

April 6, 2009

TO: KJLS Exhibitors, FFA Advisors and Extension Agents

FR: KJLS Board of Directors

RE: Changes for 2009 Kansas Junior Livestock Show

The Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS) Board of Directors continually strives to provide a positive learning experience for exhibitors and their families. Each year, the board critically evaluates the various components of the show.

Following the 2008 KJLS, the board identified the Auction of Champions as one component requiring significant evaluation. Concerns were expressed regarding the level of financial support for the auction and the resulting experience of those exhibitors participating in the auction.

In reviewing the results of the auction, it became clear that a very small group of businesses provided the vast majority of the financial support to the exhibitors. This was reflected in the prices received in the auction. The board had serious concerns about the potential effect of losing even one of those few auction supporters. With the economic struggles we currently are experiencing, the board felt action was necessary.

For the 2009 KJLS, the Auction of Champions will include only the Grand and Reserve Grand Champion market animal from each species. This reduces the number of animals in the auction from 17 to eight.

At the same time, the board has committed to raising additional funds in order to increase awards offered to breed and division winners. We believe this change will allow additional recognition of a larger number of exhibitors.

As we undertake this fundraising effort, we plan to extend our reach beyond the Wichita business community. We hope you will help us as we work to identify potential supporters in your area.

We believe these changes will improve the total show experience, while allowing recognition of a broader number of exhibitors. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.