KANSAS LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION

YOUNG STOCKMEN'S ACADEMY

Purpose

To develop young members of the Kansas Livestock Association through industry exposure, education and association communication.

Format

A series of seminars designed to expose participants to leaders from all segments of the industry, including: purebred, cow-calf, backgrounding, dairy, feeding, processing, retail, food-service, animal health, marketing, finance, etc. Essential to the overall program will be industry issues sessions and business management training. The seminars will provide participants the opportunity to further explore the various segments of our business, gain essential information and network with fellow KLA members.

Selection of participants

Participants are selected through a competitive application process. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Preference will be given to individuals between the ages of 21 and 30 who are not currently enrolled in college, due to potential time conflicts between classes and the YSA program. All applicants will be notified of their status upon selection of the 2027 class. For questions, contact Ryan Higbie at ryan@kla.org or (785) 273-5115.

Cost & application deadline

The cost of the program is $370. Meals and lodging during the seminars are provided through sponsorships. This $370 will be credited toward the individual's KLA/NCBA dues. Participants must complete the entire program to receive the dues credit. Applications are due December 11, 2026. Participants accepted into the program must pay the fee by January 31, 2027.

2027 seminar schedule (tentative)

February 16-17, KLA Legislative Meeting
This kickoff seminar will give you the opportunity to view the important role of your association in the livestock industry and beyond. Learn the importance of KLA's voice in the legislative process. Develop key skills needed to operate a successful business and learn the how-tos of successful communication tools to better prepare you as a spokesperson for agriculture.

May 3-5, Kansas City area
We'll gather in the Kansas City area, home to more than 100 animal health-related companies. Additionally, we will tour some of the top agribusinesses in the region to see some of the newest products and technology applications available to producers and consumers.

September 20-22, bus tour across Kansas
We'll take a bus tour across Kansas to visit multiple segments of the livestock industry and hear how these leaders view the industry's future. Tour stops will include everything from cow-calf production to the consumer. Additionally, we will present an in-depth segment dedicated to the importance of being proactive and understanding the goals of a sound animal health program at all levels of production.

November 17-19, KLA Convention
Gather with fellow members at the KLA Convention, where you will see and participate in the development of KLA policy. Here, as a member, you have the opportunity to help shape your association in the important policy-making process. You also will hear from top-notch speakers on topics that will give you insight about practices that will impact your business. Finally, recap your year in YSA with fellow participants as you are recognized amongst your peers and other KLA members.

*dates subject to change

KLA mission statement

"Advance members' common business interests and enhance their ability to meet consumer demand."

Scan the QR code or visit www.kla.org/programs/young-stockmens-academy for information and to apply for the 2027 YSA class.




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