

THE 4-H NEWSLETTER

JANUARY
2026

K-STATE
Research and Extension

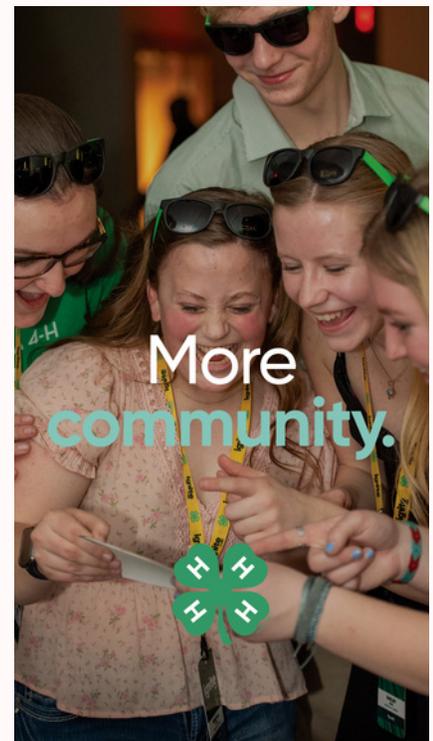


Butler
County

A Minute with Madeline

Beyond Ready for 2026!

- **Livestock Tagging Dates:** Included in this newsletter! Families planning to exhibit livestock should watch for official tagging and identification information in their email and mailbox!
- **YQCA Certification:** YQCA class dates are now available. Completion is required for youth exhibiting livestock. Registration details are included later in this newsletter.
- **Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge (YEC):** Registration information and important dates are outlined in the YEC section below.
- **Blueprint to Business Workshop:** Open to youth interested in exploring entrepreneurship, regardless of prior experience. Full details follow later in the newsletter.
- **4-H Day:** County 4-H Day provides an opportunity for youth to showcase their project work through presentations and performances. All information, categories, and entry deadlines are included in a dedicated section.
- **Regional 4-H Day:** Youth who advance from County 4-H Day get the opportunity to compete against top youth from surrounding counties! March 22, 2026. More details to come!
- **State 4-H Events:** Numerous state-level events and opportunities are scheduled throughout late winter and early spring! Most have their own event pages with additional information linked below.



Please review individual sections of this newsletter for complete details, registration links, and deadlines for each opportunity.



LEADER'S LOUNGE

January Check-Up

- Take time to relax after the holidays!
- Encourage 4-H'ers to invite their friends to attend a meeting & join 4-H!
- 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

- Blueprint to Business Workshop January 19
- Volunteer Registration Deadline February 1
- CIA February 15-16
- Beef Weigh-In and Tagging in February
- YQCA
- 4-H Day March 1
- Butler County YEC March 4

To-Do

- Encourage Project Leaders to conduct project meetings throughout the year.
- Check Club mailbox at the Extension Office.
- Begin discussion of 4-H Day plans.
- Encourage 4-H'ers to explore new project areas.
- Remind families to "Subscribe" to the 4-H Online broadcast messages. This is where all newsletters and important information is sent out to families!
- Remind volunteers and 4-H'ers to enroll/re-enroll in 4-H Online for the new 4-H year. by February 1st.
- Check Club's progress towards goals
- Check out the Kansas 4-H Club Resources page [HERE](#)

Remember

- Work with your co-leader!
- Remind 4-H Families & Volunteers to get enrolled for the new 4-H year!
- 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

January

- January 1-2: New Year's - Extension Office Closed
- January 5: Kansas 4-H Scholarship Applications Due
- January 8: Shooting Sports Basic Archery Class - Required for all 1st-year project members
- January 9: Club Quarterly Report Due
- January 13: 4-H Council Meeting
- January 13: Shooting Sports Basic Rifle/Pistol Class - Required for all 1st Year Project Members
- January 19: Blueprint to Business Workshop
- January 23: State 4-H Horse Judging Contest - EquiFest, Topeka
- January 27: YQCA Training
- January 31-February 1: Dog Judges Certification and Leader Training - Salina

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
- 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 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
- March 22: Regional 4-H Day
- March 25: YQCA Training
- March TBA: Clipping Clinic

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



4-H SPOTLIGHT

CASE R.

- Cassoday Boosters

Case was chosen as one of the winners for Bomgaars annual Fair Project Contest in July. This event celebrates and supports the youth in local communities. The contest provides young participants with a platform of opportunity to showcase their hard work and creativity. Contests present their projects and are entered at local, state, and county fairs while providing a brief explanation of their work. Case entry was a presentation on his first bucket calf that he brought to the Butler County Fair this year. He won a gift card from Bomgaars to recognize his entry into the competition.



CLUB NEWS

Benton Busy Bees

The Benton Busy Bees 4-H club participated in three community service projects during the month of December. The club accepted donations at the Benton Christmas in the Park event, as well as, donations from 4-H families to donate 16 Christmas gift bags for those in need. During the December meeting, club members and parents assembled the gift bags and 4-H members Jackson and Regan Stuber delivered these bags to The Benton Church. Another event the club participated in was spreading Christmas Cheer! Parents and 4-H members colored Christmas pictures to be given to homebound and those in El Dorado Care home facilities during the holidays! The club also collected hats/socks for the 2025 Office Christmas Drive.

Wiley P., Reporter



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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BLUEPRINT TO BUSINESS WORKSHOP



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County

Blueprint to Business: Your idea. Your plan. Your business.

For youth in grades 6-12 interested in learning how to build their own business while preparing to compete in the Butler County YEC!

Registration Required!



<https://forms.gle/2RstDLRMhKazjpHG9>

 Time :

10 a.m. to
3 p.m.



Location:

200 N Griffith St
El Dorado, KS 67042



Date :

January 19,
2026

There will be a break for lunch. Please send youth with a sack lunch.

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English proficient individuals upon request.

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BUTLER COUNTY YEC



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
mgywallac@ksu.edu | 316-321-9660



SPONSORED BY



POWERED BY



CHRISTMAS DONATION DRIVE




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 Butler
County

Thank you to our
Community Clubs that
donated towards the K-
State Extension - Butler
County Christmas Drive!
Please know that your
donations were
allocated to **TWO** school
districts.



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, January 27th
- 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.

CITIZENSHIP IN ACTION (CIA)

Youth will have the opportunity to practice their leadership skills and learn how they can influence laws and rules that affect society as a whole. This two-day event is sponsored by Kansas 4-H Youth Development and the State 4-H Youth Leadership Council. The purpose of the program is to educate Kansas youth about the state legislative process and how their voice and participation in decision-making can positively impact their local communities. The legislative visit will not only familiarize youth with the Capitol building but also show them how they can influence the legislative process.

Citizenship In Action

REGISTRATION IS
NOW OPEN!

- WHEN - February 15-16, 2026
- COST - \$225
- WHO - Youth ages 13-18
- WHERE - Hotel Topeka City Center,
1717 SW Topeka Blvd,
Topeka, KS 66612
- SPACE IS LIMITED SO GET OUT AND REGISTER!



Registration Link

<https://web.cvent.com/event/f5df015d-47b8-42bd-b26f-557ad066263c/register>



SHOOTING SPORTS

The basic Archery class will be held on January 8th at 7 p.m. at the Butler County Community Building, located on the north end. Attendance is mandatory for this meeting for new members. This will be the only Basic class for the 2025-2026 4-H Year. All practices will be held on Thursdays at 7 p.m.

For BB/Air Rifle and Air Pistol, a Basic class will be held on January 13th at 6 p.m. in the Butler County Community Building, located on the North end. Attendance is mandatory for this meeting for new members. This will be the only Basic class for the 2025-2026 4-H Year. Practices will be held on Tuesdays from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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.



STATE EVENTS

STATE 4-H HORSE JUDGING CONTEST



REGISTER TODAY



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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service.
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Kansas 4-H and the Kansas Quarter Horse Youth Association are partnering to bring you the Kansas State 4-H Horse Judging Contest in conjunction with EquiFest of Kansas January 23, 2026 in Topeka. Registration is open and complete contest information can be found at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/.../pro.../contests/horse-judging/>

We're looking for great adults and teens to take part in Kansas 4-H Dog Judges and Leaders for 4-H Dog Judge Certification and Leader Training. This two-day learning opportunity will train judges for Kansas 4-H Dog Shows, recertify current judges, and teach volunteers and teens about the judging and scoring process for Kansas 4-H Dog Shows. The certification will take place January 31-February 1, 2026 in Salina, KS at the Saline County Fairgrounds, 4-H Building.

Registration is open and information can be found at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/trainings/dog-leader/>. Beginning in 2026, Dog Judge Training and Leader Certification will be offered every other year in even-numbered years. Judges who were certified in 2021 or 2022 should plan to recertify in 2026. Questions about certification can be emailed to knordyke@ksu.edu.



REGISTER TODAY



DOG JUDGE AND VOLUNTEER TRAINING

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service.
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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.



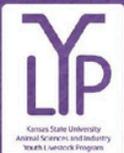
Scan Me!

Questions?

Lexie Hayes

☎ 785.532.1264 ✉ adhayes@ksu.edu

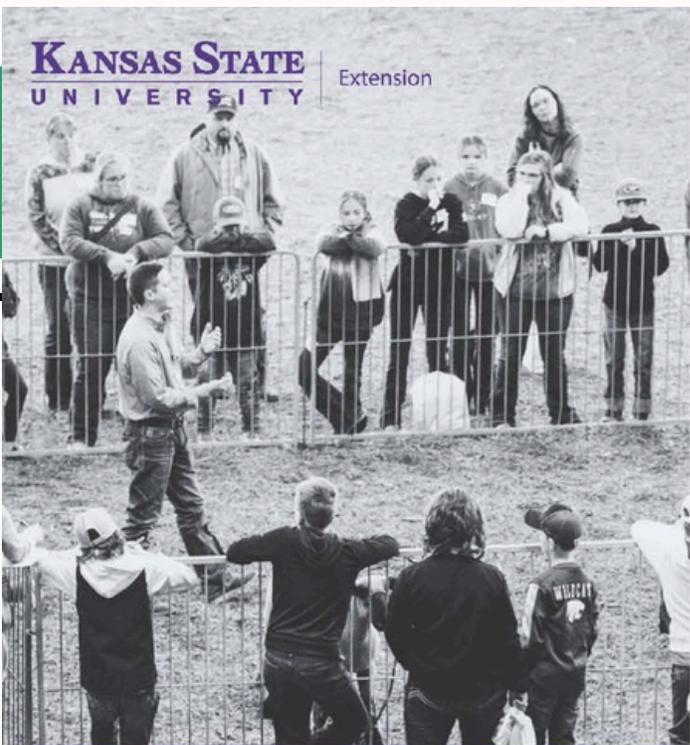
Registration Due February 13



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.

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension



2026 K-State Junior Sheep Producer Day



Date

4.11.2026

Manhattan, KS



Scan Me!



Registration

Due: 3.20.2026

Cost: \$20/person

<https://bit.lySheepJrProducer>

*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

NOON Lunch

1:00PM Health

1:45PM Afternoon Breakout Sessions

-wool, showmanship, clipping & grooming

3:45PM Dismissal

4:00PM Optional YQCA Class

4:00-6:00PM Optional Sheep & Goat Center Tour





LUNCH & LEARN

Bring your lunch and join Horticulture Agent, Calla Edwards, over the lunch hour during our monthly Lunch & Learn Program. This will be held over the lunch hour and will cover a variety of horticulture topics.

January 14th
12:15-12:45 p.m.

Andover Public Library
 1511 E Central Ave
 Andover, KS

January Topic:
Attracting Birds to Your Backyard
 Many people enjoy the excitement of birds routinely visiting their yard. Providing food and water is a great start to attracting backyard birds, but what types of food and habitat are going to attract the most birds and make them feel safest? Join us to learn more about what types of food attract the birds, what feeders to use, and what type of cover will keep birds hanging around all winter long.

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LUNCH & LEARN

Bring your lunch and join Horticulture Agent, Calla Edwards, over the lunch hour during our monthly Lunch & Learn Program. This will be held over the lunch hour and will cover a variety of horticulture topics.

January 17th
12:15-12:45 p.m.

Lori's EMPORIUM!
 1604 Custer Lane
 Augusta, KS

January Topic:
Myths and Misconceptions in the Garden

Some gardening wisdom is really not all that wise, while other gardening tales may actually have some truth to them. Calla Edwards, Butler County Horticulture Extension Agent, will look at common garden myths we have all heard, and evaluate the science behind what either proves them true or false. Learn how to know whether the garden advice you come across is reliable or not.

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Coffee Mugs Now Available!

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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 Research and Extension
 Butler County

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SAVE THE DATE

WOMEN GROW the FARM

Supporting Women in Agriculture

PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS: **Women Managing the Farm**

MANHATTAN, KS | FEBRUARY 12TH & 13TH



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.