From the Dean and Director

2014 was the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Cooperative Extension Service, which is our partnership with the national government, all state and territorial land-grant universities, and local county governments. The Cooperative Extension Service uses an exemplary system to share new research and knowledge with the citizens of Kansas, the United States, and the world. Extension activities are conducted by dedicated faculty, staff, and volunteers in local offices across our great state and nation. K-State Research and Extension is a success story we must continue to celebrate for the next 100 years. 2015 sees us moving forward to address five grand challenges that directly or indirectly affect all Kansasans: global food systems, water, health, developing tomorrow’s leaders, and community vitality. We aren’t going to solve these challenges alone. By developing partnerships within Kansas, across the United States, and internationally; we are educating and working with the next generation of students, parents, and extension educators. The new ideas and knowledge developed through research and shared by extension will be used to solve the five grand challenges.

Our statewide system trains several thousand volunteers in 4-H, Master Gardeners, Master Food Volunteers, lawn and crop consultants, and community leaders. We impact the lives of Kansas citizens — young and old and in many walks of life — each and every year. As you read our 2015 report, please reflect on our accomplishments and join us as we look toward building a successful tomorrow and every year.

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Investing in Research and Extension Benefits Everyone in Kansas

Kansas Dollars for Agricultural Research and Development

Studies for Kansas have shown a long-term benefit-cost ratio of $33.60 for agricultural research, yielding a 10.2 percent average annual rate of return to agricultural productivity that can be directly correlated with in-state investment.

Making a Difference for Kansans

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

Global Food Systems

As the state’s largest employer, agriculture drives the Kansas economy. In 2013, the agricultural industry contributed $53 billion and 37 percent of the state’s gross economic output, which translated into $2.5 billion worth of goods making agriculture the state’s number one export category in 2013. We are improving food and agricultural systems to feed the world’s growing population, which will economically benefit Kansas.

What We Are Doing

• Developing and testing new crop, vegetable, and tree varieties that are suited to the Kansas climate.
• Identifying ways to maintain cattle rangeland threatened by variations in climate.
• Educating landowners on how to reduce runoff and sedimentation into reservoirs.
• Breeding new drought-tolerant crop varieties that can be used for human and pet food, livestock feed, and fuel.
• Developing technology to schedule irrigation, determine which crops to plant, predict crop yield, and evaluate fuel costs.
• Educating landowners on how to reduce runoff and protect surface water that supplies drinking water to just over 60 percent of Kansas.

Results

• Developed a partnership that resulted in more than 1,400 additional sales of Kansas grown honey.
• Used forage supplies and supplemental ingredients to help Kansas ranchers on average $1,000 each.

Water

Water quality in central and eastern Kansas is important to Kansas economy. In 2013, the agricultural industry contributed $53 billion and 37 percent of the state’s gross economic output, which translated into $2.5 billion worth of goods making agriculture the state’s number one export category in 2013. We are improving food and agricultural systems to feed the world’s growing population, which will economically benefit Kansas.

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Knowledge for Life

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