

Virginia Youth Animal Science



Newsletter



VOLUME 3 ISSUE 7

NOVEMBER 2025

Alumni Spot Light Kelli Garrett

Kelli Garrett is a Washington County VA native and alumni to the Virginia Youth Animal Science Program. Kelli competed in livestock skillathon, meat judging, livestock judging, as well as exhibited sheep at the local, state and national level as a 4-Her and FFA member. Kelli completed her youth animal science career in 2024,



when she aged out of the program and began her collegiate career at Kansas State University. Kelli says "I chose to attend Kansas State University because of the top-tier education I would receive as an animal science student."

Kelli is currently a senior at Kansas State University majoring in Animal Science with a minor in Food Science. Kelli has been very involved as a student in the College of Agriculture at K-State through her involvement as a member of the Agriculture Ambassadors, Meet Judging Team, Meat Science Quiz bowl and an undergraduate research assistant within the Meat Science Department.

While Kelli has had numerous note worthy accomplishments both as a youth in the Virginia Youth Animal Science programs as well as a collegiate competitor on numerous teams; her most recent was being named high individual overall at the American Royal Meat Judging Contest. The Kansas State University Meat Judging Team, which Kelli is a member of, received Reserve Champion Team title at the American Royal Meat Judging Contest, as well.

After graduation in May, Kelli will be staying at K-State to pursue her master's degree in Meat Science. During that time, Kelli will also be the 2027 Assistant Meat Judging Team Coach.



UPCOMING EVENTS: NOVEMBER

- 17 National 4-H Livestock Skillathon, Louisville, KY
- 18 National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, Louisville, KY
- 18 National 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl Contest, Louisville, KY
- 20 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conf., Louisville, KY

DECEMBER

- 6 Hokie Dairy Day, Virginia Tech

JANUARY

- 24 Meats Clinic, Blacksburg, VA
- TBD Corey Childs Memorial Stockmans Contest, Front Royal, VA

FEBRUARY

- 6-7 B&B Hippology & Horse Judging, Blacksburg, VA
- 20-21 B&B Stockman's & Livestock Judging, Blacksburg, VA
- 28 State Meats Contest, Blacksburg, VA

MARCH

- 14 Dairy Bowl
- 21 MC Stockman's Live stock Judging Contest, Harrisonburg, VA
- 26 State 4-H/FFA Live stock Skillathon, Harrisonburg, VA

*The full Youth Animal Science calendar and District Horse Show dates can be found using the link below:

[Calendar](#)

State Fair Hippology Contest— Results!

During the 2025 Virginia State Fair, the State Fair Hippology Contest was hosted. There were 321 participants; 179 seniors and 142 juniors. Congratulations to all of our participants especially those finishing in the top 10 as individuals and the top 5 teams. Special thank you to the State Fair of Virginia and James River Equipment for sponsoring this contest and the individuals/teams who earned scholarships and premiums.

Junior Top 10 Individuals

1. Deborah Bohman
2. Josie Helton
3. Laila Howard
4. Vivian Jones
5. Lila Assur
6. Ava Hutchins
7. Skylar McDaniel
8. Trinley Robson
9. Ada Edelberg
10. Lydia Shiflett

Junior Top 5 Teams

1. Louisa County Middle FFA
2. Culpeper FFA
3. Louisa County Middle FFA. Team B
4. Halifax County FFA
5. Eastern View FFA

Senior Top 10 Individuals

1. Emmakate Sazonov
2. Eden Farr
3. Irelyn Hobbs
4. Emma Ranson
5. Melina Rochester
6. Marybeth Martin
7. Savannah Barkley
8. Ashlynn Shroyer
9. Emily Boswell
10. Alexis Davis

Senior Top 5 Teams

1. Hoof N Hoof 4-H Club, Inc.
2. Wilson Memorial FFA
3. Louisa FFA
4. James Wood FFA
5. Courtland FFA



State Meats Team

The Virginia State Meats Team, Coached by John Benner and Jacob Lewis, competed in the Nebraska Meat Contest in Omaha Nebraska. As well as the National 4-H Meats Contest in Manhattan Kansas. The Virginia State Meats Team consisted of Emory Seal, Ashley Tutwiler, Allison Rhodes and Hailey Keagy.

The team got to experience work outs and practice at the University of Illinois, Iowa State University, University of Nebraska Lincoln and Kansas State University.

Nebraska Beef Contest - Omaha NE

3rd Team in Placings
2nd Team in Retail ID
7th Team Overall

National 4H Contest - Manhattan KS

6th High Team in Pork Judging
4th in Beef Judging
4th in Reasons
2nd in Retail Judging
2nd in Retail ID
4th in Total Judging
3rd High Team Overall

Hailey Keagy - 8th Overall, 4th in Retail ID with a perfect score of 300, 7th in Retail Judging, 10th in Total Judging

Allison Rhodes - 14th Overall, 5th in Retail ID with a perfect score of 300

Ashley Tutwiler - 15th Overall

Emory Seal - 19th Overall, 8th in Retail Judging



State Fair of Virginia— Youth Dairy Shows

2025 State Fair of Virginia Youth Dairy Livestock Weekend took place September 26-28, at the Meadow Event Park. Cattle exhibitors exhibited commercial calves, Brown Swiss and Holstein. Congratulations to Trey Daubert for having the Supreme Champion Holstein as well as Reserve Champion with his Brown Swiss. Congratulations to all of our Dairy Cattle exhibitors and their accomplishments at the SFVA 2025.



Dairy Goat exhibitors, from Virginia and surrounding states, exhibited Nubian, Alpine, Nigerian Dwarf, and numerous AOP breeds.

Champion AOP— Austin Doppel

Champion Nubian—Charlie Redman

Champion Alpine—Aleigha Walden

Champion Nigerian Dwarf— Aliza Trout

Champion Recorded Grade—Chloe Redman

Best Doe in Youth Combined Show— Aliza Trout

Numerous awards and recognitions were given for Dairy Herd in their Respective Breeds, Showmanship, Premier Exhibitor, Skillathon, and Scholarships



State Fair of Virginia— Youth Livestock Shows

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The 2025 State Fair of Virginia Youth Livestock Shows took place October 1-5, in Doswell at the Meadow Event Park. This year there were over 275 exhibitors present with 188 beef cattle entries, 175 meat goat entries, 317 sheep entries, and 112 swine entries. Exhibitors competed in promotional displays, skill-a-thon, costume, lead line and their respective animal classes throughout the weekend, with success seen in the ring by youth across the commonwealth.

Congratulations to all of our Champions (listed below) and all of our award winners from the weekend!



Champion Market Hog
Bradly Craun, Augusta Co.



Reserve Champion Market Hog
Jackson Kelly, Clarke, Co.



Champion Market Lamb
Emma Jo Donnelly, Clarke Co.



Reserve Champion Market Lamb
Kylie Blevins,



Champion Market Beef
Landon Marshall, Augusta Co.



Reserve Champion Beef
Rylee Stratton, Appomattox Co.



Champion Market Goat
Henrick Wells, Rockbridge, Co.



Reserve Champion Market Goat
Paislee Hilliard, Paige Co.

Meet The Youth Animal Science Team



Katherine Carter

Extension Youth
Animal Science
Specialist

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As the Extension Youth Animal Science Specialist, Katherine serves as our Team Leader, coordinating all youth animal science programs and events. She plans and provides oversight for all youth livestock and poultry events and works closely with Agents



Lauren McCroskey

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Science Programming
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As an Extension Youth Animal Science Program Associate, Lauren is excited to assist and provide leadership to programs and events across all species. Lauren has a particular interest in curriculum development and design.



Hunter Liles

Extension Youth
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Programming Associate

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As an Extension Youth Animal Science Program Associate, Hunter supports all youth animal science programs and events,. She serves as the lead on many of our youth horse activities and events.



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