



2026 4-H L. E.A.D Contest Application

Due September 19, 2025 by 5:00 PM

Interviews will be evening of September 29th

(Youth will be contacted in order of submission to schedule your interview time)

Please read the entire application and the L.E.A.D Rules and Regulations before signing. Any application received without complete, legible, and accurate information may be disqualified.

Participant

I hereby make application to enter the Cowley County L.E.A.D Contest.

I understand that exhibitors must be at least 10 years of age before January 1 of the current 4-H year. Exhibitors should not have reached 19 before January 1 of the current year to be eligible to participate.

Participants must have a finalized 4-H enrollment by the application submission and deadline

I understand that this is a huge learning and leadership opportunity. If I am chosen for the L.E.A.D program. A key component of this program is not only successfully raise a market (sheep, meat goat or swine), attend clinics, workshops and tours, be active in your club/community but also have initiative and drive to seek further knowledge, research and training on their own, utilize mentors and work together with current applicants and 4-H youth

I understand that if I am awarded to be a participant, I will be awarded a mini grant of \$500 to go towards your 2026 market lamb, meat goat or swine project (which ever specie you are selected for). You will be awarded money in the spring during time of animal purchase. Participant will be required to tag one animal for the L.E.A.D program on the set Cowley County tagging dates (April 26th or 28th), we advise to choose to put the mini grant to your better animal of your awarded specie. If an animal is not tagged for the County Fair on time you will be held responsible for refunding the full \$500 immediately.

If I should receive the mini grant in my respective specie, I will be responsible for feeding, handling, and caring for the animal next year to the best of my ability. It is agreed and understood that the responsibility for the animal and its actions shall rest with the 4-H L.E.A.D participants.

Special Prizes will be awarded to L.E.A.D exhibitors. The animal must be exhibited in the market class and LEAD Showcasing (no pre-entry for this class, will be held at the completion of your respective species shows). We would like for the LEAD market animal to be sold in the premium sale but if youth have another Market Animal that would receive a higher lot number in the sale they may sell that animal. However, the LEAD animal is still Terminal and must be in the Carcass contest. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to private treaty, market and sell the meat. Processing should be completed at Walnut Valley or Burden Meats unless further instructed. With carcass evaluations to follow fair. Once a participant has exhibited the youth will be ineligible to apply the for the program in the future.

	Points
L.E.A.D Book	150
Interview	100
Showmanship	100
Sponsor Letters	100
Average Daily Gain	30
Live Placing	20
Total	500

I understand if the animal is NOT shown in the 2025 Cowley County Fair due to health issues exhibitor is expected to pay back 50% of purchase price and 75% if the animal is NOT shown due to lack of proper management in feeding and preparing the animal to show. This is to be determined by the House committee on case by case instances.

All premium money won will belong to the member. When the calf is sold, the check for payment will be sent after a final thank-you letter is sent to the sponsor *and* a copy is received by the Cowley County Extension Office.

Exhibitors will be expected to send a total of 5 sponsor report letters along with a **copy** of this letter sent to the Cowley County Extension Office or slag11@ksu.edu. **Letters must be postmarked or emailed by the listed date below. Failure to write the required letters may result in forfeiture of the mini grant.** Each member must complete a 4-H project record book for the animal, including a personal narrative essay, pictures, financial/feed details, sponsor letters and activities list for the entire project. A complete record must be kept and will be exhibited at the 2026 Cowley County Fair.

The House Committee reserves the right to retract the mini grant in full from any member who does not abide by the L.E.A.D Rules and Regulations including but not limited to the failure to write, send, and submit a copy of the scheduled sponsor letters, failure to maintain accurate records, failure to provide adequate care and/or feed to the animal, or failure to take full responsibility for the welfare of the animal. If any mini grant is retracted, no allowances will be made for any expenses incurred.

Please closely review the L.E.A.D Program expectations below.

My birth date is ___ / ___ / ____ My age on January 1, 2026 will be _____

By signing below, I agree to have read the rules and regulations of this program and agree to abide by them for the duration of the L.E.A.D program.

Name of Applicant (PRINT clearly): _____

Mailing Address (street/rural route/box): City, State, Zip:

Phone (Area code + number): _____.

Main contact phone number that can receive text messages: _____

Physical Address where steer will be housed:

City, State, Zip:

Phone (Area code + number): _____.

Email (PRINT clearly): _____

4-H Club: _____

Years in 4-H: _____

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Briefly tell us about yourself:

What all projects have you exhibited in the past?

Why would you like to be chosen for the L.E.A.D Program? What are goals you have?

Parent/Guardian

Print Name: _____

We will cooperate with the applicant in meeting all conditions of the program if the applicant is chosen. We hereby grant our consent and approval and agree to hold harmless the House committee, the Cowley County Fairboard, and Cowley County Extension staff from all loss, cost, and expense arising out of any liability for injury or damages to persons or property sustained or claimed to have been sustained by the applicant, or anyone whomever, by reason of the applicant above participating in this 4-H L.E.A.D contest.

Parent/Guardian Name (PRINT clearly): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Mailing Address (street/rural route/box):

City, State, Zip:

Phone (Area code + number): _____

Email (PRINT clearly): _____

Please return completed applications to:

Cowley County Extension Office
311 E 9th, Courthouse
P.O. Box 538
Winfield, KS 67156











Slag11@ksu.edu
(620)221-5450

Professional Business Interviews will be scheduled upon application submission

FOR PERSONAL USE ONLY. NOT TO BE SUBMITTED WITH APPLICATION

L.E.A.D Expectations

Requirements:












-  Enroll in 4-H
-  Feed and Care for animal
-  Worm as needed
-  Seek medical assistance if needed
-  Tag and weigh animal at April tagging
-  Send scheduled sponsorship letters
-  Be active in your club and community
-  Complete a 4-H Animal record book.
-  Submit record books by July 20, 2026
 - These will be on display
 - You will need to pick these up before fair clean up, you may complete them for the year end and you have the option to turn back in for County record book judging and/or have on display at the 2026 House Appreciation Banquet.
-  Attend the Carcass evaluations Friday following fair

Youth Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Date: _____

Strongly Encouraged

-  Attend the Cowley County sheep/meat goat spring shows (if this is your specie)
-  Attend other spring shows, clinics or workshops at a local, regional or state level
-  Attend the summer showmanship clinics and workshops, ready to learn more
-  Complete a project talk in your 4-H club about the L.E.A.D program, opportunities and what you have learned. Tagging Cowley 4-H in social media post so we are aware
-  Facilitate a Presentation at a school or other event about the 4-H L.E.A.D program, opportunities and what you have learned. Tagging Cowley 4-H in social media post so we are aware
-  Assist with the House Appreciation Banquet in 2025
-  Seek leadership opportunities
-  Be a leader and helping hand
-  Seek out professional advice on feeding, fitting and caring for a Market Animal correctly.
 - Tour feed mills, lockers or producer operations.
-  Be hungry for more knowledge in the industry
-  Utilize mentors/leaders/clinicians/breeders for guidance

Sarah LaGrone

4-H Youth Development,
Extension Agent
Cowley County
311 E. 9th, Courthouse
P.O. Box 538
Winfield, KS 67156
620-221-5450
620-218-1816 (Call/Text)
slag11@ksu.edu
cowley.k-state.edu

Sponsor Reports

Send a copy of each report to: Slag11@ksu.edu

Mail Letter to: Bill House Foundation
500 N. Centennial Rd
Arkansas City, KS 67005

Carol House, Jason Smith and Jeff Smith

Please send letters within a week of the listed date. A copy of the letters MUST be included in your final record book for full points. Pictures and personal comments are highly encouraged.

	<u>Suggested Report Items</u>
#1- March 1, 2026	A. Introduction (Yourself/animal) B. S.M.A.R.T. goals C. timeline of management D. plans for activities with animal E. Other projects
#2-April 1, 2026	A. animal report B. feed C. adg/weight D. How are you working toward your goals?
#3- May 1, 2026	A. Animal Report B. Weight/ ADG. C. Clipped? Outings? D. Goal Status E. Presentations given?
#4- June 1, 2026	A Animal Report B. Shows? C. Weight/ ADG D. Showmanship Progress E. How are you managing projects? F. Trips/programs/opportunities?
#5- July 1, 2026	A. Animal Report B. Final goal update C. Plans for Cowley County Fair

Send Thank you card immediately following Cowley County Fair or have ready to give to Mrs. House at the fair.



We are excited to introduce the L.E.A.D Program! This is a small specie mini grant program focusing on emerging Leaders, Empowering youth with Accountability and positive Development Opportunities. This opportunity comes from the generous donations of the House Foundation.

This program will be closely mirroring the Catch-A-Calf program. It will be available to Sheep, Swine and Meat Goat projects. Mini grants of \$500 will be awarded to the selected participants to go towards their market project. Participants will be held to a higher standard to become more knowledgeable about the industry, grow as leaders in their clubs and communities, and push themselves to the next level. Their projects will be exhibited at the Cowley County Fair and sold in the Premium Sale. Their projects will automatically go on to compete in the new carcass contest in Cowley County for sheep, meat goat and swine. This contest will be an opportunity for all youth to participate in with the carcass evaluation/tour on Friday following the fair.

POINTS BREAK DOWN

LEAD Book-150

Utilize Z books

Kansas Project Record Forms

100 Points will come from the KAP Score Card

50 Points will come from the extra information and details added. Feed information, receipts, weights, highlighted comments, descriptions and pictures of events and opportunities.

Needs to be 100% youth's work.

Start early. Please do not call pre fair and deadline with questions.

Will be on display at the fair

Rubric/score will be with your book at the County Fair

	Points
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Interview

Will be youth talking to the judge in the LEAD Showcase at the Cowley County Fair. The judge will come to each participant and talk to them. This is the opportunity for the participant to speak loudly, confident and clearly to the judge. Telling them all about this program, how it helped them and all the opportunities it has led to. The judge does not know about this program...tell them all! They will be looking for the youth that did the most with this opportunity.

Showmanship

This will take place in the LEAD Showcase at the Cowley County Fair. The judge will be judging the youth on their showmanship skills and award points accordingly.

Sponsor Letters

Sponsorship letters will be in the LEAD record books. Each letter is worth 20 points. Make sure to have good, meaningful content in your letters. Points scored by the House Committee.

Average Daily Gain

The average daily gain will be out of about 30 points. Average Daily Gain for the LEAD Showcase will be figured from the weight you received your calf at the House Appreciation Dinner to your check in weight at the County Fair. Average Daily Gain (ADG)=Ending weight-Beginning weight/days. If your ADG is 3.25 your CAC Points will be 33.

Live Placing

The judge will assign points at the LEAD Showcase on how he placed the animals.