you interested in livestock judging? The Butler County 4-H Livestock Judging Team will be meeting to kick off the 2026 season. Whether you're a beginner or have previous experience, this meeting is a great opportunity to learn more about the team, the judging process, and how you can get involved. You'll also hear about upcoming practices, competitions, and the skills you'll develop along the way, such as evaluating animals and making confident decisions. The team is open to 4-H'ers ages 9-18 who want to improve their knowledge of livestock, public speaking, and critical thinking. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to grow your skills and represent Butler County at local and state events! For final dates and times, please reach out to Charlene Miller at 316-321-9660 or cmmiller1@ksu.edu

4-H SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Did you know that the Butler County 4-H Council has event scholarships available to all Butler County 4-H members?!

Scholarship Requirements:

- Any current 4-H member (includes Coverbuds) is eligible to apply for a scholarship.
- 4-H'ers are limited to 2 event scholarships per 4-H year.
- Completed forms are to be submitted to the Butler County Extension Office with event payment prior to event registration deadline.



Scholarship Details:

- If you did not submit a KAP and pin application *or* did not receive a pin within the past year for a \$100 scholarship
- Submitted a KAP and received a pin within the past year for a \$200 scholarship. Those that have already received their 10-year pin are exempt from pin requirement.

You can find the scholarship application here:

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/Scholarships.html>

You can find more Kansas 4-H State Event Opportunities here:

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/index.html>

4-H SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

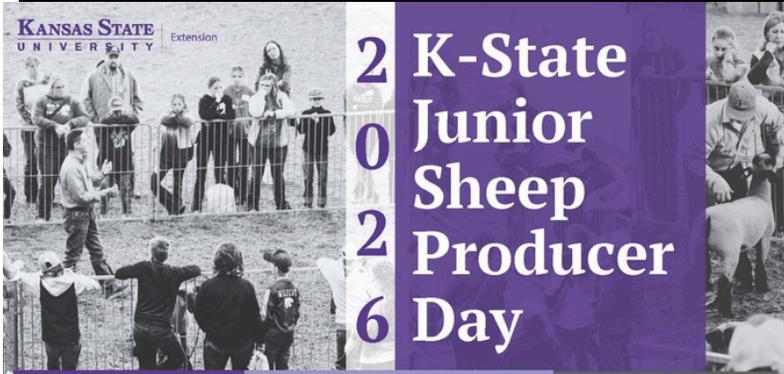
E.W. Nath

4-H Foundation Scholarship

The E.W. Nath 4-H Foundation Scholarship can now be used towards trade schools, professional programs, or technical degree programs. This scholarship is no longer limited to a two- or four-year college or university.



JR. PRODUCER DAYS



2026 K-State Junior Sheep Producer Day

Date
4.11.2026
Manhattan, KS

Registration
Due: 3.20.2026
Cost: \$20/person
<https://bit.ly/SheepJrProducer>
*All adults & youth must register to attend.
**Only those registered by 3/20/26 will receive a t-shirt.
***Late registration is \$30/person.

Questions
Lexie Hayes
785.532.1264
adhayes@ksu.edu

Program

Join us for the biennial K-State Junior Sheep Producer Day on Saturday, April 11, 2026. Presentations will be provided by featured guests, as well as K-State faculty, staff, and students. This event will be an educational day of activities in which youth, parents, extension agents, ag teachers, and sheep project leaders can increase their knowledge of youth sheep project selection and management. A variety of topics will be shared, including an optional YQCA certification at the end of the day. All ages and skill levels are invited! Lunch and a t-shirt are included. The registration fee is \$20/person for those who sign up by March 20 or \$30/person for those who register after that date. Only those who register by the deadline will receive a t-shirt. This is a family event! Anyone attending, including both youth and adults, must register. There will be an optional tour of the sheep and meat goat center offered on Friday evening and Saturday after jr. day.

Tentative Schedule

Friday, April 10
5:00-7:00PM Optional Tour of Sheep & Goat Center

Saturday, April 11
8:00AM Check-in
9:00AM Welcome
9:15AM Selection
10:00AM Nutrition
10:45AM Morning Breakout Sessions
-facilities & equipment, reproduction, project management purchase to show
Lunch
NOON Health
1:00PM Afternoon Breakout Sessions
1:45PM -wool, showmanship, clipping & grooming
3:45PM Dismissal
4:00PM Optional YQCA Class
4:00-6:00PM Optional Sheep & Goat Center Tour

K-State, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating. All educational programs and materials available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

Register for both programs at the following link:
<https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/events/ks-jr-producer/>

2026 K-STATE JUNIOR BEEF PRODUCER DAY

Program

Join us on March 7, 2026, for the biennial K-State Junior Beef Producer Day! This event is a fun-filled educational day for youth, parents, beef project leaders, ag teachers, and extension agents to expand their knowledge of youth beef projects. Presentations by K-State faculty, staff, K-State livestock judging team members, students, and guest speakers will cover topics that may include selection, nutrition, daily care, meat science, reproduction, health, grooming, and showmanship. An optional YQCA certification class will be offered at the end of the day. A complimentary lunch and t-shirt will also be provided for those who register by the deadline. The registration fee is \$20 per person for those who sign up by February 13. The fee will increase to \$30 per person for those who register after the deadline. Only those who register by February 13 will receive a t-shirt. This is a family event! Anyone attending the event must register, including youth and adults.



Tentative Schedule

8:00AM Check-in
9:00AM Welcome
9:15AM Project Selection
10:00AM Morning Breakout Sessions
-Nutrition, Meat Science, Daily Care, Grooming & Fitting
Noon Lunch
1:00PM Afternoon Breakout Sessions
-Health, Reproduction, Showmanship
3:15PM Dismissal
3:30PM Optional YQCA Class

Registration

Deadline: February 13
Fee: \$20/person
Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/BeefJrProducer>
Late Registration: \$30/person (after February 13)



*All attendees must register, including youth & adults.
**Late registrants will not receive a t-shirt.

Questions?

Lexie Hayes
785.532.1264 | adhayes@ksu.edu

Registration Due
February 13



K-State, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating. All educational programs and materials available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability.



OFFICE NEWS

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Extension
Butler County

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**BUTLER COUNTY FAMILY
AND CONSUMER SCIENCES
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K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
A criminal background check is required.

Learn more at www.ksre.k-state.edu/about/careers

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Get yours today at the **K-State Research and Extension - Butler County Office**
206 North Griffith, Suite A
El Dorado, KS 67042



\$10.00 Each

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Butler County

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**WOMEN
GROW
the FARM**

Women don't just manage the farm—we grow it.

Join us **February 12–13, 2026** in **Manhattan, KS** at the Hilton Garden Inn for the Women Grow the Farm Conference.

Two days of keynote speakers, breakout sessions, and powerful connections with women shaping the future of agriculture.



Use this QR Code to learn more and register to secure your spot!

womengrowthefarm.com

HPAI:

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI, is a rapidly spreading viral disease that can infect many types of birds. Avian influenza, often called avian flu or bird flu, can be common, but some strains are highly pathogenic, which means they are more deadly. Introduced by migrating wild birds, HPAI can spread through spring migration and affect **all** domestic poultry — small and backyard flocks as well as commercial industries.

Poultry with HPAI **do not** survive the illness. Vaccines for HPAI are not readily available.

Signs of Avian Influenza

- Coughing and sneezing
- Difficulty breathing
- Extreme depression
- Lack of energy
- Decrease in feed or water intake
- Swelling or purple discoloration of head, eyelids, comb, wattle and legs
- Decrease in egg production
- Sudden unexplained death

Biosecurity is your best option to prevent HPAI from entering your small or backyard poultry flock.

Here is what you can do:

Protect Your Small Flock from Avian Influenza

1

Avoid attracting wild birds and waterfowl to your home or farm. Song birds, sparrows, starlings, etc. are **low risk**.



Cover and enclose outdoor feeding areas.

Keep feed contained

Feed in the coop

- Clean up feed spills.
- Reduce puddles and standing water.
- Avoid visiting ponds and streams, especially with pets.
- Do not move birds from farm to farm.
- Isolate new birds.

2

Limit or **halt** travel with your birds to sales, shows and swaps.

Ensure you have clean hands, clothes, and footwear before handling your birds if you attend events. **Do not** allow others to handle your birds.



3

Limit your birds' visitors.

If someone must visit your birds: discuss where they have been. Have them wash their hands and wear clean clothes and footwear.



Call your veterinarian if your flock shows signs of influenza or you suspect exposure. No veterinarian? Call the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Animal Health at 785-564-6601.