

2026 4-H Catch-a-Calf 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 Catch-a-Calf 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 4-H Catch-A-Calf 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 set Catch-a-Calf event on October 11, 2025.

I understand that this is a huge learning and leadership opportunity. If I am chosen for the Catch A Calf program. A key component of this program is not only successfully raise a market steer, attend clinics, workshops and tours, but also have initiative and drive to seek further knowledge, research and training on their own, utilize mentors and work together with current/past CAC applicants.

I understand that if I am awarded to be a participant, calf must be picked up from the Catch-a-Calf event held at the end of October and started immediately as a 4-H project for exhibit at the August 2025 Cowley County Fair.

If I should receive a calf, I will be responsible for feeding, handling, and caring for the calf next year. It is agreed and understood that the responsibility for the calf and its actions shall rest with the 4-H Catch-A-Calf winners.

The calf must be tagged at the scheduled Beef weigh and tagging in March and exhibited in the market beef class. We would like for the Catch a Calf 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 Catch a Calf 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. Special Prizes will be awarded to Catch a Calf exhibitors. Once a participant has won Champion or Reserve Champion in the Catch a Calf program, exhibitor will be ineligible to apply the for the program in the future.

	Points
Catch-A-Calf Book	150
Interview	100
Showmanship	100
Sponsor Letters	100
Average Daily Gain	30
Live Placing	20
Total	500

I understand if the calf is NOT shown in the 2026 Cowley County Fair Market show, due to health issues exhibitor is expected to pay back 35% of purchase price and 50% if the calf is NOT shown due to lack of proper management in feeding and preparing the calf to show. This is to be determined by the Catch a Calf committee on case by case instances. If Calf is to die it is the youths responsibility to have a necropsy preformed. For ANY instance of health, wellbeing or concern contact Sarah immediately to update.

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. **Letters must be postmarked or emailed by the last day of the scheduled month. Failure to write the required letters may result in forfeiture of the calf.** Each member must complete a detailed 4-H record book for the calf, including a story, pictures, 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 book may be picked up late Monday night after the premium sale before clean up.

The Catch-a-Calf Committee reserves the right to remove a calf from any member who does not abide by the Catch-a-Calf 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 calf, or failure to take full responsibility for the welfare of the calf. If any calf is removed, no allowances will be made for any expenses incurred.

Please closely review the Catch a Calf 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 Catch-a-Calf 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 Catch-A-Calf 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 Catch- a-Calf 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 Catch-a-Calf 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

2025-2026 Catch a Calf Expectations

Requirements:

- 🐾 Enroll in 4-H
- 🐾 Feed and Care for animal
- 🐾 Worm as needed
- 🐾 Seek medical assistance if needed
- 🐾 Tag and weigh animal at March tagging
- 🐾 Send scheduled sponsorship letters
- 🐾 Complete a 4-H Animal record book.
- 🐾 Attend the Carcass evaluation
- 🐾 Submit record books by July 20, 2026
 - These will be on display in the beef barn
 - 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 Open House event.
 - I welcome record book questions anytime throughout the year. Please feel free to reach out early—it's much easier to work through questions as they come up rather than waiting until the busy summer, pre fair or just before the deadline.

Youth Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Date: _____

Strongly Encouraged

- 🐾 Attend the Cowley County Beef Classic in the spring
- 🐾 Attend any 4-H Trips or Activities
- 🐾 Attend the showmanship clinics and workshops at a local, region or state level.
- 🐾 Complete a project talk in your 4-H club about the Catch a Calf 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 Catch a Calf program, opportunities and what you have learned. Tagging Cowley 4-H in social media post so we are aware
- 🐾 Assist with the Catch a Calf event and presentation in 2025
- 🐾 Getting calves feet trimmed if needed
- 🐾 Seek leadership opportunities
- 🐾 Seek out professional advice on feeding a Market Steer correctly. Tour feed mills, lockers or producer operations.
- 🐾 Be hungry for more knowledge in the beef industry
- 🐾 Utilize our youth mentor for guidance

Kennedy Holcomb

4-H Beef Project
Youth Mentor

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 the month 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- November 1, 2025	A. Introduction (Yourself/calf) B. goals C. timeline of management D. plans for activities with calf E. Other projects
#2- January 1, 2026	A. calf report B. feed C. adg/weight D. How are you working toward your goals?
#3- March 1, 2026	A. Calf Report B. Weight/ ADG. C. Clipped? Outings? D. Goal Status E. Presentations given?
#4- May 1, 2026	A Calf Report B. Shows? C. Weight/ ADG D. Showmanship Progress E. How are you managing projects? F. Trips/programs/opportunities?
#5- July 1, 2026	A. Calf 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.

Record Books Check in Prior to Fair. Pick up in beef barn prior to fair check out.

POINTS BREAK DOWN

Catch-A-Calf 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
Catch-A-Calf Book	150
Interview	100
Showmanship	100
Sponsor Letters	100
Average Daily Gain	~30
Live Placing	20
Total	500

Interview

Will be youth talking to the judge in the Catch A Calf 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 Catch A Calf 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 Catch A Calf 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 Catch A Calf 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 Catch A Calf Showcase on how he placed the animals.