

# 4-H Focus

FEBRUARY 2026



## Welcome New Agriculture & Natural Resource Agent to Leavenworth County Extension



Leavenworth County is happy to announce the hiring of Dean Ray, Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent. Dean comes to the extension office after a 24-year career in the military. Dean is originally from Colorado but received his bachelor's degree and commission as a military officer from Pittsburg State University. He's had the opportunity to travel all over the United States and internationally. Dean's passion for agriculture combined with his military career has exposed him to an array of crop and livestock production practices across the globe. After living in Leavenworth County on two different occasions, Dean and his family decided this was where they wanted to hang their hat for life after the military. He looks forward to working with homeowners, gardeners, small and large acreage owners, and livestock producers across the diverse agricultural and horticultural makeup within the county.

Leavenworth County  
711 Marshall St.  
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Leavenworth, KS 66048

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[leavenworth.ksu.edu](http://leavenworth.ksu.edu)



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

[ksre.k-state.edu](http://ksre.k-state.edu)

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equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## In-Person YQCA Trainings

All 4-H youth, ages 7 to 18 who are enrolled in swine, beef cattle, dairy cattle, bucket calf, sheep, all goats, rabbits, and poultry are required to take YQCA training each year. You will not be able to show at our Leavenworth County Fair or any state events without this annual certification.

What is YQCA you ask? Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a multi-species livestock quality assurance program for youth ages 7-18.

There are two option to take the course:

### Option A:

Taking the course through one of our three face-to-face sessions. The course takes approximately one hour and will cost \$3 for each youth participant.

### Option B:

Taking the course online through YQCA. This option is \$12 per youth participant. This option is not available for 7 year olds. They must take it in-person. All 4-H youth, ages 7-18, will need to register online through [yqcaprogram.org](http://yqcaprogram.org) before taking the class. If you choose option B, you must submit a YQCA certificate to the office no later than June 15, 2026.

When you register, please click the 4honline box and register with your 4honline username and password.

### Face-to-face trainings for 2026

All county face-to-face trainings will be held at the Leavenworth County Extension Office. All trainings will start at 6pm with registration/sign-in starting at 5:30pm.

Training 1: Thursday, March 12th

Training 2: Monday, March 30th

Training 3: Tuesday, April 14th



# 4-H CLOVERBUDS



NEXT MEETING:  
MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> @ 3PM  
LEAVENWORTH COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS  
4-H BUILDING

Kansas State Research and Extension and 4-H Youth Development offers an educational program specifically designed for youth ages 5 and 6 called Cloverbuds. Children of this age have distinctive learning characteristics and developmental needs that are different from older youth who participate in 4-H. That is why the 4-H Cloverbuds program is designed with specific educational objectives and policies focused to benefit 5- and 6-year-old children.

4-H Cloverbuds may not participate in any competitive 4-H events, but they may showcase their exhibits at county fair and public events. 4-H Cloverbuds are allowed to showcase a pet from the approved list in accordance with 4-H Cloverbuds pet policies. 4-H Cloverbuds may not own and/or show **4-H** livestock.

Most of our community clubs in Leavenworth County have youth this age who are enrolled members of that club. Some clubs have separate activities for Cloverbud youth while others have them engage during their regular monthly meetings. Leavenworth County 4-H also offers a countywide Cloverbud meeting every quarter.

The next Countywide Cloverbud meeting will be hosted by Grown Right and held on March 1st at 3pm at the Fairgrounds. Contact the Extension Office for more information or to RSVP.

## County Club Day & Regional Club Day

Congratulations to all those who participated in our 2026 Leavenworth County 4-H Club Day. Your hard work shows. We have very talented 4-Hers in Leavenworth County! Score cards and ribbons are now available for pick up at the Extension Office.

For those who received a Top Blue and were elected to advance to regionals, please mark your calendars for March 21<sup>st</sup>. If you have not notified the office that you will be attending regionals, please do so ASAP.



ALL YOUTH  
DESERVE A  
**4-H**  
EXPERIENCE!



## ROCK SPRINGS RANCH IS THE BEST EVER!

Rock Springs Ranch has been home to the Kansas Flint Hills for over 80 years. Over the summer, we offer **4-H summer camp** to all youth ages 6-17. Throughout the rest of the year, we also **host various groups for conferences and retreats**. We would love to host your **business, organization, or club for a day, weekend, or week**. There are plenty of lodging options to choose from as well as conference rooms, activities, and catering services to accommodate your stay. If you have any questions or are interested in booking a stay, please contact **Hana Nelsen** at [hnelson@rockspringsranch.org](mailto:hnelson@rockspringsranch.org).

### Why go to Rock Springs?

“So many reasons! Top reasons in my book are making new friends and meeting new people, and the cool things you get to do that you may not be able to at home.”

**Ava, Camper,  
Age 15**



“I enjoyed our team retreat at Rock Springs Ranch. It was a great way to get the group out of their normal comfort zone and inadvertently interact with fellow participants.”

**Jack, Flint Hills Regional  
Leadership Program**



### Camp Sessions Available

Rock Springs Ranch offers camp sessions of 2, 3, or 5 nights. Whichever you choose, you're sure to have a fun-filled time with us.

#### Mini Camp Ages 6-8

2 nights | June 21-23  
June 24-26

#### Overnight Camp Ages 8-17

3 nights | June 3-6  
June 28 - July 1

5 nights | June 7-12  
June 14-19  
July 5-10  
July 12-17

#### Family Camp All ages!

2 nights | March 20-22  
May 1-3

#### Speciality Camp Ages 11-15

5 nights | Ranch Camp: June 21-26  
Cooking Camp: June 21-26  
Shooting Sports Camp: June 21-26  
Outdoor Wilderness Leadership Skills Camp: June 21-26

#### Leaders in Training (LIT) Ages 14-17

5 nights | June 7-12  
June 14-19  
July 5-10  
July 12-17

#### Counselors in Training (CIT) Ages 16-17 with LIT experience

5 nights | June 7-12  
June 14-19  
July 5-10  
July 12-17



### Register Now!

For more details about sessions and rates, scan the QR code!

\*Self-selected, tiered pricing is available

Summer Camp  
Rock Springs  
Ranch

**ROCK  
SPRINGS  
RANCH**

ESTD  1946

## Summer Program Coordinator

Know someone who loves education and is looking for a part-time summer job? We are looking for a summer program coordinator who will be able to provide summer programming within our communities. Candidates must be post high school. To apply, please send a resume and letter of interest to [sonyam@ksu.edu](mailto:sonyam@ksu.edu).

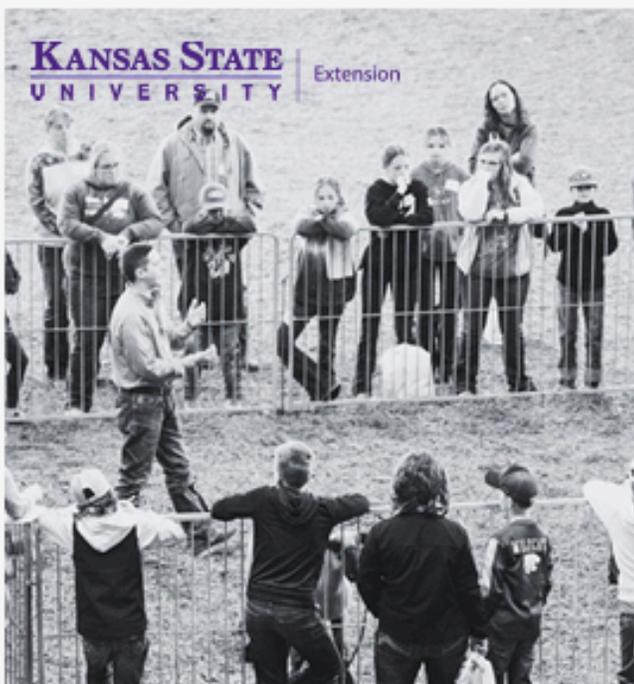


## New to Livestock Projects?

Are you new to a livestock project? We understand that 4-H can be a bit overwhelming for new members, especially those with animals. Here are a few helpful hints to help you.

- Read your fair rules (The rules for 2026 have not been released but will be by April 1<sup>st</sup>.) You can reference last year's fair rules to help get you started.
- Attend countywide project meetings (Cattle, Goat, Rabbit, Poultry and Bucket Calf all hold monthly meetings)
- Look for your livestock letters in the mail. Beef letters just went out and small animal (swine, sheep, goat, bucket calf) will go out first of April. Please read these letters once you get them.
- Mark your calendar for tagging. Beef weigh-in and tagging is Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Small animal tagging (swine, sheep and goat) is Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Both are at the Leavenworth County Fairgrounds
- Complete YQCA training. All youth who plan to show beef, swine, goats, sheep, bucket calf, dairy cattle, dairy goats, poultry or rabbits must complete YQCA training.
- Fill out your fair entries in FairEntry (our fair management system) when it opens on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Please watch your email and newsletters for more information on FairEntry when we get closer to June.





# 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.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](mailto: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



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.



# 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 YOCA 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 YOCA 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](mailto:adhayes@ksu.edu)

Registration Due  
**February 13**



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**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Extension

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K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact (Sonya Murphy) two weeks prior to the start of the even at (913-364-5700). Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so.