

# THE 4-H NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER  
2024



## A Minute with Madeline

### Using Your 4-H Skills to Create Handmade Holiday Gifts

The holiday season is a perfect time to put your 4-H skills to use and create thoughtful, handmade gifts for family and friends. Whether you're working on a craft project, gardening, or cooking, there are endless ways to use what you've learned in 4-H to make something special and unique. Here are a few ideas for using your 4-H projects to create meaningful gifts this holiday season:



#### 1. Sewing and Textile Design

- **Handmade Bags or Pouches:** Create a stylish tote or small zipper pouch using fabric you've picked out or dyed yourself. Add a fun embroidery design for a personal touch.
- **Quilted Pillows or Blankets:** A small quilted pillow or lap blanket can be a warm and thoughtful gift for loved ones. Whether it's patchwork or a more intricate design, these cozy creations will surely be appreciated.
- **Embroidered Towels or Aprons:** Add a personal touch to plain kitchen towels or aprons with embroidery. These make great gifts for the home cook or baker in your life!

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# Using Your 4-H Skills to Create Handmade Holiday Gifts Cont.

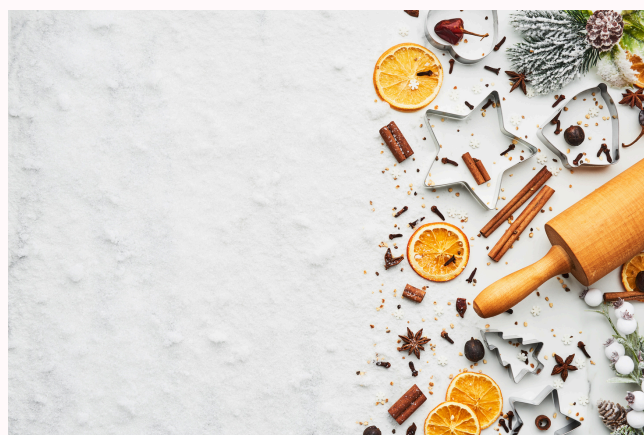


## 2. Photography

- Personalized Photo Calendars: Use your favorite photos from past 4-H events or family memories to create a custom photo calendar. It's a practical and sentimental gift that loved ones will cherish all year long.
- Framed Prints: Pick a few of your best photos and frame them as a gift. Consider printing them on canvas or as prints to make a beautiful and timeless holiday present.

## 3. Cooking and Food Preservation

- Canned Goods: If you've been preserving fruits, jams, or pickles, package them in decorative jars and add a personalized label. Your friends and family will appreciate the time and care you put into making these homemade treats.
- Baked Goods: Use your baking skills to create holiday treats like cookies, brownies, or loaves of homemade bread. You can even wrap them in festive packaging or gift baskets for a special touch.
- Spiced Mixes or Homemade Candies: If you've learned how to make candy or spice mixes, these are perfect for holiday gift-giving. Think homemade hot cocoa mixes, spiced cookie mixes, or even caramel popcorn!



## 4. Visual Arts

- Hand-Painted Ornaments: Use your painting skills to create personalized holiday ornaments. Whether you paint on wood, glass, or ceramic, these unique gifts will be cherished year after year.
- Handmade Jewelry: If you've worked with beads or metalworking, try making earrings, bracelets, or necklaces as gifts for friends or family. Customize the design to suit the recipient's style for an extra personal touch.
- Holiday Cards: Use your skills in drawing, painting, or stamping to create beautiful, handmade holiday cards. Include a handwritten message inside to make it extra special.





# Using Your 4-H Skills to Create Handmade Holiday Gifts Cont.



## 5. Horticulture and Landscape Design

- Potted Plants or Succulent Arrangements: If you've been working with plants, you can create small potted arrangements or succulents. Decorate the pots with ribbons or paint for a festive touch.
- Herb Bundles or Plant Kits: Consider gifting herb bundles, small homemade terrariums, or DIY plant kits for friends and family who enjoy gardening.



## 6. Woodworking and Construction

- Handcrafted Wooden Gifts: Whether it's a cutting board, picture frame, or small shelf, your woodworking skills can create beautiful and functional gifts that will be treasured.
- Birdhouses or Feeders: Make a simple birdhouse or bird feeder as a gift for nature-loving friends or family. These projects can be decorated or painted to make them unique.

## Gift Wrapping Ideas

Don't forget to wrap your handmade gifts in a creative way! You can use fabric scraps, newspaper, or recycled materials to wrap your presents in an eco-friendly and personal style. Try using some of your sewing or craft supplies to make your own gift tags, bows, or ribbons to add a personal touch.



On behalf of the entire Butler County Extension team, we wish each of you a warm and joyful holiday season. May this time of year bring you peace, happiness, and an opportunity to reflect on the year's accomplishments. As we look ahead to the New Year, we're excited to continue working alongside you to make the Butler County 4-H program even better.





# LEADER'S LOUNGE

## December Check-Up

- Plan a Holiday gathering or community service project for the Holiday season
- Take time to Relax!
- 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

- Extension Office Christmas Donation Drive
- CIA in February
- 4-H Day in March

## To-Do

- Distribute copies of club program calendar or club notebooks
- Project Leaders conducting project meetings.
- Check club mailbox at the Extension Office.
- Plan holiday celebration
- Begin discussion of 4-H Day plans
- Check club's progress toward goals.
- Remind volunteers and 4-H'ers to enroll / re-enroll in 4-H Online for the new 4-H year
- 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!
- 4-H Families 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

## December

- December 7: The Elite Livestock Judging Clinic and Contest - Tonganoxie
- December 13: Christmas Donation Drive Drop Off by 11:30 a.m.
- December 25 - January 1: Extension Office Closed

## February

- February 1: Volunteer Registration Deadline
- February 5: Jr. Swine Producer Day Registration Deadline
- February 17: Extension Office Closed
- February 22: Market Beef Weigh-In
- February 26: Jr. Meat Goat Producer Day Registration Deadline

## January

- January 1: Extension Office Closed
- January 4-5: Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council Orientation Retreat - Rock Springs Ranch
- January 10: Club Quarterly Report Due
- January 14: 4-H Council Meeting
- January 20: Extension Office Closed
- January 27: YQCA Training



\*See the full 2024-2025 Calendar [HERE](#)\*

# Butler County 4-H Enrollment Quick Tips



- [4-H Online Enrollment Link](https://www.4honline.com) (v2.4honline.com)
- [Butler County 4-H Website with Enrollment Information](https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/enrollment.html)  
~ <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/enrollment.html>
- New 4-H Year started Oct. 1st: All youth participating between Oct. 1, 2024 and Sept 30, 2025 need to enroll (including shooting sports youth). Any enrollment prior to Oct. 1, 2024 needs to reenroll.
- State 4-H Projects—there were some changes last year!! Please check the 4-H Project page and watch enrollment carefully!! Make sure your 4-H'er gets enrolled in the right projects.
- Clubs and Projects will not automatically populate when you reenroll. You will have to select your club and all projects you want to enroll in. Years in project are supposed to automatically populate when you reenroll in a project you were enrolled in the previous year.
  - ~ If you have projects that you previously enrolled in, did not enroll in the 2023-2024 year, but are reenrolling for the new year and need to know your 4-Her's years in the project – please give us a call and we can look up the years for you.
- State Projects can be found [HERE](#)
- REMEMBER, you are not a 4-H member until you are enrolled!
- Volunteers should not be doing project work until they are enrolled

## Christmas Donation Drive



**Christmas is an exciting time of year for most kids. For some, it means hearing all about the gifts of their classmates while they had very little under their tree.**

**How can you help make Christmas a happy time for others?**

1. You can donate to the Christmas Donation Drive at the Extension Office. All donations need to be dropped off by Friday, December 13th at 11:30 a.m. so they can be delivered in time for Christmas.
2. Your family can adopt a kid to buy Christmas presents for. This is a great way to get into the spirit of Christmas as a family.
3. You can make small gifts for your classmates. For some, this may be the only gift they receive this Christmas.
4. When you go back to school after Christmas, it is okay to share your excitement of your Christmas break. Just remember that not everyone received gifts, so try to talk about the things you did rather than the things you got (talk about your new Xbox privately with your friends).
5. Donate to your local food bank or volunteer at a food kitchen. This is a great service project for everyone!







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Butler County



# 2024 CHRISTMAS DONATION DRIVE

*Drop off by December 13th*

K-State Research and Extension Butler County is partnering with Tri-County CASA to provide the abused and neglected children of Butler, Elk, and Greenwood Counties with a little joy this Christmas.

## **We will be collecting New & Unwrapped Items:**

- **Cuddle Kits**
  - One pillow case that can be used as a bag to gather their items
  - One soft and warm blanket to wrap up in
  - One stuffed animal to hold on to
  - One flashlight with batteries
- **Small Suitcases or Duffle Bags**
- **Nightlights**
- **Small Document Lockboxes**

All donations will be received  
until 11:30 a.m.

Friday, December 13th at the  
Butler County Extension Office  
206 N Griffith in El Dorado



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# Butler County Fair Dates and Deadlines

## Strive to Thrive in 2025

The 2025 Butler County Fair dates have been set for July 17th-22nd, 2025!

### Important Dates

- **February 22:** Market Beef Tagging\*
- **April 15:** Bucket Calves Must Be Born\*
- **April 21:** Small Animal Tagging\*
- **May 1:** 4-H Project Enrollment Deadline
- **May 29:** YQCA Deadline
- **May 29:** Market Animal Certification and Animal Care and Housing Forms Deadline
- **May 29:** Horse ID Deadline\*
- **June 1:** Pre-Entries Open
- **June 13th:** Dairy Heifers/Cow ID Deadline\*
- **June 13:** Breeding Animal Tagging Deadline\*
- **June 15th:** Livestock Registration Paper Deadline\*
- **June 23:** Pre-Entries Close at 11:59 p.m.
- **July 1:** Dairy Doe Registration/Ownership Deadline\*

### Butler County Fair Rules

The 2025 4-H/FFA Division Rules are now available and posted! They can be found on our website at:

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4hfair/>

### Pre-Entries

- Pre-Entries are required for all 4-H/FFA projects
- Cloverbuds will only need to pre-enter 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!

\*See the 2025 Butler County Fair 4-H/FFA Tagging Guidelines and Forms Table [HERE](#)





# 2025 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 4-H Fair.**

The YQCA Deadline for Participating in the 2025 Butler County 4-H Fair is **May 29th at 11:59 PM, 2025.**

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 30th at 11:30 a.m.. You can find more information about YQCA [HERE](#).

In person class dates:

- Monday, January 27th
- Tuesday, February 18th
- Thursday, March 13th
- Wednesday, April 9th
- Wednesday, May 28th

\*\* All Classes will be held from 6:00-7:30 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.

# 2025 Horse Update

The Kansas 4-H Horse ID Certificate (P1039) has been updated for the 2025 4-H program year. Beginning with the 2025 4-H program year, please use the new form and destroy previously used 4-H Horse ID Certificates. As a reminder, to properly identify your horse, complete the 4-H Horse ID Certificate, have your Extension Agent sign it and copy it. A COPY of the Horse ID Certificate is kept on file in the Extension Office and the 4-H Horse member maintains the ORIGINAL certificate. The original certificate is presented by the 4-H member to show staff for check-in at the local 4-H horse shows. **Beginning in 2025, registration papers WILL NOT be accepted to identify horses for the 4-H Horse project.** An example of the Horse ID Certificate is available online.

Additionally, the 4-H Horse Show Rulebook (S133) has been revised and is now available. Supplemental educational materials will also be released throughout the year to assist 4-H members, leaders and Extension staff with the 4-H Horse program.





# Club News

## Benton Busy Bees

Look at these happy 4-Her's who are ready to go on the annual Benton Busy Bees hayrack ride. Members and their families enjoyed kicking off the 4-H year on 10/6/2024. The officer team met to plan the 4-H year, followed by a hay rack ride, club meeting, and finishing up with a potluck supper!

Wiley P., Reporter  
Benton Busy Bees



## 4-H and Beyond!



### Jackson S.

#### Towanda Rustlers

Jackson had a very successful Kansas State Fair! Since the county fair and his participation in Senior Round Robin he has been diligent in practicing for dairy goat showmanship. At the state level it requires extensive knowledge about the animal and the judging scorecard. Changing position in the line, trading animals and proper hand placement are all required skills. The senior showmanship took 1 hour and 15 minutes. He was selected as Grand Champion Senior showman. Secondly, his Senior doe Lulu won the Grand Champion youth recorded grade division, which qualified her for participation in Best of Show competition. Jackson and Lulu were selected as Best in Show for the youth division.

# Prepare For The New 4-H Year!

The new 4-H year will begin on October 1st, 2024! From hands-on exploration to project-based skill building, young people thrive through participation in 4-H and find their way to success in life and future careers. We are excited to offer over 35 projects, ranging from Foods and Nutrition, to Robotics and Geology, to Livestock. There truly is something for everyone! We focus on exploration, learning, and experiencing the world around us through hands-on activities lead by our qualified volunteers and mentors.

Any Butler County youth ages 7 to 18 is eligible to join 4-H! Our learning pathways support 21st century learning skills to help our youth grow and develop into productive citizens within their community! I encourage you to visit our website: <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/> to learn how to enroll in 4-H!

## **4-H'ers**

- Try a new project! Find a list [HERE](#)
- Invite a friend to a 4-H meeting!
- Consider running for an office in your club!
- Plan a presentation for a club meeting!

## **Parents**

- Don't forget to enroll in 4-H Online beginning October 1
- Sign up to become a volunteer! Contact the Extension Office for more information
- Verify that the family email address on file is the best for us to use to communicate with you
- Encourage 4-H'ers in your family and club to try something new, such as a project or presentation. Getting out of our comfort zone fosters growth!
- Invite another family to a meeting or 4-H event to learn about our program

## **Quick Tips**

- State 4-H Projects—there have been some changes!! Please check the 4-H Project page and watch enrollment carefully!! Make sure your 4-H'er gets enrolled in the right projects.
- Clubs and Projects will not automatically populate when you reenroll. You will have to select your club and all projects you want to enroll in. Years in project are supposed to automatically populate when you reenroll in a project you were enrolled in the previous year.
  - If you have projects that you previously enrolled in, did not enroll in the 2023-2024 year, but are reenrolling for the new year and need to know your 4-H'er's years in the project – please give us a call and we can look up the years for you.



# 4-H Council Event Scholarships

**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 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>





# *The Elite Livestock Judging Clinic and Contest*

*Saturday December 7th 2024*

*Leavenworth County Fairgrounds  
Tonganoxie, KS*

*Come learn livestock evaluation from Butler County  
Community College Livestock Judging Team*

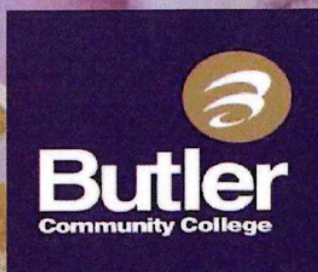
*New this year will be meats identification training  
hosted by KSU Meats Science Department*

*Follow us on Facebook for more info  
Leavenworth County Livestock Committee*

**Leavenwoth County**



**LivestockCommittee**





# Deer Processing Workshop

**December 6, 2024**  
6:00 PM  
1030 River Rd.  
Eureka, KS 67045

- Topics:**
- Field Dressing
  - Basic Processing

**Presented by:**

- *Dr. Drew Ricketts* – K-State Wildlife Extension Specialists



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

Meal Provided

For more information and to register please call the Greenwood County Extension Office at 620-583-7455 or email [benjam63@ksu.edu](mailto:benjam63@ksu.edu) or [cmmiller1@ksu.edu](mailto:cmmiller1@ksu.edu)

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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 (Ben Sims) two weeks prior to the start of the event (11/22/24) at (620-583-7455 or [benjam63@ksu.edu](mailto:benjam63@ksu.edu)). Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so.

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Join Us For Our 2025 Quarterly Extension Connection

# Mug Mingle



**Grab a mug and mingle with your local Butler County Extension Staff**

Friday, January 10th from 7:45-9:00 a.m.  
Save the dates: April 11th, July 11th, and October 19th

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# RAIN BARREL CLINIC

Andover Public Library  
1511 E Central Ave, Andover, KS  
Clinic is free!  
Make your own rain barrel for \$50!

**SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY  
8TH AT  
9:30 A.M.**



- How to make a rain barrel
- How to care for a rain barrel
- Plants for a Resilient Landscape
- How to reduce water use in the garden and landscape

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Butler County

**RSVP FOR A RAIN BARREL BY  
JAN. 30TH  
CALL (316) 321-9660**

# RAIN BARREL CLINIC

Butler County Community/4-H Building  
200 N Griffith, El Dorado  
Clinic is free!  
Make your own rain barrel for \$50!

**SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY  
22ND AT  
9:00 A.M.**



- How to make a rain barrel
- How to care for a rain barrel
- Plants for a Resilient Landscape
- How to reduce water use in the garden and landscape

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Research and Extension  
Butler County

**RSVP FOR A RAIN BARREL BY  
FEB. 7TH  
CALL (316) 321-9660**





# 2025 K-State Junior Swine Producer Day



Join us on Saturday, March 1, 2025 for the biennial K-State Junior Swine Producer Day at the Stanley Stout Center in Manhattan. This educational event will be a fun-filled day in which youth, parents, agents, ag teachers, and swine project leaders can increase their knowledge of youth swine projects. Presentations will be provided by K-State faculty members, graduate students, former exhibitors, and guest speakers. All ages and skill levels are invited! Participants will receive a K-State Show Pig Guide, t-shirt, and complimentary lunch. Only those who register by February 5 will receive a t-shirt. The registration fee is \$20/person for those who sign up by the registration deadline, or \$25/person after that date. Registration is limited to 400 attendees, on a first come, first served basis. This is a family event! Anyone attending must register, including all youth and adults.

## March 1



### Tentative Schedule

- 8:00AM Registration Opens
- 9:00AM Welcome
- 9:15AM Project Selection
- 10:00AM Breakout Sessions
  - Nutrition, Meats, Facilities & Equipment, Breeds & Ear Notching
- 12:00PM Lunch
- 12:45PM Health
- 1:30PM Breakout Sessions
  - Showmanship, Daily Care & Clipping, Show Day Prep, Resources
- 3:00PM Wrap-up
- 3:30PM YQCA Training (optional)



### Registration

- ✔ \$20/person by February 5
- ✔ \$25/person after February 5
- ✔ Late registrants will not receive a t-shirt.
- ✔ All attendees must register, including youth, parents, and adults.
- ✔ No refunds.
- ✔ Attendance is limited to the first 400 participants to register.



### Questions?

Joel DeRouchey  
jderouch@ksu.edu  
785.532.2280

Lexie Hayes  
adhayes@ksu.edu  
785.532.1264

## Register By February 5

*\*Limited Attendance\**

**Location**  
Stanley Stout Center

**Register Online**  
<https://commerce.cashnet.com/KSUASIND>



Scan Me!

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K-State Research and Extension and the Department of Animal Sciences & Industry, or their assignees, reserve the right to photograph, record the image and/or voice of participants for future research, educational, or promotional purposes. By attending, you provide consent to the above items and waive all rights to claims for payment or royalties in connection with any use of said images or recordings, unless you notify event organizers you withhold consent, in writing, prior to the event.



# K-State Junior

## MEAT GOAT PRODUCER DAY







# 3.22.25

### Event

Join us on Saturday, March 22, 2025 for the biennial K-State Junior Meat Goat Producer Day at the Stanley Stout Center north of the K-State campus in Manhattan. This educational program will be a fun-filled day in which youth, parents, agents, ag teachers, project leaders, and volunteers can increase their knowledge of youth meat goat projects. Presentations will be provided by K-State faculty members, graduate students, former exhibitors, and guest speakers. All ages and skill levels are invited! Participants will receive a K-State Meat Goat Show Guide, t-shirt, and complimentary lunch. Only those who register by the deadline on February 26 will receive a t-shirt. The registration fee is \$20/person before February 26 and \$25/person after the deadline. This is a family event! Anyone attending must register, including all youth, parents, and adults. Registration is limited to 400 participants, filled on a first come, first serve basis.

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.

### Registration

-  \$20/person by February 26
-  \$25/person after February 26
-  Late registrants will not receive a t-shirt.
-  All attendees must register, including youth, parents, & adults.
-  No refunds
-  Attendance is limited to the first 400 participants to register.



Scan me!

### Questions?

Lexie Hayes  
adhayes@ksu.edu  
785.532.1264

### Tentative Program

Friday, March 21

5:00-7:00PM *Optional Tour*  
Sheep & Meat Goat Center

Saturday, March 22

8:00AM Check-in

9:00AM Welcome

9:15AM Selection

10:00AM Breakout Sessions

-Nutrition

-Facilities & Equipment

-Doe Management & Kidding

11:15AM Health & Wellness

12:00PM Lunch

1:00PM Breakout Sessions

-Showmanship

-Reproduction

-Clipping & Grooming

3:15PM Wrap-up

3:30PM YQCA Training (*optional*)

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

### Register Online

[https://commerce.cashnet.com /  
KSUASIND](https://commerce.cashnet.com/KSUASIND)

By

**February 26**