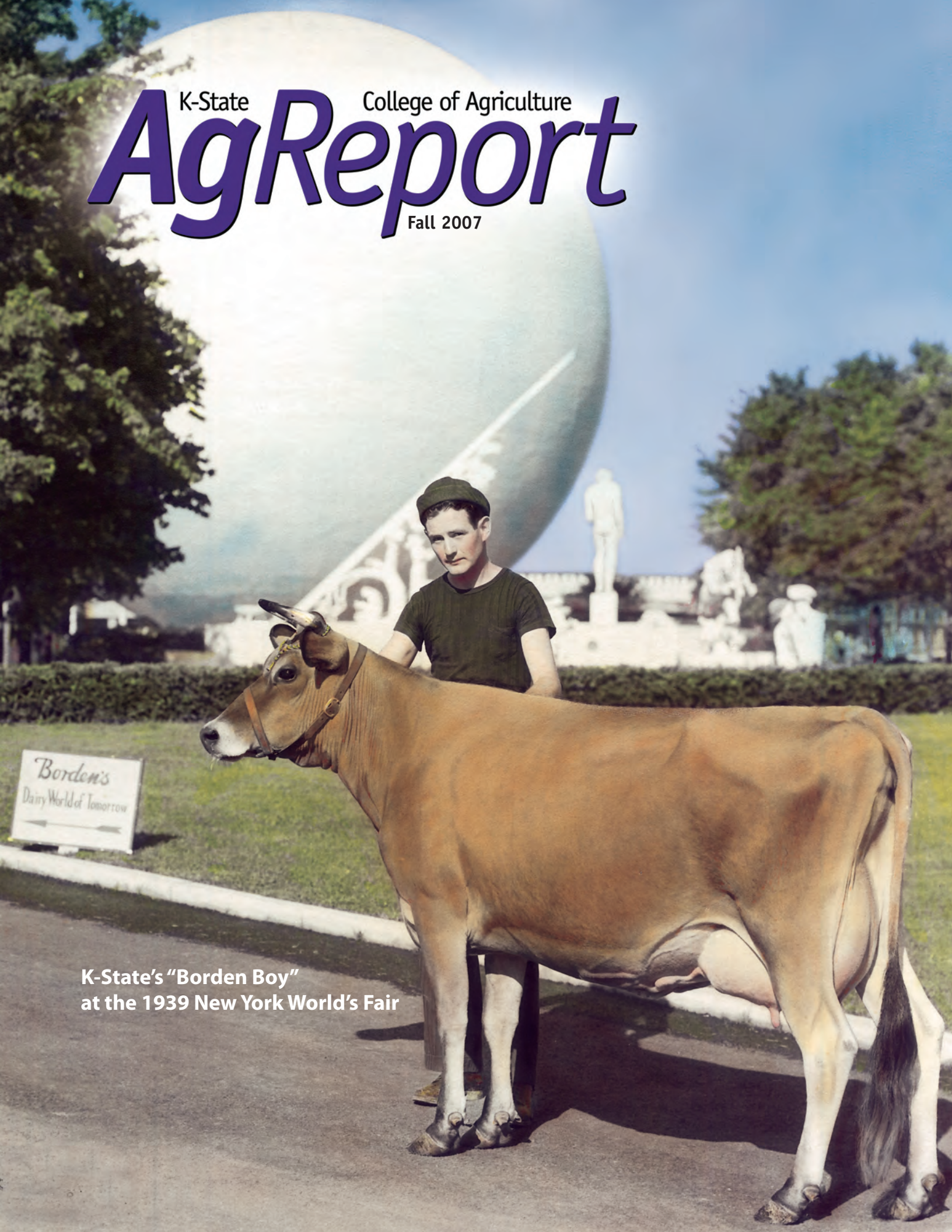


K-State College of Agriculture
AgReport
Fall 2007



Borden's
Dairy World of Tomorrow

K-State's "Borden Boy"
at the 1939 New York World's Fair

**College of Agriculture
and the
Kansas State University
Agricultural Experiment Station
and Cooperative Extension Service**

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Fred Cholick with Justine Sterling,
College of Ag Student of the Year.

Service is often my central theme whether I am talking to prospective students, faculty members, alumni, extension groups, or stakeholders. I firmly believe that one of the main goals of the College of Agriculture and K-State Research and Extension is to serve the citizens of Kansas and beyond.

Unfortunately, many of our service activities this year involved disaster recovery. Our network of qualified county and district agents and staff responded to disaster requests in nearly every county. Area specialists and faculty on the K-State campus also provided research-based answers and connections to local, state, or federal agencies for additional help.

With a statewide presence, K-State Research and Extension is positioned to gather and relay information quickly and efficiently. It was gratifying to see how our network pulled together to get information and resources to people in need. We were able to make a difference in many lives; however, we continue to look at ways to improve our system.

The college is committed to serving the needs of our students through experiential learning. Our students get hands-on experience in labs, greenhouses, fields, and offices that provide problem-solving skills. Internships and leadership opportunities also contribute to the overall quality of the college experience. Students with practical, real-world experience are sought after by employers.

During the summer, K-State hosted Kauffman Scholars – a program

designed to help promising, low-income students from the Kansas City area to prepare for and complete a college education. These middle- and high-school students had the opportunity to mix dough, design a Web site, taste and evaluate sausage, and see how soil helps trap greenhouse gases. These and other seminars offered a glimpse of our curriculum. We hope to attract many of these students to the college.

In each issue, we highlight our outstanding students and faculty. The NAMA team was first in the nation for the second year in a row, and three of our competition teams earned the highest scores ever in national competitions. The faculty consistently receive outstanding evaluations from their students. They also continually receive university, regional, national, and international awards for their outstanding teaching and advising.

This year, five of the seven Targeted Excellence grants went to K-State Research and Extension scientists. The topics include the beef cattle institute, sorghum genomics, sustainable energy, umbilical cord stem cells, and the prairie plant insect collection. We are serving Kansans by targeting future needs with our research efforts.

I'm proud to represent and serve our high-achieving students and faculty as we promote "Knowledge for Life" through learning, discovery, and engagement.

A handwritten signature of Fred A. Cholick in black ink.

Fred A. Cholick
Dean and Director

On the cover

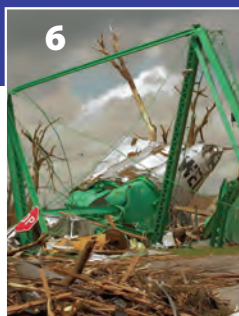
James Cavanaugh (BS '42, dairy production) helped care for the cows at the 1939 New York World's Fair exhibit "Borden's Dairy World of Tomorrow." The college students who cared for the 150 registered cows were called Borden Boys.

Photo by Strohmeyer & Carpenter, White Plains, N.Y.

Used by permission of Borden Brand

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Jason Griffin, center director, with a legacy sugar maple at the John C. Pair Horticultural Center.

Tree Scientist Lists the Good, Bad, Ugly

Land-grant universities do research and make recommendations on everything from patio petunias to wireworms in wheat.

Landscape horticulturist Jason Griffin has broken the mold, however, for the information such universities extend to the public. He doesn't just release the names of the best trees that he and others have found in K-State field trials. He includes the poor choices that will grow in Kansas.

For example, the silver maple can be a fast-growing shade tree in most of Kansas. But, it's too large for the average landscape and it's weak-wooded, so often loses big branches.

Griffin works at K-State's John C. Pair Horticultural Center near Wichita. But his approach to information is now available at any county or district K-State Research and Extension office, as well as on the Web at www.oznet.ksu.edu/, then search for "Trees, Shrubs & Woody Vines."

MAB Offers Southeast Asia Trip



The Master of Agribusiness program is planning its third international trip to Southeast Asia (Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam). The two-week trip is open to students, alumni, faculty and staff, friends, and family. It is tentatively set for Nov. 7-22, 2008, with visits to various crop operations, ag and food-related industries, aquaculture, and shipping ports. Time also will be set aside for sight-seeing.

Possible programs include a Southeast Asia rainforest canopy walk, visits to multinational agribusinesses, a tour of the United Nations office in Bangkok, and stops at farms and food processing facilities, to name a few. The tour may include other cultural and historical sites.

For more information, please contact Mary Bowen, mjbowen@ksu.edu, or 785-532-4435. More trip information is available online at www.mab.ksu.edu/Alumni/International_Trips.html.

Agent Earns Award for Helping Medicare-Eligible Citizens

Mary Lou Odle, family and consumer sciences agent in the Central Kansas Extension District, is the only non-Social Security employee in Kansas to earn the Regional Commissioner's Public Service Award.

The award recognizes Odle's efforts to educate central Kansans about recent changes in the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan, said Eric Moore, Social Security Administration representative in Salina. The region includes Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska.

Moore praised Odle's efforts to set up public awareness presentations and her willingness to meet with individuals to help them identify prescriptions covered by each plan, factor in the monthly premium, and compare costs to select the most beneficial plan for them.

Odle also is a trained counselor for the Senior Health Insurance Counseling of Kansas (SHICK) program and a frequent presenter on family financial management topics.



Karen Garrett, plant pathologist, and Steve Travers, collaborator, evaluating plant gene expression.

Pathologists Study Epidemiology of Plants and Humans

Could understanding how plant diseases spread provide a better understanding of how to prevent human diseases from becoming epidemics?

Karen Garrett, associate professor of plant pathology, thinks so. She studies epidemic waves in plants.

"As disease spreads through populations, waves of a particular level of disease can be observed moving out from the original source. Better understanding how disease spreads can help us form better strategies for managing disease," Garrett said.

"Studying plant disease epidemiology is often easier than studying human diseases and can help us to understand general principles about epidemiology that also apply to human disease."

In K-State's plant disease ecology laboratory, Garrett and other researchers work on a wide array of projects related to the ecology of plant disease and other plant stressors, as well as general work in plant ecology.

"We are studying how disease spreads through plant populations, both in order to understand basic biology and to form strategies for plant disease management to slow the spread of epidemics," Garrett said. "Our work also will apply principles of landscape ecology to better understand the spread of epidemics. In agricultural systems, we work to improve plant disease management in the United States and tropical farming through resistance gene deployment and sustainable cultural practices," she said.

For more information, go to www.ksu.edu/pdecology.

Targeted Excellence Grants Chosen

Five of the seven projects chosen under the fourth year of K-State's Targeted Excellence program were proposed by K-State Research and Extension faculty.

- Beef Cattle Institute at K-State, \$490,000 – Daniel Thomson, Chris Reinhardt, Bonnie Rush, Janice Swanson, Ralph Richardson, and Fred Cholic.
- K-State Center for Sustainable Energy, \$750,000 – Ron Madl, Mary Rezac, and Richard Nelson.
- The K-State Digital Prairie Plant and Insect Collection: Elevating Biodiversity and Bioinformatics to the Next Level, \$800,000 – Gregory Zolnerowich and Carolyn Ferguson.
- Scientific Enhancement of the Midwest Institute for Comparative Stem Cell Biology, \$350,000 – Duane Davis, Deryl Troyer, Mark Weiss, Jim Coffman, and Ernest Minton.
- The Sorghum Translational Genomics Program: Mining Genomic Diversity for Sorghum Improvement, \$1,000,000 – Frank White, Mitch Tuinstra, James Nelson, and Jianming Yu.

The Targeted Excellence program is a competitive initiative that supports and enhances cooperative, interdisciplinary programs that show promise of elevating K-State's stature as a Top 10 land-grant institution.

Kauffman Scholars Visit Campus

Kauffman Scholars is a comprehensive, multiyear program designed to help promising, low-income urban students in Kansas City prepare for and complete a college education. The program provides support to students from seventh grade through college.

Groups of Kaufman Scholars visited the K-State campus and participated in various classes during the summer.

The students were able to experience field and classroom activities in agronomy, agricultural economics, animal sciences, horticulture, communications, and grain science.

In the photo at right, high school juniors design Web pages with guidance from Chris Lavergne (center), instructor, and Marcus Ashlock (right), assistant professor, from the Department of Communications.



Fung Named Outstanding Food Safety Educator



Daniel Fung holds the Outstanding Educator in Food Safety Award.

Daniel Fung's office is full of awards and treasures he has collected from his travels around the world. One of his most treasured collections is the 100 theses and dissertations from the 33 doctoral and 67 masters' students he has guided.

In addition to reaching the graduate student milestone, Fung received two inaugural awards in the last year. Fung received the first Outstanding Educator in Food Safety Award from Food Safety magazine and ConAgra Foods. He also is the first scientist to be honored as a distinguished professor by the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona in Barcelona, Spain.

The Outstanding Educator in Food Safety Award recognizes an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to food safety education. According to the award criteria, recipients must do more than teach – they must inspire.

Mindi Russell, who completed a master's degree in food science (#98) and a master's of public health (#100) under Fung's direction, agrees that Fung deserves the awards.

"Dr. Fung has been not only my boss, adviser, mentor, and friend but has become a part of my family," said Russell. "He has inspired me to become a better student, scientist, and person. I am continuously thankful for his expertise, guidance, and encouragement. I cannot put into words my deepest gratitude, appreciation, and respect for him. I am truly honored to have him as my major professor."

During his nearly 40 years as an educator, Fung has taught more than 18,000 undergraduate and graduate students, distance learning students, and professionals around the world through classroom teaching, symposia, seminars, workshops, and meetings on microbial food safety.

He leads the annual International Workshop on Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology, which recently completed its 27th session, at K-State. He has been a keynote speaker and principal lecturer for a similar workshop at the Spanish university since it began in 2002.

Fung has been a K-State faculty member since 1978.

Abandoned Wells a Liability to Kansans

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment estimates Kansas has more than 250,000 abandoned wells and test holes – all of which are potential sources of groundwater contamination.

Wells larger than a few inches across also are a safety hazard for children and animals. Plus, old wells can affect soil stability and serve as a general source of what lawyers would call "liability exposure."

Kansas law requires that all abandoned wells and test holes be properly plugged. Part of that law's definition of an abandoned well is that

it's unusable and/or it has not been used during the last two years.

A no-cost DVD that explains why and how abandoned water wells should be plugged is available from county and district K-State Research and Extension offices or by calling Kelly Dixon at 316-660-1840.

The DVD was developed by members of the Kansas Environmental Leadership Program, said KELP coordinator Judy Willingham.

A related publication, "Plugging Abandoned Wells" (MF 935), also is available through any county or district extension office or on the Web at www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/h20ql2/mf935.pdf.

The KELP team also produced another source of information that's now on the Web at www.kswaterwell.org. It covers well-testing information, such as whom to contact and how to sample, as well as general information about contaminants.

The Kansas Water Plan Fund provided part of the project funding. The Environmental Protection Agency helps fund the KELP program.

More information about KELP's environmental leadership training is available on the Web at www.oznet.ksu.edu/kelp/.

Renowned Animal Behaviorist to Design K-State Facility

Temple Grandin, professor of animal science at Colorado State University, is designing new pens for the K-State Beef Cattle Research Unit. She has designed livestock-handling facilities in the United States, Canada, Europe, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, and other countries.

Grandin, who was diagnosed with autism as a child, has used her autism to look at things from a different perspective.

She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and master's and doctoral degrees in animal science.

Grandin has written books on autism and livestock handling and welfare. She has appeared on television shows such as *20/20* and *The Today Show* and been featured in various newspapers and magazines, including the New York Times, U.S. News and World Report, Time, and People.

Her research has revolutionized the design and handling procedures in feedlots and packing plants. She developed an animal handling welfare audit to evaluate facilities and find ways to improve them.

She often recommends using curved fences because they take advantage of

the natural behavior of cattle. Proper lighting, non-slip flooring, color choices, the number of cattle in a pen, and removing distractions are other factors that she considers when designing animal facilities.

"A calm animal is easier to handle. Use behavior rather than force," she said. "Also cortisol levels rise with stress and forced handling, which can affect weight gain and fertility."

Grandin visited K-State to evaluate the current facilities. While on campus, she met with students and faculty about her research and success with packing plant design.

"It has worked beyond my wildest dreams to improve plants," said Grandin.

She also met with board members of the Livestock and Meat Industry Council. The LMIC is providing funding to remodel the pens at the Beef Cattle Research Unit.

Ken Odde, head of the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, worked with Grandin when he was a faculty member at Colorado State.

For more information about Grandin, visit her Web site www.grandin.com.



Ken Odde, animal sciences department head, and Temple Grandin look at K-State beef cattle pens.

Mary Knapp Knows Weather



Mary Knapp tapes her Weather Wonders radio spots with Jeff Wichman, K-State Radio Network.

Ever wonder what the average snowfall or temperature is for your area? Want to know about weather terms such as barometer and dewpoint? When you want to know about Kansas weather, you can count on Mary Knapp.

Knapp is the state climatologist and supervises the Weather Data Library in the K-State Department of Agronomy.

The WDL staff collect data at 14 weather stations and archive weather for the National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Network and 10 Groundwater Management Districts in the Big Bend region. The WDL will soon add 14 GMD/Kansas Water Office stations to its online access.

In addition to answering statistical questions from media, farmers, and gardeners, Knapp tapes weekly radio spots on weather phenomena and recent meteorological events in Kansas.

Knapp's Weather Wonders audio reports are available on the K-State Radio Network Web site at www.oznet.ksu.edu/radio/wxwonders.htm. More information about Kansas' climate and weather is available on the Weather Data Library Web site: www.oznet.ksu.edu/wdl/.

Greensburg after the May tornado
Courtesy of John Walter, Finney
County 4-H'er

Support in Times of Need

Mother Nature has not been kind to Kansas in 2007. The year started with western Kansas covered in deep snow and ice. April brought crop-damaging freezes. In May, a tornado devastated Greensburg and surrounding areas. Torrential rain and flooding May through July plagued parts of south central and eastern Kansas, and some counties are experiencing abnormally dry weather.

At press time, only three Kansas counties – Marion, Atchison, and Jefferson – had not been designated for local, state, or federal disaster aid.

These weather-related disasters caused physical damage – to humans, homes, livestock and pets, crops, and businesses – that will have financial and emotional repercussions for years to come.

K-State Research and Extension, which has an office in every Kansas county, is staffed with agents familiar with the county who can answer questions on such topics as crop damage, food safety, livestock issues, and more. In addition, the offices have fact sheets and publications full of science-based information and faculty resources on campus for additional information.

K-State is part of the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN), a collaborative multistate effort to improve the delivery of services to citizens affected by disasters. It provides information from K-State and other universities on a wide array of topics related to emergency preparedness and disaster recovery at <http://eden.ksu.edu>.

“County, state, and federal agencies and organizations recognize the value of our network across the state,” said Fred Cholick, director of K-State Research and Extension. “They know they can count on us to gather and disseminate useful information quickly.”

Getting Information Out Quickly

Communications specialists wrote dozens of news releases with resources for recovery efforts and – most importantly – where to go for information and assistance. Publications developed for the 1993 floods were quickly sent to flooded areas to help Kansans deal with recovery efforts.

The K-State Research and Extension Web site www.oznet.ksu.edu is routinely updated with timely information. A new content management system allows units to easily update Web sites with new events, meetings, and seasonal information.

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Agronomist Jim Shroyer and assistant scientist Steve Watson, coordinate the weekly e-updates with information on all crops from agronomy faculty. This electronic newsletter covers timely topics, including drought, heat stress, freeze and ice damage, flooding, and

insect damage – whatever is affecting producers. The newsletter goes to about 1,000 subscribers and is posted to the agronomy Web site: www.agronomy.ksu.edu, then click on extension.

Partnering with Other Organizations

Mobile Irrigation Lab faculty partnered with other organizations to help producers repair irrigation systems damaged by the tornado. The MIL is operated through the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering.

“I helped the Salvation Army put together a bulk order for fencing,” said Linda Elfers, office professional in the Cheyenne County office. The Orphan Grain Train – a Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with people in need – is involved in the fencing delivery.

Many agents serve on disaster committees. Because they know the area well, they can quickly gather information that can be used to aid in procuring state and federal disaster relief funds. For example, state and federal agencies contacted K-State Research and Extension administrators about the severity of the snow and ice damage in northwestern Kansas. Information collected by county personnel helped speed aid to affected areas.

Jim Shroyer

Jim Shroyer, professor of crop production, examines a wheat plant in Ellsworth County after the April freeze.



Mary Knapp, state climatologist, collaborates with the National Climatic Data Center. She collects data at stations around the state and archives weather records. She makes the data accessible to Kansans through the Weather Data Library on the Manhattan campus. For more information, go to www.oznet.ksu.edu/wdl/.

Keeping Livestock Healthy

Animal scientists Twig Marston and Larry Hollis contacted several pharmaceutical companies on behalf of livestock producers. They helped obtain antibiotics that were distributed free of charge to veterinary clinics to aid producers throughout the area.

Marston and Hollis also worked with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Livestock Association to connect them to the Federal Emergency Management Agency representatives with assistance in dead animal disposal regulations and procedures.

In addition to cattle death loss, Hollis advised producers how to watch for what he called “secondary losses” following the blizzards – weak calves at



Flood water over Highway 160 east of Oswego.

Courtesy of Kenny Titus, Labette County

birth, cows that are in poorer condition than usual during calving season, and the possibility that cows' poor condition at re-breeding time could impact fertility and, ultimately, conception rates.

Providing Safe Water and Food

Power outages for any reason can cause food safety concerns, and

K-State is a well-known source for all types of food safety information. The K-State Rapid Response Center provided information via e-mail and Web sites to help consumers determine the safety of food affected by floods or power outages. A series of flooding publications helped with these questions. Consumers were advised not to use any garden produce that was directly in flood water. Information on the disposition of food during power outages and flooding was provided from the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service and the Food and Drug Administration. Advice also was given on cleaning refrigerators and freezers after a power outage.

Many Kansans depend on private water wells. Publications and Web sites on testing wells and dealing with flooded wells have been consistently revised in preparation for disaster response and then sent to affected areas. Radio messages prompted Kansans to refer to these resources.

Analyzing Farm Debt

Farm analysts made presentations at regional meetings to help individual farmers analyze options about whether to rebuild their operations.

“It is vital that one disaster not be followed by another,” said Coy Allen, K-State Research and Extension farm



Ice storm damage in Scott City.

Courtesy of Julia Thornburg

analyst. “The second disaster could be when a farm family takes on too much debt to rebuild without a sound plan to pay off the loans.

“Cash reserves often are used to mitigate the difference between what insurance provides and the actual cost to replace homes, barns, machinery, and livestock damaged by storms. When available cash is used up, new loans may be secured to put things back in original condition. Families need to be cautious and carefully analyze their farm’s ability to cover term debt obligations.”

Returning to a Normal Life

The Kiowa County Fairgrounds were destroyed in the storm, but the 2007 Kiowa County Fair moved on with a few adjustments.

“The setting has changed, but the opportunity to come together to celebrate community is actually expanding,” said Pam Muntz, who has served as the family and consumer sciences agent in the county for 21 years. She noted that a fair favorite – a community barbecue – was scheduled for each day of the fair.

“We had three barbecues – three opportunities to share food and fellowship with friends and neighbors – instead of one,” she said. “It was different this year, but special. In

Greensburg, the sense of community has been great, and we need to celebrate it.”

Providing Emotional Support

When lives are disrupted by disaster, finding resources to make payments can be an additional burden. The Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services (KAMS) – funded through a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant program and administered by K-State Research and Extension – can provide support for legal issues.

KAMS specialists provide initial information and guidance at no cost through a toll-free hotline.

KAMS works closely with the Kansas Rural Family Helpline, which provides free confidential assistance, including short-term emotional support and referrals for agricultural producers and rural families with immediate needs. The helpline is operated through K-State’s School of Family Studies and Human Services.

Looking to the Future

The PRIDE office has been forwarding the requests for assistance notices to the 60 communities enrolled in the PRIDE program. PRIDE communities organized and carried out clean-up campaigns, but much of their

work will begin after the clean up is completed and rebuilding begins.

“We must first deal with debris and utilities, then start rebuilding and beautification,” said Bob Neier, Sedgwick County horticulture agent.

The Kansas Master Gardeners, the Kansas Forest Service, and faculty at the horticultural research centers near Olathe and Wichita will be valuable resources for planning and replanting with appropriate plants for the environment.

The Center for Engagement and Community Development based on the K-State campus has been in touch with community planners in Greensburg and is organizing technical assistance.

Being Good Neighbors

Energetic 4-H members raised thousands of dollars to help 4-H families who were affected by the storms.

It would be impossible to list all the personal ways that K-State Research and Extension faculty and staff help their communities on a daily basis and in times of disaster. They live and work in these areas and use their training and contacts to help their friends, families, and neighbors in countless ways.

Submitted photo



Right: Utility lines in western Kansas couldn't withstand the weight of ice. **Left:** Cattle covered in snow and ice from the western Kansas blizzard. **Below left:** Flooding near the refinery in Coffeyville. **Below right:** Devastation in Greensburg.



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service



John Walter, Finney County 4-H'er

Horticulture at K-State

It's More than You Think



Lisa Stork and classmates work on an interpretation assignment.

Lisa Stork knew she wanted to attend K-State as did her older siblings. She just didn't know what major to choose.

She sat down with her mother and scanned the K-State undergraduate catalog. When she came across Park Management and Conservation, she thought it sounded like a good fit. Her family had taken camping vacations to the Rockies, and she loved being outside.

Now a senior, Stork is completing

a degree in park management and conservation in the Department of Horticulture, Forestry, and Recreation Resources.

When she talks about her major, people ask her what college it's in. "They are always surprised to hear 'the College of Agriculture,'" said Stork.

Park Management and Conservation combines the study of biological and natural sciences with communications, management, and social sciences. Being an effective park professional requires an understanding of the relationship between the natural environment and human activities. The major has four options: interpretation, park manager, law enforcement, and recreation business. Stork chose the interpretation option

"Interpretation is a foreign term to many," said Ted Cable, professor of natural resource management. "Students who choose this option may work in jobs where they 'interpret' the meaning of nature or history to visitors at parks, zoos, historic sites, or museums."

Cable said he often refers to a statement by Steven Covey, author of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, "No man on his death bed ever said, 'I wish I'd spent more time at the office' when describing the importance of

interpretation. Instead people often wish they had taken a trip or spent more quality leisure time with their family. Interpreters make this leisure time more meaningful and enjoyable.

Stork's interest in nature was evident at an early age. As a young 4-H member, one of her favorite projects was reptiles and amphibians. She went along with her brother on geology hunts, but wound up looking for frogs. "I always preferred the living creatures."

This past summer, she worked as an intern at Manatee Park in Ft. Myers, Fla. She did environmental education on such topics as conservation, pollution, and fire prevention.

When Stork applied for the Florida internship, she mentioned that Cable was her teacher and adviser. The interviewer was impressed and said his recommendation should take the place of the usual three references.

Cable has designed several nature parks and preserves and has consulted on conservation projects in more than 20 states, Latin America, and Africa. He also has written numerous articles and eight books about



Keith Lynch showing off his "special T-shirt."

interpretation and conservation.

Stork said the plants and trees were different in Florida, but she has learned a lot from her courses that translated to that environment. She credited Dendrology, taught by Keith Lynch, as being a big help.

"Dendrology is one of the toughest classes in the PMC curriculum," said Stork. "You have to learn the scientific and common names of 60 or more trees, but Dr. Lynch is such a good teacher that it becomes one of your favorite classes."

Stork and her classmates had T-shirts made with Lynch's photo and "scientific" name *Keithis lynchii*.

"Our professors are anxious to help us and really care about what they teach," said Stork.

"We have good faculty who are very student oriented," said Lynch. "I advise most of the law enforcement option students, and Sid Stevenson is the main adviser for the recreation business option. All the faculty are available to answer questions and work with students in any option."

Stork also is pursuing minors in Spanish and pre-pharmacy. "Some people think I'm crazy to like math and science, but it's fun when you know how to do it," she said.



John Klassen, senior in park management and conservation, encouraged classmate Lisa Stork to try playing the bagpipes after he demonstrated his bagpipe-playing ability for the class.



Ted Cable (right) explains an assignment to his students.

Want to know more about majoring in PMC?

Park management and conservation is a good choice for students who love the outdoors and have an interest in recreation and conservation. The major has four options.

Interpretation: Students develop skills to educate and inspire visitors by helping them understand the cultural and natural resources of a park, zoo, museum, or other historical site.

Park manager: Students are prepared to manage natural resources, including soil, water, plants, animals, and the effect that visitors and outdoor recreation have on those resources.

Law enforcement: Students develop skills and abilities to be a law enforcement officer in outdoor recreational settings, such as a park ranger or game warden. Before this option was developed, many students were attending a law enforcement academy after they earned a bachelor's degree in Park Management and Conservation. This program allows them to attend an academy and apply those credits to a degree at K-State.

Recreation business: This option provides skills to manage the business or administrative aspects of recreation, such as managing a marina, resort, hunting preserve, or guide service, with a strong emphasis on business, personnel management, budget, and program development.

For more information about majoring in park management and conservation, go to www.hfrr.k-state.edu.

It's All About Grain

*K-State and the
USDA/ARS Grain Marketing
and Production Research
Center work together to
improve grains.*

Grain production is a mainstay of the economy, so it makes sense for grains research to be a high priority for the state, Kansas State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The long-term partnership between K-State and the Grain Marketing and Production Research Center is an example of how state and federal institutions can successfully cooperate. The GMPRC is located in Manhattan, Kan., and administered by USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

"It's important for people to remember that the Grain Marketing and Production Research Center is separate from K-State," said Tom Shanower, who became director of the center in April 2007. "We have different missions; however, both entities benefit from close working relationships and resource sharing."

The center has five research units: Biological, Engineering, Grain Quality and Structure, Plant Science and Entomology, and Wind Erosion. Most scientists in each unit have adjunct appointments in a K-State department, including agronomy, entomology, plant pathology, or biological and agricultural engineering. They guest lecture in a variety of K-State classes and advise graduate students.

The **Biological Research Unit** develops new methods for controlling insect pests in grain and food products.

"I've worked in several ARS labs, and I think the collaboration between the Manhattan center and K-State is the best of any lab I have worked in," said James Throne, unit research leader.

Biological technician Ken Friesen uses an inclined sieve to separate insects from a large wheat sample. The insects are identified and counted to estimate infestation in stored wheat

A joint research project that holds great promise is the first sequencing of an agricultural insect pest genome – the red flour beetle, which is the main pest in flour mills and the most common stored-grain pest in Kansas. In 2006, Kansas harvested 345 million bushels of corn and 291 million bushels of wheat valued at \$1.1 billion and \$1.3 billion, respectively. Losses to stored-product insects are estimated at 5 percent to 10 percent or between \$6 million and \$12 million.

“Everything we do is geared to improving the quality, safety, and yield of the food supply, which benefits millers and bakers, consumers, and producers.”

“Now we know most of the beetle’s genes and where they are located on the chromosome,” said Throne. “The next step is to figure out what each gene does, then knock out the individual gene to eliminate the pest.”

The unit employs postdoctoral students, masters’ students, and undergraduate students in various majors. K-State has trained more stored-product entomologists than any other university in the world, said Throne.

The **Engineering Research Unit** develops instruments to measure grain quality, such as protein or starch content, and the moisture and temperature levels of grain, according to unit research leader Floyd Dowell. The unit concentrates mostly on wheat but also has projects with corn and soybeans. Undergraduate students help operate the nation’s only research elevator, which has a 50,000-bushel capacity.

Courtesy of James Throne, USDA/ARS



Brian Barnett, K-State biology alumnus, sampling insects in a grain bin.

The unit works closely with other K-State engineers, grain scientists, agronomists, and a food technologist.

“Everything we do is geared to improving the quality, safety, and yield

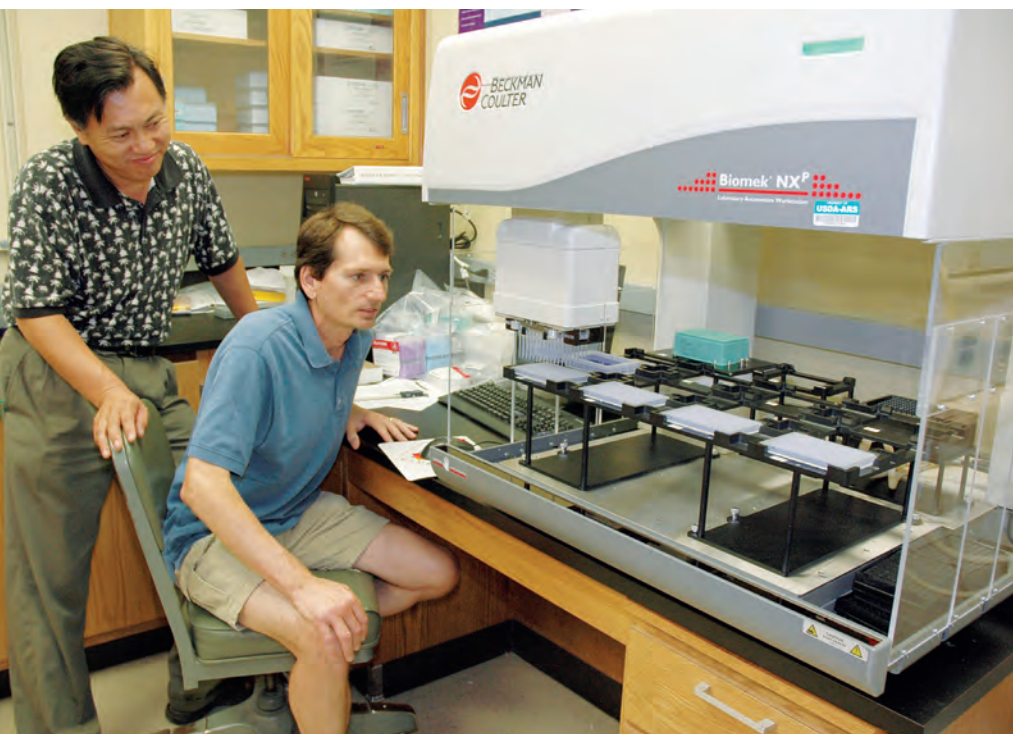
of the food supply, which benefits millers and bakers, consumers, and producers,” said Dowell.

“Producers may not see the instruments that we develop, but they

Courtesy of James Throne, USDA/ARS



A May 1942 photo of USDA entomologist H.H. Walden demonstrating the fumigation of stored grain by means of a power compressor. The fumigation tank was filled with fumigant from a supply drum.



Guihua Bai, plant molecular geneticist (standing), and Paul St. Amand, research geneticist, watch as the pipetting robot transfers DNA samples to a sample testing plate.

benefit from the product of our work,” said Dowell.

The unit collaborates with K-State wheat breeders – Allan Fritz on campus and Joe Martin at the Agricultural Research Center–Hays. Martin has been breeding white wheat to help producers get a share of the Asian market that prefers white wheat for noodles. The GMPCR engineers have developed sorting equipment to remove red wheat from segregating or contaminating populations, so only white wheat remains.”

The **Grain Quality and Structure Research Unit** determines the relationships between the chemical content of different types of grain and the uses for grain products.

Scott Bean (BS '93 fisheries and wildlife biology; MS '96, PhD '99, grain science), unit research leader, has been doing research on grain sorghum. Other scientists in the unit have been focusing on wheat research.

Bean is looking at ways to use sorghum for ethanol production. He's involved in a collaborative research effort with Donghai Wang in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering. Bean

examines the cereal chemistry of sorghum, and Wang studies the fermentation of the grain.

The unit partners with K-State food scientists to produce gluten-free food for people with celiac disease – a genetic, digestive disease that damages the small intestine and interferes with absorption of nutrients from food. People who have celiac disease cannot tolerate a protein called gluten, found in wheat, rye, and barley.

According to the National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse Web site, about 2 million people in the United States have celiac disease. Bean said it takes an average of 10 years to clearly diagnose celiac disease because its symptoms are similar to those of other diseases.

The scientists in the **Plant Science and Entomology Research Unit** have office and laboratory space in Throckmorton Hall on campus. The scientists investigate the ability of rust fungi and the Hessian fly to attack the

wheat plant at the molecular level, and they are producing wheat germplasm lines that provide resistance to these diseases and pests.

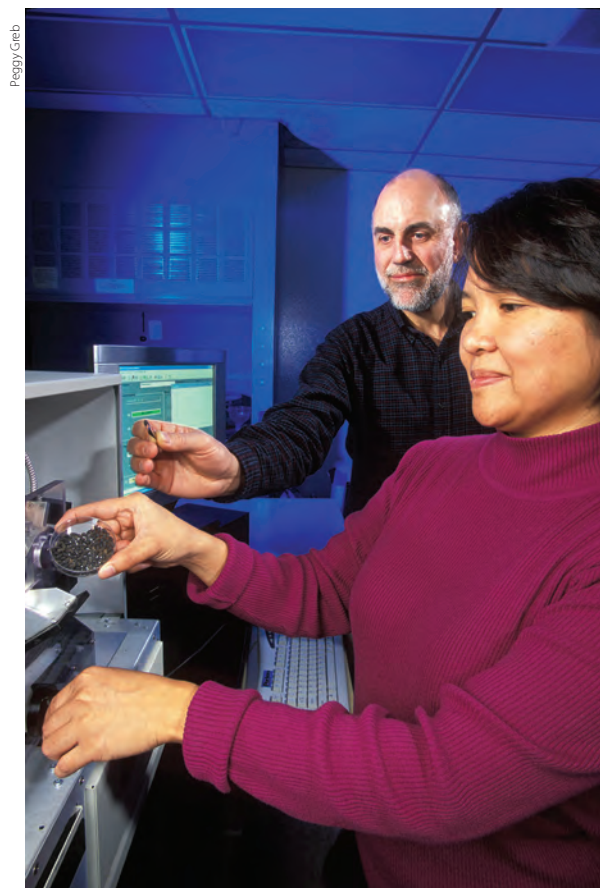
Bob Bowden, unit research leader, describes the relationship with K-State faculty as “seamlessly integrated.”

This unit is doing research on wheat rusts – leaf, stripe, and stem. Leaf rust is a chronic problem in the region. Stripe rust and stem rust have recently emerged as major issues.

“Ninety percent of the new wheat germplasm lines released by K-State were co-developed by K-State and GMPCR,” said Bowden. “Overley, the No. 1 wheat grown in Kansas, is an example of one of our collaborative efforts.”

Another project involves developing a more heat-tolerant wheat variety that stands up better to Kansas heat during the grain fill or post-flowering stage of development.

The **Wind Erosion Research Unit** (WERU) is the only laboratory in the United States with exclusive focus on soil erosion by wind.



James Throne, Biological Research Unit leader, and Elizabeth Maghirang, Engineering Research Unit agricultural engineer, feed samples to an automated Near InfraRed analysis sorting instrument developed by the ERU.

The unit's mission is to increase understanding of wind erosion processes; develop reliable predictive tools and control practices; and disseminate information and technology for sustaining agriculture, protecting the environment, and conserving resources.

During the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, dust from one Great Plains storm deposited an estimated 12 million pounds of dust on Chicago – four pounds for each inhabitant – and darkened the skies of the Capital in Washington, D.C.

Wind erosion problems aren't restricted to rural areas. In addition to depleting valuable top soil, wind erosion affects air and water quality. It's also a problem on construction sites, military training lands, unpaved roads, storage piles, mining, and other non-agricultural areas.

"Farming practices have improved dramatically since the WERU was established in 1947, but new challenges continue to emerge," said Larry Hagen, agricultural engineer at the unit. Some of those challenges are:

- Increased acreage in lower residue crops such as cotton can leave the soil more susceptible to erosion.
- Depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer means less water available for irrigation and more acres planted to dryland crops.
- Changes in climate determine crop choices and farming practices.
- New uses for crop residue to create cellulosic ethanol could leave soil vulnerable to erosion. The unit is looking at how much residue is needed and tillage options to maintain topsoil.

The Wind Erosion Equation, which estimates soil loss on an average annual basis from cultivated fields, was developed by WERU and published in 1965. Since then it has been used extensively by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The recently developed Wind Erosion Prediction System was initiated in 1985. It is a process-based software system to determine the effectiveness of various erosion control systems.

The technology will be transferred

Scott Bauer



In a wind tunnel, technician Brent Schroeder prepares to measure how live plants and straw residue slow windblown soil erosion.

to the NRCS later this year and has received international interest.

"Research efforts between the GMPRC and K-State Research and Extension have proven successful in the past and have a bright future," said Forrest Chumley, associate director for research.

"GMPRC director Tom Shanower and I are taking a fresh look at our partnership and how to solve complex problems with fewer resources," said Chumley.

"One project would involve rice – to see if the genetic makeup of rice prohibits rust – that could be applied to controlling wheat rust.

"With Manhattan as one of five possible sites for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, there are exciting opportunities for joint projects and new funding initiatives."

For more information about the GMPRC, go to <http://ars.usda.gov/npa/gmprc>.

Amy Bernardo, research associate in the Department of Plant Pathology, operates the sequencer that sequences DNA and does genotyping for wheat scientists and breeders in six states, including Kansas.





James Cavanaugh with a modern-day Elsie in Washington, D.C.

Photos courtesy of Borden Brand

K-State's Borden Boy

Not many people can say they were able to bring a mascot to life. But James Cavanaugh can. He put a face, or rather a cow, with the beloved Elsie. Cavanaugh chose the first Elsie – You'll Do Lobelia 998632 – to depict the bright-eyed, horned Jersey cow with the daisy necklace known as the Borden Company mascot.

Cavanaugh posed with the current Elsie for a feature in *The New York Times* on June 8, 2007, as he helped commemorate the donation of 150 years of Borden Company memorabilia to the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

James Cavanaugh (BS '42, dairy production) became affiliated with the Borden Company when he was a K-State student. He boarded a bus in Manhattan, Kan., for Manhattan, N.Y., and the New York World's Fair in 1939, nearly 70 years ago.

The *New York Times* article included the cover photo of Cavanaugh at the 1939 Dairy World of Tomorrow exhibit, which featured 150 registered cows. Borden employed 62 college students – often called the Borden Boys – to care for the cows. Visitors to the fair wanted to know which cow was Elsie. Cavanaugh, one of the Borden Boys, was asked to choose a cow to represent Elsie at the fair. He picked You'll Do Lobelia from Massachusetts.

After the 1939 World's Fair, Cavanaugh and other Borden Boys traveled by boxcar with the cows that were chosen for the fair and returned them to their owners.

"The *New York Times* reporter talked to me for about two hours," said Cavanaugh. "The next day he came back with a photographer for another hour. That's when I figured I would make the paper."

He also was on Fox News. "I had an offer to get on *The Late Show with David Letterman*, but it didn't work out," said Cavanaugh. "Letterman is big on animals."

Years at K-State

"I was around K-State over a long period because it took eight years to complete my degree," said Cavanaugh. "I would run out of money, so I would work a semester, then go back to school for a semester." One of his jobs was working at the Hallmark Farms near Kansas City.

Cavanaugh said he remembers that K-State President Francis D. Farrell had a habit of walking across campus on Sunday mornings. Farrell would stop and visit while Cavanaugh milked cows at the dairy barn.

After Cavanaugh graduated, he worked for Hoard's Dairyman for six years. "The magazine was the bible of



James Cavanaugh (left), executive secretary of the American Jersey Cattle Club, with other Borden Boys and Elsie. This Elsie, Imp. Keepers Winter Fairy 2437469, won the 1964 Elsie Talent Search.

the dairy industry. I was honored that President Farrell wrote several articles for the magazine while I was there.”

Cavanaugh has only been back to K-State three times, but he says he has a cousin in Manhattan who keeps him posted, and he reads everything he gets in the mail from K-State.

His photo hangs in the hallway of Call Hall for being named Kansas Dairy Leader in 1976. In 1983, he received the Distinguished Service in Agriculture Award, presented by K-State President Duane Acker. Cavanaugh was featured in the February 2000 issue of the K-Stater magazine.

Elsie Is a Hit Everywhere

People of all ages seem to like the friendly Jersey cow known as Elsie.

While Cavanaugh was serving as a pilot overseas in the U.S. Air Force, fairgoers around the country contributed \$10 million in war bonds to see Elsie. People lined up for blocks to see her, said Cavanaugh.

Cavanaugh said he remembers a few unusual requests for Elsie appearances.

“They wanted Elsie to be on a float at the Rose Bowl parade,” he said. “It was called ‘Please Don’t Eat the Daisies’ for the ring of daisies around Elsie’s neck.

It isn’t as common now for cows to have horns, but we found one and got it to California.”

When Disney World opened in Florida, they wanted an Elsie to appear at the grand opening ceremonies.

“I think it was the first time that Mickey Mouse posed with a live animal,” commented Cavanaugh.

There have been 50 Elsies over the years. Cavanaugh claims to be an Elsie expert – mainly because he is the only one living that remembers them all.

The current Elsie is in Denison, Texas. Elsie’s owner hired two people to travel around the country in a trailer equipped with Elsie’s quarters plus a bedroom and bathroom for the handlers.

Affiliation with the American Jersey Cattle Association

Cavanaugh joined the American Jersey Cattle Club – now the American Jersey

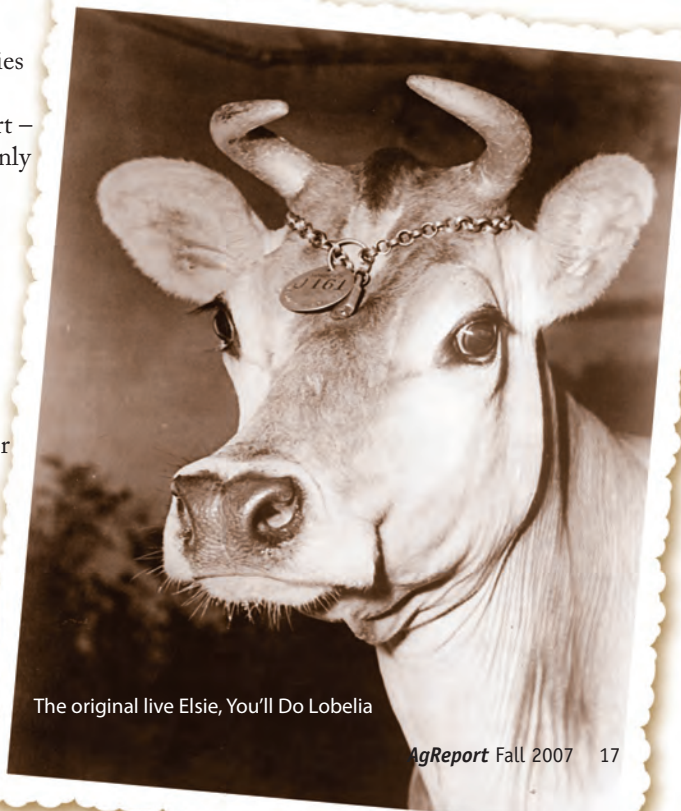
Cattle Association – in 1947 as assistant secretary. He became executive secretary in 1956 and retired from the AJCC in 1985. He then took on two top positions with dairy industry organizations and later worked in capital fundraising for the AJCC Research Foundation.

He initiated the idea for a series of yearbooks and edited the first one, *Gotham Herdsmen* 1939. Cavanaugh’s photo and the yearbooks were among the items donated to the Smithsonian. The temporary exhibit opened in the “Treasures of American History” exhibit at the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum on July 12.

Cavanaugh, who now lives in Columbus, Ohio, said, “It was a great trip for me, and it was great for the dairy farmers of America.”

Thank you to Jerry Fickel (BS ’67 animal husbandry) and Cherie Bayer (BS ’77 dairy science). Fickel, whose father Bernard was Cavanaugh’s classmate, forwarded the New York Times article. Bayer, director of development for the American Jersey Cattle Association, provided information and help with photographs.

To view news articles about Cavanaugh, go to www.usjersey.com/Reference/elsieinthehistorybooks.html.



The original live Elsie, You’ll Do Lobelia



NAMA Team Wins Two in a Row

K-State's National Agri-Marketing Association team became the first NAMA team to win back-to-back national titles in the 29-year history of the competition.

The team members created a strategic marketing plan for Cattlyst, a text messaging service for cattlemen. They competed against 30 schools from across the nation.

The team was honored at a breakfast reception. Standing, left to right: Bryan Schurle, head of agricultural economics; Kris Boone, head of communications; Fred Cholick, dean and director; Vincent Hofer, Jeff Pio, Sam Selee, David Widmar, Sarah Coover, Annie Whitehill, David Lehman, coach. Seated: Chelsea Good, Katie Morris, Stacy Mayo.

Alicia Goheen



Telefund Sets New Record

Enthusiastic College of Agriculture students once again made calls to alumni and friends during the annual telefund. Their calls produced 2,873 pledges for \$222,603. When all matching funds were included, the grand total came to \$237,905.

The overall revenue for the university was \$1.753 million – a new record.



Gloria Holcombe (3)



Student employees served up lots of ice cream to hungry visitors during the annual K-State All-University Open House.

The Dairy Bar in Call Hall was recently remodeled to offer more customer seating and retail space.

Mark your calendar for next year's open house – April 19, 2008.

Another Win for Powercat Tractor Team

The K-State Quarter-Scale Tractor Team earned first place at the 2007 American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers International Quarter-Scale Tractor Student Design Competition. This is the sixth win for the K-State team in the 10 years of this competition.

The K-State Powercat Tractors also received the Sound Quality Award for having the quietest tractor and minimizing noise pollution. They earned the first-place award for the written design report and second place for the "tractor pull" portion of the competition.

Team advisers are Mark Schrock, Darrell Oard, Pat Murphy, Randy Price, and Lou Claassen.

Crops Team Posts Record Score

The K-State Crops Team took first place in the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Crops Contest.

K-State has won the contest seven times in the last nine years. The 2007 team placed first in all four parts of the competition. They scored 2,105.1 out of 2,400 possible points – the highest score ever achieved in a NACTA crops contest.

In addition, Zane Unrau, Goessel, senior in agricultural technology management, had the highest individual score ever recorded in the contest.

Gerry Posler, professor of agronomy, coaches the team.



Marsha Landis

The team of Gary Wilson, Melissa Pickett (left), and Kirstin Veith were finalists in the Almond Innovations Contest with their product "Almond Heavens." The Almond Board of California sponsored the contest, and students were challenged to create an indulgent almond treat with a maximum of 200 calories. Fadi Aramouni served as coach, and Kelly Getty was the assistant coach.



The Kansas State University Wool Judging Team won first place at the National Western Stock Show in Denver. The team earned the most points ever at that competition. Members of the team are: (front row, left-right) Adam McGee, Purdy, Mo.; Patricia Black, Newton – first place individual; Thomas Regier, Whitewater; (back row): Brett Crow, Danville, Ala.; Christopher Petty, Windsor, Mo.; Cliff Spaeth, coach.

K-State Ag Rocks

Students Organize Fundraiser

The Agricultural Student Council sponsored the "Ag for a Cure Benefit Concert" on April 12 in Weber Arena featuring Jason Boland and the Stragglers with Pete Gile. The event was held in conjunction with K-State's annual Ag Fest celebration, and all proceeds went to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Kelsey Frasier and Mark Maynard, both agricultural economics students, co-chaired the event. They and other Ag Student Council members spent hours working out details of the concert with the singers' agents and equipment vendors, soliciting sponsorships, promoting the concert, and putting together an event designed to be enjoyable and safe.

Ag Student Council sold more than 700 tickets and raised \$5,000 for the MS Foundation.

Agricultural Economics

Gamma Sigma Delta award winners:

David Norman, professor of international trade and development, was given the Distinguished Faculty Award; **Vincent Amanor-Boadu**, assistant professor and director of the Innovation Center, received the Early Career Award; **Hikaru Peterson**, associate professor of marketing, earned the Outstanding Advising Award; and **Jeff Peterson**, associate professor of natural resource economics, received the Outstanding Research Award. Amanor-Boadu has been designated a Big 12 Faculty Fellow for 2007, receiving \$2,025 in support for his project, "Incorporating Entrepreneurship in Ag Economics."

Agronomy

Dana Minihan, assistant academic coordinator, was elected president of the Kansas Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture. The group promotes instruction of agriculture at all Kansas institutions of higher education. **Vara Prasad**, assistant professor of crop physiology, received the 2006 Young Agricultural Scientist Award from the National Association of Agricultural Scientists of Indian Origin. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in crop physiology and stress physiology. His research involves the effect of environmental stresses on crops. **Jianming Yu**, assistant professor, has been appointed to a three-year term on the editorial board of Theoretical and Applied Genetics.

Animal Sciences and Industry

Brad Johnson, associate professor, received the College of Ag Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award. He teaches Fundamentals of Nutrition and coordinates the honors program. **Jim Nelssen**, professor and extension specialist in swine nutrition, won the American Society of Animal Science National Extension Award. **Evan Titgemeyer**, professor, is the recipient of the American Feed Industry Association Ruminant Nutrition Research Award from the American Society of Animal Science.



Faculty recognized at College of Ag Awards Assembly are Joe Arata, Agricultural Economics, and Robert Wolf, Biological and Agricultural Engineering – Outstanding Ag Faculty, Spring Semester 2007; Kristina Boone, Communications, and Greg Davis, Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources – Outstanding Ag Faculty, Fall Semester 2006; and Loyd Stone, Agronomy – Outstanding Academic Adviser.

Dan Umscheid, animal science technician I, was selected as the department Classified Employee of the Year for dedicated service to the Dairy Teaching and Research Center.

John Wolf, research technologist/meat lab manager, was elected treasurer of the KSU Classified Senate.

Liz Boyle, professor and extension specialist, received the American Meat Science Association Distinguished Extension-Industry Award at the Reciprocal Meat Conference. Her research focuses on the impact of HACCP on small and very small meat and poultry processing facilities, meat safety and quality.

Biochemistry

Michael Kanost, department head and university distinguished professor, coauthored an article in the June 22 issue of Science magazine. The researchers are working to understand how the immune systems in two types of mosquitoes and the fruit fly evolved over time. This way, scientists will have a better idea of what genes to study in their efforts to halt the transmission of dangerous insect-spread diseases such as malaria.

Subbaratnam Muthukrishnan was named a university distinguished professor, a lifetime title that represents the highest honor K-State can bestow on its faculty. He is known

internationally for his contributions to insect and plant molecular sciences.

Biological and Agricultural Engineering

Judy Willingham, extension assistant, was selected a Fellow in the 2007 Class of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute.

Communications

Linda Sleichter, marketing specialist, received the North Central Region Pioneer Award from the Association for Communication Excellence. This award honors communicators who demonstrate leadership and technical skills and make contributions to the association during the first 10 years of membership.

Entomology

Awards from the North Central Branch of the Entomological Society of America: **Gerry Wilde**, professor, received the 2007 Award of Excellence in Integrated Pest Management and **Greg Zolnerowich**, associate professor, won the 2007 Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching. **Mike Dryden**, an ancillary faculty member in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology, won the 2007 Recognition Award in Urban Entomology.



Retirees from the College of Agriculture and K-State Research and Extension were recognized at a reception at the Alumni Center in April 2007. These 13 individuals had a total of 468 years of service, which is an average of 36 years. *Front row (left to right):* Rita Dawson, county extension director, Coffey County – 35; Tommy Harvey, professor, Entomology/Agricultural Research Center-Hays – 55; Vicky Overlay, county extension director, Phillips County – 27; Gerald Wilde, professor, Entomology – 41. *Back row:* Carl Reed, research associate, Grain Science and Industry – 28; Gary Kilgore, extension crops and soils specialist, Southeast Area Office – 40; Mark Schrock, professor, Biological and Agricultural Engineering – 34; Clifford Spaeth, professor, Animal Sciences and Industry – 40. *Not pictured:* Larry Claflin, professor, Plant Pathology – 31; K. Eugene Lanham, county extension director, Wyandotte County – 35; David Norman, professor, Agricultural Economics – 38; Jenell Smith, family and consumer sciences agent, Sedgwick County – 34; and Doris Welch, family and consumer sciences agent, Kearny County – 30.

Grain Science and Industry

Xiuzhi “Susan” Sun, professor, was named Outstanding Senior Scientist by K-State’s chapter of Sigma Xi, a scientific research society.

Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources

Stuart Warren has been named to succeed Thomas Warner as department head. The appointment will be effective Dec. 2, 2007.

Plant Pathology

Walter “Wally” F. O. Marasas, recently retired director of the PROMEC unit of the Medical Research Center in Tygerberg, South Africa, was elected a foreign associate of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. He has had a long association with the department as an adjunct professor and received the College of Agriculture’s 2002 Distinguished Service Award. He has

served regularly as an instructor for the summer Fusarium Workshops and spent a sabbatical in Manhattan in 1991-1992.

Agricultural Research Center - Hays

Phillip Stahlman, professor, was recognized as Fellow of the Western Society of Weed Science. His research focuses on herbicide testing and development research involving crops grown in Kansas, including winter wheat, grain sorghum, sunflowers, corn, and soybeans.

K-State Research and Extension

Susan Krumm, Douglas County family and consumer sciences agent, received the Outstanding Citizen Award from Lawrence Public Schools. It recognizes community members for outstanding leadership and service to public education.

Karen Blakeslee, extension assistant, and **Gayle Price**, extension specialist, accepted the 2007 Allied Member of the Year Award from the Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association for the ServSafe Food Safety Education program. The award recognizes the training that family and consumer sciences agents do at the county and community level.

James “Pat” Murphy, interim assistant director of extension agriculture and natural resources, was named a Fellow of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. As a professor of biological and agricultural engineering, he’s known for his ability to apply engineering principles to the construction of feedlots, feed mills, and corrals. He also has developed techniques for the handling of manure and waste water. His designs for cattle, hog, and dairy facilities have improved their efficiency and safety while reducing the harm done to the surrounding environment.

In Memorium

Troy Bratton, Dodge City, died July 16, 2007. He was the southwest area district forester for the Kansas Forest Service. His father, Gerald, is a retired southeast area forester.

David Bothwell, Manhattan, died March 20, 2007. He worked for K-State Research and Extension, Health, Safety, and Environmental Quality as a safety specialist helping faculty, staff, and students with safety issues related to machinery and noise exposure.

Ted L. Walter, Manhattan, 81, died March 17, 2007. He earned a BS from the University of Nebraska in agriculture and an MS in plant breeding from Colorado State University. He also completed the course work for a PhD from K-State. He worked for K-State as a plant breeder in Colby for nine years, then for 30 years as a research agronomist at the Manhattan campus. He was a leader in the computerization of crop performance testing in the late 1960s, as well as the implementation of microcomputers in the testing and reporting process in the early 1980s. He retired in 1990.



Gary Pierzynski (left) chats with agronomy students Kyle Shroyer (center) and Paul Hartley.

New Department Head Honored for Teaching Excellence

This has been a stellar year for Gary Pierzynski. He was named head of the Department of Agronomy, after serving as interim head for 14 months, and was honored as one of four faculty to receive the 2007 Commerce Bank Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching award.

"The department is involved in many new and exciting initiatives, and Gary has the experience and vision to move it forward," said Fred Cholic, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension. "Gary has the breadth of experience to lead the department as we conduct research, educate students, and work with the farmers and ranchers of Kansas to develop and improve crops, rangeland, and the environment."

"It has been an amazing year already," said Pierzynski. "Both events – being named department head and receiving the Commerce Bank Award – are significant honors, and I am very grateful for the opportunity and recognition."

The undergraduate teaching award sponsored by the William T. Kemper Foundation and Commerce Bancshares Foundation honors faculty who make a positive impact through their dedication to teaching and mentoring students.

Pierzynski has taught environmental quality, plant nutrient sources, soil and environmental chemistry, and advanced soil chemistry.

"I try to create that 'teachable moment' with the students in a variety of ways," he said. "In general, faculty members have more analytical thought processes and need to realize that most students are holistic thinkers: holistic thinkers need to see the big picture before they can appreciate the details that faculty consider essential."

Williams Selected for Teacher Fellow Award

Floriculture professor Kimberly Williams (BS '88 horticulture) received the Teacher Fellow Award from the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture.

The award recognizes individuals whose efforts represent the very best in agricultural higher education.

"I am especially honored to receive this award because it required letters of support from my former and current students," Williams said. "As teaching faculty, it is very rewarding to have students return after working in the industry and tell you they valued your instruction and advising, and that it helped them succeed."

Williams teaches courses on greenhouse management, floral crops production, horticultural internship preparation, and plant nutrition.

Her courses include extensive hands-on components and use of case studies. Williams has authored or co-authored many publications, including one article that received the American Society for Horticulture Science Education Publication Award.

Williams joined the K-State faculty in 1997.



Courtesy of Kim Williams

Kimberly Williams (right) shows students Kimberly Terrell and Lindsay Archer how to scout for thrips on ivy geraniums.

Phillips Leads Entomology Department

Tom Phillips began his duties as department head and professor in the Department of Entomology on July 1, 2007. Phillips had been a professor in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at Oklahoma State University since 1996, where he served as chair of the Faculty Council for 2006-2007.

Before joining the OSU faculty, he worked for six years as a research entomologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Research Service in stored grain and post-harvest entomology, coordinated with some of the work done at Manhattan's USDA/ARS Grain Marketing and Production Research Center.

"I am extremely happy to join the K-State Entomology Department, which is a world leader in research, instruction, and extension on insect biology and integrated pest management," Phillips said. "The department has established and growing programs in basic insect biology and biodiversity, field and horticultural crop protection and IPM, biology and management of insects and microbes related to food safety and security, and insect threats to human and animal health. The faculty, students, and staff are key players in K-State Research and Extension and work hard to deliver on the land-grant mission of K-State. I am excited to be part of this outstanding team!"

Phillips was the 2006 recipient of the Sarkeys Distinguished Professor Award given by the OSU Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. The award is based on outstanding contributions to agriculture through teaching, research, or extension efforts.

"We are extremely pleased to have Tom Phillips as head of the Department of Entomology," said Fred Cholic, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension. "He has exhibited the passion to provide leadership to this outstanding group."

"Tom has an international reputation in all three mission areas – as an instructor, researcher and in extension. We are eager to tap his expertise as we continue to expand and enhance our teaching, research, and extension efforts in this important field."



Tom Phillips, new head of the entomology department, visits with Steven Graham, assistant to the dean and director.



Exhibitors show hogs at the Bob Hines Swine Classic, named for retired animal sciences faculty member, Bob Hines.

More than 100 4-H youth representing 33 Kansas counties participated in the Bob Hines Swine Classic in Manhattan on July 6-7. Educational events for youth and parents were conducted on the first day.

As part of the showmanship activities, a class was provided for the young family members less than 7 years of age. The class required an adult be in the ring to supervise and educate each young contestant and ensure their safety in the show area. A judge interacted with the young showmen and provided positive encouragement, but no placing was made. Each contestant received a purple ribbon to make the class a non-competitive, educational event. Next year's event will be on June 27-28, 2008.

1941

Walter Federer (MS plant breeding), retired from Cornell University as an emeritus statistician. He recently co-authored a book with Freedom King and has had two papers accepted for publication. He also has several research projects in the works but still finds time to play golf.

1955

Calvin Drake (BS, PhD '64, animal science), professor emeritus, Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, was elected president of the Kansas Simmental Association.

1962

Clait E. Braun (BS agronomy), Tucson, Ariz., was elected editor for 2007 and 2008 of the *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*. It is published quarterly by the Wilson Ornithological Society. He and his wife, Nancy, own and operate Grouse Inc., a consulting company.

1973

Philip D. Timken (BS agricultural economics), North Newton, is a location manager for Mid Kansas Cooperative in Peabody. His wife, Carolyn (Lee) Timken, attended K-State from 1969 to 1972, then earned a BS in nursing from Wichita State University.

1988

Jeffrey Thompson (BS agricultural engineering) is a patent attorney. He and his wife, Regine, maintain the law firm of Thompson and Thompson in Scandia.

Joe Leibbrandt (BS animal sciences), agricultural and natural resources agent, transferred from the Logan County office to the Sunflower District. He previously worked in Thomas County and the Post Rock District.

1996

Mark Dikeman (BS animal science, MS '02 agricultural economics) is an extension ag economist for the Kansas Farm Management Association in Holton.

1998

Laci (Hammer) Schrader (BS animal science) and **Spencer Schrader** (BS '97 animal science) announced the birth of their second child, Josi Maxine, on Dec. 1, 2006. Spencer is employed by Suther Feeds.

1999

Shelby Wehrman (BS agricultural economics) and **Melanie (Thomas) Wehrman** (BS '00 agricultural economics) announced the birth of their daughter Alayna Rose on Feb. 9, 2007.

They also have a daughter, Jayleigh, and son, Caleb. Shelby teaches math and is the assistant football coach for Rose Hill High School.

Jereme House (BS agricultural economics) and **Diane House** (BS '00 elementary education, MS '05 adult/continuing education) had twin boys, Isaac Warren and Jorden Samuel, on April 10, 2007.

Seth Lloyd (BS agribusiness) joined the KSU Foundation as a development officer for Corporate and Foundation Relations. He previously served as a retail sales representative for the Hershey Foods Corp. in Manhattan and a relationship manager and loan officer for Gold Bank in Leawood.

2000

Corey Grosdidier (BS agribusiness) has joined Frontier Farm Credit as a financial analyst in the Manhattan office. He previously worked for Sprint in Overland Park, as an accountant and financial analyst.

2002

Brent Goss (BS animal science), K-State Research and Extension Ellsworth County agriculture and natural resources agent, and his wife, Sarah, announced the birth of their son, Tucker Jacob, on June 12, 2007. They also have a daughter, Noah Grace.

Christopher Laverne (BS agricultural communications and journalism) has accepted a position as instructor in K-State's Department of Communications. He previously worked for WaterLink and taught a class in Leadership Studies.

Ryan McMillan (BS agribusiness) is an extension ag economist for the Kansas Farm Management Association in Colby.

DeAnn Presley (MS, PhD '07, agronomy) assumed duties as an extension specialist/assistant professor of environmental soil science and soil and water management in K-State's Department of Agronomy. She said she looks forward to the challenge of helping producers and both rural and urban landowners in Kansas understand more about their soil resources and how to protect it for future generations.

Chester "Chet" Peterson Jr., Lindsborg, has donated his photo library to the K-State Department of Communications. Peterson (BS '59, animal science, BS '60 agricultural journalism, MS '60 dairy production) specializes in agricultural photography and has covered agricultural photography assignments in 48 states and 11 countries. He is the former departmental editor for *Successful Farming* and former creative contact executive on the largest dollar ag account in the country. His photographs have appeared in 203 different publications and were featured on the covers of 48 different publications. Peterson was named the 2002 Distinguished Alumnus by the College of Agriculture Alumni Association. The department plans to scan, catalog, and archive Peterson's photographs.



Chet Peterson and Kris Boone, communications department head, look through Peterson's photo library.

Gloria Holcombe

2003

Nathan Geiger (BS animal science), Troy, and his wife, Adrienne, announced the birth of their son, Henry Nathan, on May 7, 2007. Nathan is the agriculture and natural resources agent for K-State Research and Extension, Doniphan County.

2005

Michael Epler (BS, MS '07 agronomy) joined the K-State Research and Extension Leavenworth County office as an agriculture and natural resources agent. He previously worked as a graduate teaching assistant and a graduate research assistant for the Department of Agronomy.

2007

Mark Flory (BS animal science) joined the K-State Research and Extension Miami County office as an agriculture and natural resources agent. He previously worked on the swine management team for Prairie Land Genetics in Manhattan.

Christopher Petty (BS animal science) joined the K-State Research and Extension Graham County office as an agriculture and natural resources agent. He also has a BS in agricultural business from Central Missouri State University. He worked previously on the beef management team for K-State's Beef Cattle Research Center and also as a veterinary assistant and farm manager in Windsor, Mo.

In Memorium

Evans Banbury (BS '40 agricultural economics), 93, Scottsburg, Ind., died May 15, 2007. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army during WWII serving in the South Pacific. He joined the research staff of the Colby Branch Experiment Station in 1952 and retired as superintendent in 1979. He received the county agents' Distinguished Service Award and numerous state and county awards for outstanding contributions in soil and water conservation over his 35 years of dedication and leadership in agricultural education and research in Kansas. Memorial donations may be made to the K-State College of Agriculture.

Ron Jacques (BS '73), center, and his sons Eric (BS '02), left, and Ryan (BS '01) – all agronomy majors – farm together south of Hutchinson.



John Brethour (BS '55 animal science), 72, died May 29, 2007. He spent 42 years as a research scientist at the Agricultural Research Center–Hays. He devoted his entire career to advance the science of beef cattle production and help the Kansas cattle industry remain viable and competitive. His accomplishments helped put the center and K-State on the map nationally and internationally, but he was best known for his groundbreaking work on the use of ultrasound to determine when cattle should be marketed.

David Hale Long (BS '41 poultry science), Annandale, Va., 86, died April 15, 2007. He worked as a USDA egg products inspector in Kansas for 32 years then transferred to Washington, D.C. He retired in 1976 as chief of the poultry division's grading branch. He was an avid gardener, church volunteer, and softball player.

Ralph Utermoehlen (BS '49 agricultural education), Manhattan,

died June 3, 2007. He taught vocational agriculture, was the assistant farm director at a radio and TV station, and was the personnel director at the Dannan Feed Co. before becoming a 4-H agent in Lawrence. In 1969, he joined the University of Missouri as a community development agent, then moved to Manhattan as the community development specialist from 1974 until his retirement in 1994. He served as the secretary/treasurer for the Kansas Master Farmer Association from 1997 through 2005.

Clifford Watson (MS '58, PhD '64, milling science and management), 77, Warrensburg, Mo., died March 24, 2007. He had worked in the Plant Soils Science Department at Montana State University, the Grain Marketing and Production Research Center in Manhattan, and as director of the USDA Federal Grain Inspection Service Technical Center in Kansas City.

Ag Alumni Class Notes

Fill out this form and return it to:
Gloria Holcombe
Department of Communications
315 Umberger Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506-3402
or e-mail to: gloria@ksu.edu

Name _____
Spouse's Name _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Home Phone _____ E-mail _____
Graduation Date(s) _____ Degree(s) _____
Employer _____ Title _____

Feel free to attach more information.

Mickey Ransom (left), Loren Kruse, and Melanie Mainquist



Gloria Helcombe

for the College of Agriculture and the School of Journalism at K-State and chairman of the National Science Foundation ag technology committee

Melanie Mainquist, vice president Canada sales, for Cargill Meat Solutions, was the 2007 Outstanding Young Alumnus.

Mainquist (BS '89 animal sciences and industry), Guelph, Ontario, Canada, previously was assistant vice president, business manager premium meats in Wichita. She worked for Cargill's Animal Nutrition Division for eight years after her internship with Cargill as a K-State student.

In addition to an accomplished career in sales, marketing, and product promotion in the beef industry, Mainquist actively promotes K-State and the College of Agriculture.

Mainquist shares her career and life experiences with current students. She speaks to students at Agricultural Orientation and has lectured on marketing to Dave Nichols' introductory animal science class.

"Melanie is truly an outstanding alumnus who gives generously of her time and talents," said Nichols.

College Recognizes Outstanding Achievement

The College of Agriculture Alumni Association honored three outstanding individuals – Loren Kruse, Melanie Mainquist, and Michel Ransom – during the 2007 Wild4Ag Weekend.

The Distinguished Alumnus honor went to **Loren Kruse**, editor-in-chief of Successful Farming.

In 1970, Kruse earned a dual degree in agricultural economics and technical journalism from K-State.

As a student, Kruse was the sports reporter for the Collegian. When someone asked him why he chose to pursue agricultural journalism instead of sports reporting, Kruse said he felt he could make a difference reporting on agriculture.

Kruse worked as a 4-H editor and science editor at Oklahoma State University, while completing a master's degree in rural adult education. He began his career at Successful Farming as a farm management editor, then moved on to managing editor, and editor-in-chief. In that position, he also oversees Living the Country Life magazine and Agriculture Online.

"I leapt at the chance to come back to Iowa," Kruse said. "Not only was I able to be closer to where I grew up, but my job at Successful Farming allowed

me to use my ag econ degree, too."

He and his family own and manage the 160-acre farm, where they raise crops, livestock, and Christmas trees.

Kruse serves on advisory councils

J&C Imaging



Dean Fred Cholick (left) and Nelson Galle (BS '58 ag education, MS '64 adult and occupational education) chair of the Board of Regents, congratulated graduating senior Mary Geiger at the scholarship breakfast.



Gloria Holcombe

Casey Garten (BS '78 agricultural education), left, visits with Mickey Ransom and former associate dean David Mugler, namesake of the David J. Mugler Teaching Award that was presented to Ransom.

WILD 4 AG Weekend

Attend next year's event on May 9-10, 2008.
Go to www.ag.k-state.edu for more details.

She served as president of the Agricultural Alumni Association in 2000-2001 and helped establish the Ag Alumni Classic golf tournament in 1999. She chaired the golf event from 1999-2003. To date, the tournament has generated more than \$32,000 in scholarship funds that go to students who don't receive any other scholarships.

"I'm so proud that the golf tournament has continued," said Mainquist. "Donnie Young, Casey Garten, and myself were coined the founders and continue to support the tournament with our 'Founder's Hole.'"

"This award means a lot to me because it is from K-State, and particularly from the College of Agriculture," said Mainquist.

Michel "Mickey" Ransom, professor of agronomy, was the recipient of the 2007 David J. Mugler Teaching Award.

In addition to teaching soils classes, Ransom advises 15 to 20 agronomy students, coaches the soils judging team, oversees the agronomy teaching program, and maintains a research program. He also finds time to be a faculty senator, talk with incoming transfer students, and attend K-State sporting events.

"Mickey does a superb job preparing for his courses," said Gary Pierzynski, agronomy department head. "His classes and preparation for the judging team could be handled indoors with a standard set of samples, but he makes the effort to take students outdoors to illustrate the concepts in their natural setting."

During his 23 years at K-State, Ransom has been named faculty of the semester five times and was outstanding adviser in 2003 and 2004. "He is willing to advise the students who have talent but are confused about their future and lack motivation," said Dave Mengel, former department head. "He has a great way of helping those students sort out options and priorities."

Ransom said he enjoys being around and working with students, helping them learn, watching them develop, and maintaining contact to see where their careers have taken them. He modestly credits his colleagues, mentors, administration, and the tremendous student body for his success.

Pierzynski said Ransom epitomizes the philosophy former associate dean David Mugler promoted: "they don't care what you know until they know you care."

Bill Spiegel



The team of Ken Goff II, Ken Goff, Daran Neuschafer, and T. J. Vilkanskas (not pictured) won the 2007 Ag Alumni Classic at Colbert Hills Golf Course.



Vaughn Studer

The campus-wide Changing Lives Campaign is nearing its \$500 million goal. The campaign, launched in 2001, is the university's most aggressive, comprehensive fundraising effort in history. More than \$480 million has been raised through gifts and commitments by alumni, friends, corporations, and private foundations. These gifts have come in the form of annual contributions through the KSU Telefund, as well as major gifts directed at scholarships, building initiatives, and support of K-State athletics.

There are several ways to structure a deferred gift. A bequest to leave certain assets to the university can be documented in your will or estate-planning documents. The bequest can be documented by providing the KSU Foundation with the relative section of your estate plan.

Many donors would like to make a contribution but need or prefer to continue receiving lifetime income from their assets. A charitable remainder unitrust or charitable gift annuity can turn appreciated assets, such as real estate or marketable securities, into payments you receive for the lifetime of you, a spouse, children, and grandchildren as required.

As this historic campaign draws to a close, we invite all of our alumni and friends to participate at any level they can. Members of the College of Agriculture and KSU Foundation Development Team are eager to help you find the gift that is right for your situation. Thanks for all you do to support your university!

Changing LIVES

The Campaign for KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

William F. "Trahy" and Beth Hurst, Goddard, have made a commitment of \$100,000 through a life insurance policy to establish the **Betty and Bill Hurst Excellence Fund for KSU Gardens** in honor of his parents. Trahy Hurst attended K-State from 1971-1973 and is the president of William F. Hurst Co. Inc. Bill Hurst (BS '50 horticulture) is the company's founder and CEO.

"Beth and I were facing the dreaded question, 'What to get Mom and Dad for Christmas?'" Trahy Hurst said. "Not only is this a wonderful opportunity, but it is an ongoing gift for every Christmas going forward."

Employees of Manna Pro Corp., Chesterfield, Mo., have made a gift of \$62,809 to establish the **Manna Pro Employees Feed Science Scholarship**.

"Many Manna Pro employees made contributions that led to this gift, and these contributions were made in honor of KPERS, our former owners" said Andy Bresler, company president. "We're happy to make this tribute, as K-State has played such a pivotal role in educating people in the science that's helped build our industry."

Joseph (BS '58 agronomy) and Dorothy Dunbar, Wichita, have made two charitable gift annuities of \$28,554 to establish the **J. Dunbar Family Agricultural Scholarship**.

"The reason that I want to give to the KSU Foundation is threefold," Joseph Dunbar said. "No. 1: I want to express a token of my appreciation to my parents, Joyce and Jessie Dunbar, for the sacrifices and encouragement they gave in helping me through

college; No. 2: to show my gratitude to K-State for the educational opportunities offered and the diligence of the faculty, and No. 3: the hope that in some small way, we can help a deserving, future student achieve his or her academic goals."

Ralph (BS '52 agronomy) and Mary Ann White (BS '54 general human ecology), Eagle Nest, N.M., have made a gift annuity of \$30,000 to establish the **Ralph D. and Mary Ann White Scholarship**.

"We created this gift with the hope it will help future students complete their educational goals," said Ralph White.

Robert (BS '54, MS '65 agricultural education) and Virginia Schneider, Fairfield Glade, Tenn., have made a \$130,000 commitment to establish the **Dr. and Mrs. Robert M. Schneider Agricultural Education Scholarship**.

"My wife and I feel very strongly that education is the way up and out of poverty and have supported education programs for many years," Robert Schneider said. "We feel that returning something to K-State is one method of doing this while showing our appreciation for the opportunities that K-State has provided us."

Gary and Lorraine Kilgore, Chanute, Kan., have made a gift of \$25,000 to establish the **Gary and Lorraine Kilgore Distance Masters of Science Agronomy Scholarship**.

Gary Kilgore (BS '64, MS '66 agronomy) recently retired after 41 years as an extension crops and soils specialist in southeast Kansas. Lorraine Kilgore (MS '70 vocational family and consumer sciences) retired from Thayer High School.



The Indiana Ag Backers group got together to reminisce about K-State at the National FFA Center in Indianapolis on March 29, 2007. Dean Fred Cholick and Vaughn Studer, development officer, were invited to share what is happening in the College of Agriculture. The group of 22 alumni – representing nearly every department in the college – and some of their family members enjoyed good food and camaraderie.

When asked what they liked most about the evening, some of the comments were:

- Getting connected with other grads in the area.
- Hearing from Dean Cholick – his interests, how he operates, and his goals for the college.
- Getting to know other ag alumni; a good chance for networking.
- Meeting new people and learning about their K-State and post-graduation experiences.
- Getting together with old friends and making new acquaintances.

- Talking with everyone about K-State. Networking. Reminiscing and missing Kansas!
 - Seeing Purple Pride on everyone's faces as they came together in Big 10 country.
- The group agreed they would like to continue this type of get-together in the future. Several of the attendees work at the National FFA Center and volunteered the use of the facility. Don Hecht, chair of the dean's advisory council, organized the event.

Alumni Awards Nomination. Nominate someone or several for:

- Distinguished Alumnus Award
- Outstanding Young Alumnus Award
- David J. Mugler Teaching Award

Criteria

To nominate someone for the Distinguished Alumnus Award or the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award:

- submit a one-page nomination letter (preferably typewritten, using 12-point type) that describes how the nominee meets the award criteria.
- include a resume, vita, or short biography.

To nominate someone for the David J. Mugler Teaching Award:

- submit a one-page nomination letter (preferably typewritten, using 12-point type) describing how the nominee demonstrates Mugler's philosophy of dedication and caring for students in his or her teaching and advising roles.
- two additional one-page letters of support also may be submitted.

Please include your contact information, in case we need additional information.

Submit all nominations by November 15, 2007, to:

Don Boggs, Agriculture Academic Programs, 117 Waters Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506-4015 or dboggs@ksu.edu

Previous winners are listed on the College of Ag Web site.

Go to www.ag.k-state.edu, click on Alumni & Friends, then Ag Alumni Awards.

K-State Ag Alumni

Tailgate Party in Cat Town



Saturday, October 13

Starts two hours before kickoff
of the K-State vs Colorado game.

***Football with free food,
fun, and fellowship.***

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