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The Bidwell Fountain in the K-State Gardens

ALC: NO DE

From the Dean and Director



The above photo shows me assisting volunteers at the SWIPE Out Hunger food packaging event in October. College student groups accepted the challenge to raise funds and host the event. It was a tremendous success.

K-State recently hosted the Professional Landcare Network Student Career Days. About 825 horticulture students from 62 universities and colleges were on campus for four days of networking and competitions. Our horticulture students and alumni were involved with every step of planning and executing the event.

We were fortunate to have several distinguished alumni visit campus and share their varied life experiences with students and faculty. Their stories reinforce the value of a K-State education and available opportunities.

Alumni Steve Irisk and Connie Kays serve as Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching delegates. They meet with legislators and their aides to explain the value of our programs and the effect they have on the economy and well-being of Kansas citizens.

I traveled to Mozambique, South Africa, and Botswana with Provost April Mason; Nina Lilja, College of Agriculture director of international programs; and Sajid Alavi, associate professor of grain science.

One purpose of the trip was to begin preparations for a faculty-led study abroad trip for students to southern Africa that will take place May 2013. Both the agriculture and the wildlife are fascinating. I am confident that the students will have an outstanding experience!

K-State is part of a \$25 million grant to reduce the occurrence and public health risks from Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli*. The project involves 48 investigators from 11 institutions. Food scientist Randy Phebus is a member of the executive management team.

We celebrated the opening of our Sheep and Meat Goat Center on March 3. Plans are under way to build the Livestock Marketing and Learning Center and the O. H. Kruse Feed Technology Innovation Center in 2013. We appreciate your support to complete important projects. These facilities will greatly enhance our teaching, research, and extension activities.

In August, John Floros will become the permanent dean of the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension. I will resume duties as head of the Department of Agronomy.

I have enjoyed serving as interim dean and director for the past two years. As I often say, we have great people and we do great things, and you encounter evidence of this on a regular basis in Kansas and all around the world.

Thank you for supporting my efforts and for all that you do for the College of Agriculture and K-State Research and Extension.

AgReport

Spring 2012

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

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On the cover

The new fountain in the K-State Gardens was sponsored by Ann Bidwell in honor of Orville Bidwell, professor emeritus of agronomy. It will be dedicated at All-University Open House. The fountain was made by Robinson Iron, Alexander City, Ala.

Photo by Dan Donnert





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News Briefs



From Kenya to Call Hall

A group of 15- to 17-year-old students from rural areas of Kenya, visited Kansas as part of a U.S. State Department Sub-Saharan Youth Leadership Program.

K-State Research and Extension 4-H specialist Deryl Waldren helped write a grant to support their trip. The students were chosen based on an interview and essays they wrote about qualities of a good leader.

After a four-day orientation in Washington, D.C., they stayed with host families in Riley and Geary counties to learn more about everyday life. Next, they participated in a two-week short course in leadership, citizenship, effective communications, community development, and entrepreneurial concepts.

The group attended Kansas 4-H meetings and activities, including Citizenship in Action in Topeka. At Rock Springs 4-H Center in Junction City, they participated in 4-H Ambassador Training that focuses on skill-building activities in leadership and communications. They also met with K-State President Kirk Schulz and toured the campus.

The students have been encouraged to do needs assessments for their communities and to develop a plan using what they learned to address critical issues at home, Waldren said.

K-State and Australian Researchers to Collaborate

Officials at K-State and Australian Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre, Australia's leading plant pests research center, finalized a six-year collaborative agreement.

Through this partnership, researchers will study emerging plant diseases and insect pests that threaten American and Australian agricultural systems and will develop new strategies and technologies to defend against them.

Research on pathogens, insects, and various *Fusarium* diseases and bacteria will be conducted at K-State. Plant pathogens classified at biosafety level-3, such as wheat blast, will be studied in the university's Biosecurity Research Institute at Pat Roberts Hall.

"These fungi and bacteria are all potential problems for both the U.S. and Australia," said John Leslie, university distinguished professor and head of the Department of Plant Pathology. "Most of Australia and Kansas share similar agriculture and rely heavily on wheat and livestock. They have mostly dry land, and drought is always a possibility. We share similar problems and concerns."

"This initiative comes at a crucial time when increased need is placed on the world's agriculture because of a growing population," said K-State President Kirk Schulz, who visited Australia in August 2011. "It makes sense to work together to find solutions to these biosecurity challenges that confront producers in the U.S., Australia, and the rest of the world."

Miss America Speaks Out for American Agriculture

Miss America 2011 Teresa Scanlan talks with Dan Upson at a reception in her honor at the K-State Student Union last November. Scanlon spoke to students and faculty in K-State's McCain Auditorium as part of the Upson Lecture Series, named for professor emeritus Dan Upson.

Raised in Gering, Neb., Scanlan has strong ties to production agriculture. Since being crowned Miss America, she has initiated partnerships with The Hand That Feeds U.S. and other agriculture groups to help spread the positive message about food production in the United States. During her presentation, "Agriculture in America Today," she shared experiences from her agricultural upbringing and discussed the importance of agriculture and food security to the United States.



The lecture series is sponsored by Food For Thought, a K-State student and alumni group. Check out their blog at: *http://bloggingfoodforthought.blogspot.com/*, which has links to the group's Facebook and Twitter accounts.



On March 10, 1887, the Kansas Legislature established the Commissioner of Forestry Office, now called the Kansas Forest Service.

The agency will commemorate 125 years of promoting effective forestry practices at several annual events: Tree City, March 28; Agro Forestry, May 10; Walnut Council, June 1; and Fall Forestry Field Day, Oct. 18. It also will host an anniversary open house on Oct. 4.

Gov. Sam Brownback issued a proclamation honoring the Kansas Forest Service on Feb. 24, and the state Senate and House passed resolutions to honor the anniversary.

Some key historical events:

- In 1909 the Kansas Legislature assigned administration responsibilities for state forestry to Kansas State University.
- In 1957 a revised conservation treeplanting program began, providing seedlings to landowners.
- In 1963 the community fire program was started, currently serving more than 500 volunteer fire districts.
- In 1968 the current Kansas Forest Service office building, 2610 Claffin Road, Manhattan, was built.
- In 1997 the name was changed to Kansas Forest Service.
- In 2009 Kansas' first state forest, the Jackman Forest in Butler County, was established.

"We are pleased to be working with this anniversary celebration and observing successes of the past 125 years," said Larry Biles, state forester. "Moreover, we are excited about addressing the state's contemporary forest and tree challenges."

More information about the Kansas Forest Service, including its 125th anniversary events, is available at *http://www.kansasforests.org*.

Food Scientist John Floros Named Dean and Director

John D. Floros, professor and head of the Department of Food Science at Pennsylvania State University, has been chosen as the new dean of the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension. He will assume his duties Aug. 1.

His achievements include increasing undergraduate enrollment and doubling the size of the doctoral program at Penn State. He played an integral role in increasing outreach and distance education programs, while raising funds to build the largest food science building in the country.

Floros also worked as an international industry consultant for more than 25 years and served as a professor at Purdue University for 12 years.

"John Floros brings a distinguished career of research, teaching, service, and administration to the position of dean," said K-State Provost April Mason. "His experience at top-ranked landgrant institutions provides an excellent foundation to support K-State's outreach mission through our extension service."

"The College of Agriculture and K-State Research and Extension are uniquely positioned to understand and address the evolving needs of Kansas farmers and ranchers," Floros said. "I feel honored, delighted, and proud to be the next dean and director, and ready to lead such a fine institution."

Floros, a native of Greece, is a fourth generation farmer, although his contributions to the family farm are now more financial than labor based.

The future dean was in Manhattan in early March to get acquainted with Manhattan and the campus. He explained his approach to his new job.

"First and foremost, I plan to get a clear understanding of what the college and K-State Research and Extension are all about; learn how the system works here. I will listen to peoples' challenges and opportunities, then form a plan to become better. My goal is to make everything better.

"The college is well positioned for undergraduate education by providing hands-on experience for students —



many land-grants don't offer that anymore. Distance learning is another strength and will become more important in the future.

"In extension, there are many things that we do very well. Many view our statewide system as an exemplary way to do business."

Floros said he is aware that funding is the No. 1 issue at all land-grant universities.

"In the near future, as the global population increases from 7 to nearly 10 billion people, we will have to produce a lot more food, fiber, and fuel," Floros said. "Society must invest in basic and applied research — and in education and outreach — particularly as it pertains to food and agriculture. Agriculture will become tremendously more important."

Provost Mason thanked Gary Pierzynski for serving as interim dean and director.

"Gary has been a strong stabilizing force in his interim role, leading the college through budget shortfalls, growing enrollment, and new research partnerships," Mason said. "He will continue to serve as interim dean and director until Dr. Floros arrives, then will resume his previous role as agronomy department head." K-State students attend classes, write papers, text their friends, occasionally visit Aggieville, and still find time to help starving people around the world.



Please join K-State and Manhattan in celebration of World Food Day to package meals for starving people in the Horn of Africa.

Even the smallest of donations has the ability to change someone's world. 1 meal = 30 cents 1 package = 6 meals = \$1.80 1 box = 36 packages = 216 meals = \$64.80

Donate and Volunteer online at www.swipeouthunger.com/k-state

> FAMINE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

When Numana Inc., a nonprofit international hunger relief organization, approached Kansas colleges to create State-Wide Packaging Events, or SWIPE Out Hunger — College of Agriculture students and faculty accepted the challenge.

Numana, based in El Dorado, provided the ingredients to package 20,000 meals. The institutions were asked to find a location, recruit volunteers, and raise funds to package additional meals for the Horn of Africa, a peninsula in the northeast part of the continent undergoing a severe famine.

"Our goal was to package 70,000 meals with the help of 280 volunteers," said Sandy Klein, events coordinator for the College of Agriculture, who helped manage the project.

To meet the goal, they needed to raise \$15,000. Associate Dean Don Boggs asked Alpha Zeta, an agricultural honorary, to plan and promote the Manhattan campus event.

"We agreed and started to plan," said Kyle Kennedy, president of Alpha Zeta. "We raised funds by contacting all the student organizations and departments in the College of Agriculture and visiting Greek houses. Members of AZ even attended civic organization meetings to spread awareness and raise funds. Numana provided us with an online platform, so people or organizations could go online and donate. We were able to raise just over \$15,000, which was our goal."

They also solicited volunteers to help on the day of the event, October 30. Volunteers received a 30-minute training session on how to pack the dried food into boxes in assembly-line fashion. Volunteers were originally scheduled for two-hour shifts, but when more than 550 students, faculty, retirees, and local groups signed up to work, the shifts were shortened. They packaged more than 72,000 meals in four hours.

"Alpha Zeta members served as hosts, facilitators, table leaders, and assisted the Numana staff at SWIPE," Kennedy said. "After the event, we sent thank-you notes to donors and made them aware that we were excited to plan for the following year. We plan to package even more meals and include more volunteers, but we don't have specific goals at this time. Numana coordinates with the Salvation Army World Services Organization to decide what is needed."

To watch an audio slide story of the event, go to *www.ksre.ksu.edu/swipe*.



More than 500 volunteers of all ages packaged 72,000 meals on Oct. 30, 2011. Numana Inc. asked students from Kansas universities to organize events to feed starving families in Africa.

Heifer International Chapter Formed

An energetic group of students started a K-State Heifer International chapter in spring 2011. Heifer International provides livestock, seeds, and trees to those in need and teaches them how to build self-sustainable communities. Since its establishment in 1944, it has helped more than 13.6 million families in more than 125 countries.

Annarose Hart, who served as charter president of the organization, explained the concept.

"When a family receives a goat and that goat has two kids, the family gives one of the kids to another family or shares the milk and cheese," said Hart. "Passing on the gift eventually builds herds and creates jobs to improve an entire community."

Since the chapter was formed, members have been spreading the word about the organization, raising funds, and preparing to host a regional event.

"We are small but strong and growing," said Hart, a senior in agricultural communications and journalism. "We already have 100 names on our listserv."

They recruited members at the annual College of Agriculture watermelon feed in August, including Andrea Sexten, who joined the K-State animal sciences faculty in June. Sexten was familiar with the goals of Heifer International and agreed to join Caitlin Kelley, International Student Support coordinator, as advisers for the chapter.

In October, Hart and Sexten along with Yasmine Mitchell, sophomore in animal sciences and industry; Victoria Fort, senior in family studies and human services; and Anthony Meals, junior in agricultural education, visited the Heifer International Ranch in Perryville, Ark. At "Heifer U," they were able to network with students across the country who are starting campus chapters of Heifer International.

April is Heifer International month, which coincides with the annual Ag Fest activities organized by College of Agriculture Ambassadors. This year, proceeds from the Ag Fest concert will go toward the Heifer International Haiti project.

Todd Montgomery, manager of adult education for Heifer International, praised the K-State chapter's efforts.

"The K-State group is so enthusiastic," Montgomery said. "When I needed help promoting Heifer International at a Reba McEntire concert in Wichita, I called Annarose. She asked how many volunteers we needed and when they needed to be there. And they followed through.

"I'm amazed at all the work they've done — putting together a regional event and starting research projects with other schools. They also scheduled another group of K-Staters to attend Heifer U during spring break, to tend the organic garden, care for animals, or do other ranch chores. "I often use

the K-State chapter as an example for other groups, because they follow the Heifer International mission — united by a common cause to create global change by taking action locally." K-State faculty have a long partnership with Heifer International. In the 1970s, K-State donated live animals to the organization. Heifer International now obtains animals incountry, which is more cost-efficient, sustainable, and healthier for the animals and the land.

Current chapter members were able to visit with Don Good, former animal science department head, about his involvement with the organization.

For more information, check out KSU Heifer International on Facebook or contact Andrea Sexten at *aksexten@ ksu.edu*.

THOSE

Colorful buttons and a donation box promote Heifer International.

Professional Landcare Network 36th Annual Student

Qualifying events, industry sponsors, matching team shirts, challenging contests, colorful team banners, dedicated volunteers — all the elements of an Olympic event — but instead of gold medals the competitors were horticulture students vying for internships and jobs.



During spring break, the Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources hosted the 36th annual Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) Student Career Days. The event brought 824 students and 133 faculty from 62 two- and fouryear colleges and universities, 150 representatives from 40 companies, and 130 volunteers to the Kansas State University campus for four days of intense competition, networking, and fun.

"PLANET is an international association of more than 100,000 green industry workers," said Cathie Lavis, K-State associate professor of landscape management.

Four years ago, Lavis and Greg Davis, associate professor of landscape design, got the green light to host the PLANET Student Career Days (SCD) at K-State March 22–25, 2012. It was a chance to showcase the Manhattan

Cami Zahn, left, and Jenny and Matt Long coordinated the volunteers for the event.

campus and give K-State horticulture students the opportunity to plan and run a national event.

SCD includes 28 events, requiring outdoor and indoor spaces. Having the event during spring break frees up classroom space for testing; parking lots for equipment competitions; and open Associate professors Cathie Lavis and Greg Davis with students and alumni volunteers. K-State students competed in all 28 events and placed seventh overall in the PLANET Student Career Days.

spaces for paver, plant, and irrigation installation.

"It's quite an honor to be selected as a host location, but you earn it," said Davis. "We've had amazing support from Stu Warren, our department head; the College of Agriculture; and the Kansas green industry. Still, it's been like planning a 28-ring circus — from the big picture down to the tiniest details."

Lavis and Davis knew they would need lots of help to host the event. That's where students, alumni, faculty, master gardeners, and parents stepped in to help.

Volunteers Ready and Willing

Recruiting and scheduling volunteers was a major undertaking. Matt Long (BS '08 horticulture); his wife Jenny (Combes) Long (BS '09 agribusiness); and Cami Zahn, landscape designer for



her family's business Bonnie's Water Gardens, accepted the challenge.

Zahn and Matt Long had attended PLANET as students and were familiar with the broad scope of the event. Assistant Dean Sharon (Combes) Thielen volunteered her sister, Jenny, because of her excellent organizational skills.

The team put together a detailed volunteer website that matched volunteers to times and tasks.

"The volunteer survey collected all the information we thought we would need to assign duties to the volunteers," said Zahn. "The horticulture department helped us pull everything together and post it online."

They put in long hours to ensure that everyone was in the right place and had whatever equipment, tools, or plants were needed. Organizers also provided food and water for everyone during the four-day event.

Student Involvement

About 50 K-State horticulture students were involved with coordinating the event, especially the student reception and the opening and closing ceremonies. Emily Frasier, Limon, Colo.; George Dille,Wamego, Kan.; and Chris Roesch, Marysville, Kan., led the student effort.

Frasier knew she might be involved in hosting the event before she officially enrolled at K-State.

"When Greg Davis gave Emily a tour of campus four years ago, he told her that K-State would be hosting the PLANET SCD in 2012," said Emily's mother, Cindy (BS '79 horticulture). Students Chris Roesch, Emily Frasier, and George Dille called roll during the opening ceremony.

This was Emily's fourth PLANET competition, and she invited her parents to watch her compete and to help. Both her mom and dad, Joe (BS '79 animal science), helped with events throughout the competition.

"It's special for us to be a part of this," said Mrs. Frasier. "Having the competition in various locations helps students become familiar with a broad variety of plant material and builds career networks."

Sponsors Make It Happen

"Student Career Days would not be possible without the support and sponsorship of numerous industry leaders such as Stihl Inc., John Deere, Caterpillar, Husqvarna, Hunter and Ewing Irrigation companies, and many others," Lavis said.

"Keith (BS '85 agricultural education) and Darrell (BS '58 dairy production, MS '59 horticulture) Westervelt of Blueville Nursery in Manhattan actually joined us for Atlanta's career days several years ago, to see what they were getting into."

Mark Noark, recruiter for Davey Tree Company, and other sponsors were in Manhattan from set up on Wednesday through the awards ceremony on Sunday. He had made two previous trips to campus to help select suitable trees for the arboricultural techniques (tree

climbing) events. "K-State is a valuable resource," said Noark. "It's central to the U.S. for recruiting, and the students are well educated and have a

Mark Noark, recruiter for Davey Tree Company, talks with K-State students during the career fair.



strong work ethic. Cathie and Greg are great ambassadors for the university and the green industry."

Alumni Praise SCD Benefits

Alex McClain (BS '07 horticulture) returned to PLANET in a new role. He is now irrigation service manager for Ryan Lawn & Tree in Kansas City.

"The PLANET Student Career Days event has had and will continue to have a large impact on my life," McClain said. "It encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone and grow both personally and professionally. I interviewed with over 30 employers from across the nation during the two years I attended PLANET SCD."

Robyn Schmitz (BS '09 horticulture) participated in various events during her four trips to PLANET.

"These events give students a little extra 'kick' to their résumés," Schmitz said. "The industry professionals watch the events, and it's not uncommon to get offered an interview or job after they watch students perform. Prior to graduation, I was offered jobs from six different companies, and I credit a lot of those job offers to my experiences at PLANET, and my education at KSU."

Check out these sites for more information:

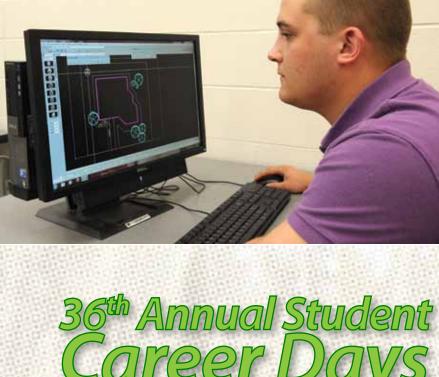


www.facebook.com/kstate.hfrr

www.studentcareerdays.org/

www.ksre.ksu.edu/planet





Austin Taylor, senior from Colby, practices computer-aided design in a Throckmorton Hall computer lab. He is a teaching assistant for Greg Davis' Horticultural Design class.



Willie gives a "thumbs up" to the K-State team competing in the hardscape installation competition at the K-State Recreation Complex playing field.



On Thursday, students attended workshops to prepare for the Saturday competitions. At left, Greg Kirkman conducts a paver workshop. He is the eastern regional sales manager for Pavestone based in Lee's Summit, Mo.

Pavestone donated the pavers used in the competition for future K-State landscaping projects.



Justin Brock holds the rope as Corwin Draper competes in the tree-climbing event. Students completed a 50-question test to qualify for the 32 competition slots.



Teams had two hours to set up a working irrigation system on the K-State Recreation Complex playing field. Teams also competed in irrigation troubleshooting. After the contest, irrigation pipes and fittings were donated for class and university projects.

Two inches of rain early in the week, increased the difficulty for the landscape plant installation. Sixty teams struggled to complete their plantings in the mud. Blueville Nursery delivered 3,660 plants and cedar mulch for the competition.

Because contestants are from various climates, Blueville ordered 50 species of woody plant varieties from southern states for the plant identification competition.





Teams particpate in the wood construction competition at the Bill Snyder Family Stadium parking lot.

K-State to Play Key Role in \$25 Million Beef Safety Research Effort

A \$25 million project will focus on ways to reduce the occurrence and public health risks from Shiga toxinproducing *Escherichia coli* (STEC), a serious threat to the food supply that results in more than 265,000 infections in the United States each year. Eating contaminated food or direct contact with fecal matter from infected cattle and other ruminants causes most of these illnesses.

The grant was awarded to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The team of 48 investigators will be led by UNL veterinary scientist Jim Keen.

"As a national leader in food safety research and education, Kansas State University is pleased to play a major role in a project so vital to the health of the American public," said Kirk Schulz, K-State president. "As we work toward becoming a top 50 public research university, projects like these showcase our exceptional research track record in this area."

Randy Phebus, K-State food scientist, will join Keen, Harshavardhan Thippareddi (MS '92, PhD '98 food science), and Rodney Moxley from UNL, and John Luchansky, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Wyndmoor, Pa., on the overall project's executive management team. That team will oversee seven interrelated projects that span the five-year life of the grant.

"This USDA-NIFA coordinated agricultural program (CAP) grant shines the light on UNL, K-State, and our other collaborators across the country to address one of the most important issues facing the beef industry, Shiga toxinproducing *E. coli* pathogens, from the calf to the beef consumer," Phebus said.

"STEC management profoundly impacts every beef producer, processor, and retailer. It is one of the most relevant public health threats in the food system. The research and education group that we have assembled is world class, and we anticipate many successes during and after the life of this grant that can be practically applied for reducing STEC risks across the beef chain."

In addition to his role on the management team, Phebus will lead a project focused on improving methods used to detect and control eight types of *E. coli* (STEC-8) that are most important to public health, including O157:H7, in postharvest beef processing. The goal is to understand how STEC-8 behaves under different conditions to enhance beef processors' food safety management systems. K-State's unique Biosecurity Research Institute biocontainment research facility will provide the large-scale laboratory setting for much of this part of the project.

Seventeen Kansas State University scientists will join researchers from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and other universities and government agencies in a coordinated, multipronged approach to improve the safety of beef. Daniel Thomson, Jones Professor of Production Medicine at K-State, feedlot veterinarian, and director of the Beef Cattle Institute (BCI), will lead efforts establishing a holistic food safety culture across all sectors of the beef food chain.

"Cattle producers, feedlot operators, transporters, processors, retailers, and consumers all must understand and execute their roles in beef safety," Thomson said. "The BCI will develop and offer training and outreach tools to enhance stakeholder knowledge for all sectors of the beef industry. This will result in a more knowledgeable beef industry workforce and an enhanced beef safety infrastructure."

Beth Montelone, K-State associate dean and professor of biology, will lead

a team that develops training for high school, undergraduate and graduate students that integrates field and laboratory research with university-level education. Internships and externships linked to the project will place students in the laboratories of the grant's scientists to learn food safety research techniques, with the goal of recruiting students into majors that will produce highly trained food safety professionals.

Other K-Staters involved with the project: Curtis Kastner, director of K-State's Food Science Institute; Ted Schroeder, Glynn Tonsor (PhD '05 agricultural economics), and Sean Fox, Department of Agricultural Economics; Ludek Zurek, Department of Entomology; Justin Kastner (BS '98 food science), David Renter, T.G. Nagaraja, Doug Powell, Michael Sanderson, and Sanjeev Narayanan, Department of Diagnostic Medicine/ Pathobiology; Jianfa Bai and Dick Oberst, Veterinary Diagnostic Lab; and Tanya Dvorak, education officer for the BRI.

In addition to K-State and UNL, participating institutions include: North Carolina State University; the University of California, Davis and Tulare campuses; the University of Delaware; Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; the New Mexico Consortium; USDA/Agricultural Research Service; New Mexico State University; Texas A&M University; and the University of Arkansas.

- Mary Lou Peter

Food scientists process ground beef inside a biosafety level 3 "BioBubble." Projects like this led to K-State's inclusion in a \$25 milion grant. From left: Nick Baumann, master's student; Randy Phebus, K-State professor; Minto Michael, doctoral candidate; John Luchansky, USDA/ARS; and Harshavardhan Thippareddi, UNL professor.

Morrill Act and K-State

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On June 2, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Act, also known as the Land-Grant College Act. It established institutions that would educate people in agriculture, home economics, mechanical arts, and other practical professions. A Second Morrill Act was passed Aug. 30, 1890, to expand the land-grant system to include black institutions.

In 2013, Kansas State University will celebrate its 150th anniversary. It was established on Feb. 16, 1863, and opened on Sept. 2, 1863, as Kansas' land-grant institution.

The mission of the land-grant universities was expanded by the Hatch Act of 1887, which provided federal funds to establish agricultural experiment stations to pass along new information, especially in the areas of soil minerals and plant growth. The Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station accepted the provisions of the Hatch Act on March 3, 1887, 125 years ago.

The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 further expanded the land-grant mission, allowing agents to bring agricultural research results to the end users through the Cooperative Extension Service. In 1996, K-State combined its two units to form K-State Research and Extension.



This photograph from a glass negative was taken at the Fort Hays Branch Agricultural Experiment Station, June 1914.

A few highlights:

K-State has released 38 wheat varieties. In 2009, the Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service reported K-State developed four of the state's Top 10 most grown varieties — Overley (1), Fuller (2), Jagger (5) and 2137 (8).

Reginald Painter taught the first K-State course in host plant resistance in 1937 and published the first book on the subject in 1951. Host plant resistance is the genetic ability of a cultivar to produce a larger or higher quality crop compared with other cultivars exposed to the same infestation level.

In 1932, L.J. Bratzler, a K-State graduate student, modified a shear developed by K.F. Warner, USDA research scientist. The Warner-Bratzler shear is the most widely used and accepted method to determine the tenderness of meat.

K-State scientists were the first to conceive and test the idea of insecticide-impregnated ear tags for fly control on cattle.

Animal scientists, led by John Brethour, perfected the use of ultrasound technology that allows feedlot managers to scan large numbers of cattle and accurately predict the optimum time they should be marketed.

K-State agronomists developed the basic foundation of reduced tillage and herbicides in wheat-sorghum-fallow crop rotations in the western Great Plains.

Grain scientist Paul Seib invented the resistant starch technology, a way to modify plant-based starches to resist digestive juices.

Bikram Gill, university distinguished professor of plant pathology, is listed as one of the world's most influential researchers in the plant and animal science category. According to ISIHighlyCited.com, his work was cited 2,177 times, which

> put him among the top half of one percent among publishing authors.

Steam pasteurization technology for beef carcasses — which has significantly helped the meat industry control pathogenic bacteria and reduce the incidence of foodborne illness — was validated by K-State food scientists.

Irrigation engineer Freddie Lamm maintains the longest continuously operated subsurface drip irrigation (SDI) research system for row crops in North America.

A team of K-State food scientists, led by Daniel Fung, has discovered that spices prevent the formation of cancer-causing compounds while grilling meat.

Agricultural economist Art Barnaby developed the Crop Revenue Coverage (CRC) Insurance Program that provides greater availability of risk management tools to local farmers. CRC has provided more than \$100 billion of protection for farmers.

The website www.agmanager.info receives more than 60,000 visits per month and is a repository for current decision-aids and tools to equip producers with the latest research from the Department of Agricultural Economics.

K-State's advocates for the land-grant mission

CARE*Tgems*

Since 2005, Steve Irsik and Connie Pelton Kays have served as Kansas' representatives to the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching. CARET volunteers from the 50 states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia advocate for greater national support and understanding of the land-grant university system's food and agricultural research, extension, and teaching programs that enhance the quality of life for all people.

As CARET delegates, Irsik and Kays spend four days in Washington, D.C., each year, attending informational meetings and in face-to-face visits with legislators on agricultural issues.

They meet with other delegates about the needs of the land-grant system and how to get their story across to Congress. The intent is to maintain and increase funding for land-grant institutions.

"The Washington trip can be hectic — meeting with all the senators and representatives," Irsik said. "Delegates from all the states are there; collectively we have a big impact."

The Kansas delegation picks three to four important topics and prepares a one-page summary of funding that has been received and the money needed to sustain the projects. The dean or another administrator accompanies the delegates, but the delegates do the talking, explained Irsik.

"As benefactors of our programs, they provide an independent testament to the value of what we provide for the citizens of Kansas," said Gary Pierzynski, interim dean of the College of Agriculture. "We greatly appreciate their efforts and support."

2012 marks the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act that created land-grant universities and the 30th anniversary of CARET.

In the fall, Irsik and Kays meet with legislative aides in Manhattan. Faculty



Connie Kays and Steve Irsik enjoy a Call Hall ice cream break between meetings with legislative aides.

and graduate students also give project updates and answer questions.

"It's a good opportunity to learn about new projects and build personal relationships with congressional staff," Irsik said.

Irsik (BS '69 agricultural economics) is general manager of an agricultural operation in western Kansas. Kays (BS '81, MS '84 animal science, BS '88 business administration) owns the Joe Smith Company, a wholesale distributorship for convenience stores and small grocery stores, in Pittsburg.

As alumni of the college, they are familiar with the educational programs and maintain strong ties to the university, college, and the departments that granted their degrees.

In 2008, Irsik was named the College of Agriculture Alumni Fellow and the Department of Agricultural Economics Distinguished Alumnus. In 2010, he received the Agriforestry Award from the Kansas Forest Service. He also served on the Livestock Meat Industry Council and as a board member of the Masters in Agribusiness program.

Kays was named the College of Agriculture Outstanding Young Alumnus in 2000. She served as president of the Ag Alumni Association and as a member of the KSU Alumni Association Board during the design and development of the Alumni Center. She also serves as the National CARET liaison to the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy.

Kays explained why they volunteer their time to represent K-State.

"Steve and I are advocates for the land-grant system because we see the impact the university and its program have on the local, regional, and state level," Kays said. "I can't imagine our communities without the influence of the College of Agriculture and its programs."

Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, Google+, Foursquare ... the list goes on and on in the cyber world of social media. Making connections, establishing relationships, and sharing information are just a few of the reasons users log on every day.

onnected

Tube

Report Sprin

The College of Agriculture is one of nearly 500 million users on Twitter, and one of 800 million users on Facebook. The college is staying on top of an ever-changing medium.

In fall 2010, the college made social media a priority. Sharon Thielen, assistant dean, was at the forefront of this change. She created a student position in the academic programs office to dedicate 10 hours per week to monitoring and publishing social media content.

Kate Bormann, senior in agricultural communications and journalism and former college social media coordinator, experienced firsthand the dramatic increase in social media connections.

"We saw a sharp increase in outreach, followers, and 'buzz' about the college on the social media outlets," said Bormann.

Social media provide an avenue for all ages and backgrounds to connect with the college.

"Alumni and current and prospective students can stay connected with their K-State family by following and liking our sites," said Thielen.

Since August 2010, the Kansas State University College of Agriculture Facebook page has received 1,823 "likes," for a total of 2,771 subscribers to the college's posts.

The college also has a presence on Twitter, *@kstateag*, with 1,712 followers. Both social media sites draw current and prospective students, alumni, parents, friends of the college, and agricultural companies.

To connect with these followers, the student coordinator tweets five to six times a day and posts on Facebook once a day. Followers receive college event notifications, updates on student and faculty success, and agricultural news. The college launched new social media campaigns to develop a stronger brand and relationship with followers.

Each October, the college exhibits at the career show at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. A recent addition — a green screen that allows FFA members to select a fun, agricultural backdrop, take a photo in front of the screen, and upload the finished image to Facebook — has been popular. During the 2011 convention, the college's Facebook page received 942 visits, an increase from 132 the week before.

"Social media gives us an opportunity to reach people in many different ways," said Associate Dean Don Boggs. "Not everyone goes to the website or gets a brochure. Not everyone knows an alum. This is another way to reach people and get our message to them."

Each February, students staff the phones during Telefund. Some agricultural companies, including Cargill and General Mills, match donations made by their employees. To thank donors and student callers, K-State Ag tweets during the six, three-hour Telefund sessions. Twitter users who answer College of Agriculture trivia questions win Call Hall ice cream, and alumni often tweet about their donations and engage in conversation via Twitter with K-State Ag.

"Twitter is a simple, fast way to connect with a group we cannot thank enough for their generosity," Boggs said.

Other K-State colleges have noticed agriculture's successful social media track record. In January 2012, the College of Agriculture presented an educational session for the colleges of Engineering and Business Administration on social media campaigns, the value of social media, and trends.

The college plans to continue its social media efforts. Thielen said the next step is to increase the college's presence on YouTube with videos highlighting its hands-on classes, student diversity, award-winning faculty, vast opportunities, and family atmosphere.

"Staying on top of social media trends and actively participating on the platforms is one more way we can communicate and engage with various audiences," said Bormann. "Keeping in touch with our alums, both current and prospective students, and fans is important."

To stay connected to the college, follow Twitter, @kstateag, or like Kansas State University College of Agriculture on Facebook.

— Nellie Hill

K-State Agriculture Mattan, KS http://www.ag.ksu.edu kstateag ristateag Call Hall Ice creat kstateag ions to the exstateag Grops m. 2011 National Champions KSUABCAT orgrats to the over 90 Okstateag idents who made it into the KSUAgCAT Program this year fgreatgroup #agriculture 12

Sharing Information in Multiple Formats

K-State Research and Extension agents and specialists also are experimenting with social media to communicate with their diverse clientele across the state. Facebook is a popular way to stay in touch with 4-H families.

For example, the River Valley District — which includes the counties of Clay, Cloud, Republic, and Washington — has had a 4-H Facebook page for two years and an Operation Military Kids (OMK) Facebook page for about a year.

"On our 4-H page, we publicize upcoming events, offer information on local and state 4-H opportunities, share district 4-H success stories, and provide 4-H promotional information," said John Forshee (BS '82 agricultural education), River Valley District director. "Our OMK Facebook page was developed to reach military families living off-base in the district."

In addition to Facebook, offcampus units are posting to Twitter and blogs. A number of family and consumer sciences agents tweeted prepared messages from America Saves, a national campaign to encourage people to save.

Bill Reid, at the Pecan Experiment Field in Chetopa, uses photos and short posts to draw pecan growers to his blog *northernpecans*. *blogspot.com*.

Photos and videos also can be shared online. Some offices make photos available through Flickr, an online photo-sharing site, and more than 100 gardening videos have been posted to *http://www. kansasgreenyards.org* and YouTube.

K-State Research and Extension is finding new and innovative ways to fulfill its mission of sharing research-based information with Kansans.

Student Highlights



Nate Spriggs Reelected Student Body President

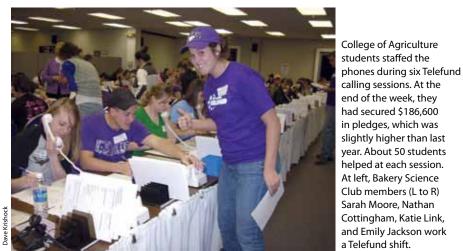
The College of Agriculture has an impressive leadership tradition. Nate Spriggs, senior in agricultural economics and food science with a minor in leadership studies, Riverton, was reelected student body president.

That's four in a row; eight of the last 10 presidents were elected from the college. Nate is the third K-Stater to serve two terms in a row. Jackie McClaskey and Jeff Peterson, also agriculture students, served consecutive terms.

In addition to serving as the 2011–12 student body president, Spriggs chaired the tuition strategies committee and served on numerous campus committees. He is a member of Mortar Board Senior Honorary, Student Alumni Board, the College of Agriculture Ambassadors, and Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity, as well as a volunteer campus tour guide for new student services.

Kate Bormann, senior in agricultural communications, served as vice president for his first term. Grant Hill, junior in accounting, will serve as VP for his second term.

"We look forward to working with students and administration to enhance the overall K-State experience both within and outside the classroom," Spriggs said. "We remain committed to engaging students from across campus and will work to balance campus needs with affordability when reviewing student tuition and fees."



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Student shorts

- Ian Kenney, graduate student in agronomy, won the "Best Graduate Student Poster" at the Water and the Future of Kansas Conference.
- Priscilla Mfombep, an agronomy graduate student, won the Soil Science Society of America video competition in San Antonio, Texas. Watch it at *http://youtu.be/4ruQBxa3GyE*.
- At the 2011 American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers Annual International meeting, the Agricultural Technology Management Club won the 2011 Association of Equipment Manufacturers Trophy Award for Outstanding Student Mechanization Branch.
- Hannah Leventhal, master's student in equine nutrition and first-year veterinary medicine student, has been chosen as the United States Zone first place undergraduate winner for the Alltech Young Scientist competition. She also won first place for all of North America and will present her research in May at a global competition in Lexington, Ky. Her research may have implications related to the development of laminitis in horses.



For the fourth year in a row the Food Product Development Team took first place at the AACC International annual competition. Team members were graduate students Ashley Pruett and Marc Bianchi and undergraduate Elyse Buckley. Their winning entry was Crunchums, a popped sorghum snack with raspberries and jalapeños. The team is coached by professor Fadi Aramouni.



Students Advocate for Agriculture in Washington



Six College of Agriculture students representing various organizations went to Washington, D.C., for National Agriculture Day. They spoke to legislators on the vital role agriculture plays in society.

Jessica Zimmerman serves as president of the national Students of Agronomy, Soils, and Environmental Sciences, a student group supported by K-Staters (from left) Paige Druffel, Mark Avilla, Casey Droddy, and Amanda Spoo tour Washington, D.C., during National Agriculture Day events.

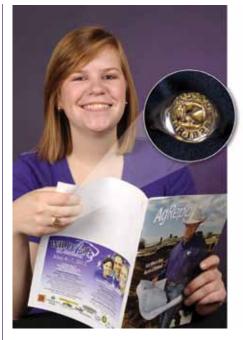
the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America.

Zimmerman participated on the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) crops judging team and the graduate weeds team for two years. She is a teaching assistant for the Plant Identification class taught by Kevin Donnelly.

Agricultural communications and journalism students Paige Druffel, Pullman, Wash.; Amanda Spoo, Hermiston, Ore.; Casey Droddy, Princeton, Kan.; and Mark Avilla, Modesto, Calif.; and agribusiness major Hillary Breene, West Greenwich, R.I., represented Agriculture Future of America (AFA). Since 2008, AFA has participated alongside 4-H, FFA, and other collegiate agricultural organizations to send students to Washington, D.C., for National Agriculture Day.



Jessica Zimmerman inspects plants and weeds used in the Plant Identification class and for practice judging. She serves as president of Students of Agronomy, Soils, and Environmental Sciences.



Grad Models 1925 KSAC Ring

When Abbey Heikes received her degree in bakery science and management in December 2011, she was wearing a 1925 Kansas State Agricultural College ring that had belonged to her great-grandfather John Keas. Heikes is a fourth generation K-State alumna.

Keas earned a degree in dairy production and worked in the Glenn Beck Dairy Barn, which now houses the Insect Zoo. He met his wife, Leona Supernaugh, when they were K-State students. Their daughter Doris Keas (BS '53) married Duane Heikes (BS '51 business, BS '59 education).

Abbey's father Keith followed in the footsteps of his grandfather John Keas by earning a degree in dairy production in 1979. He is the vice president for dairy genetics and global alliance development for Genex Cooperative, a subsidiary of Cooperative Resources International in Shawno, Wis. Her mother Diane (Tompkins) Heikes (BS '79 family economics) is director of Junior Achievement of Wisconsin in Shawano.

Abbey is associate food scientist at Pinnacle Foods LLC, Parsippany, N.J. She works in the Duncan Hines Grocery Division, where she is on the innovation team for the Duncan Hines brand.

Faculty Notes

Agricultural Economics

Barry Flinchbaugh, professor, received the Distinguished Service to American and World Agriculture Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, the Veritas Award from American Agri-Women, and the inaugural Wildcat Pride Award from the K-State Alumni Association for faculty service to alumni.

Agronomy

Kevin Donnelly, professor of agronomy, received the 2011 Crop Science Teaching Award from the Crop Science Society of America. Bill Schapaugh, soybean breeder and interim department head, and 11 producers from northern and midwestern states, participated in the Regional Exchange and Awareness Program in Tennessee.

Animal Sciences and Industry

Joann Kouba, associate professor of equine physiology, received the 2012 Outstanding Young Teacher Award from the American Society of Animal Science Midwestern Section and American Dairy Science Association Midwest Branch at the joint association section meeting in Des Moines.

Communications and Agricultural Education

The Kansas Board of Regents approved a name change from the Department of Communications to the Department of Communications and Agricultural Education.

Kris Boone, department head, presented "Communications leaders creating the next generation: How is this generation preparing the next generation to cope and flourish amid these pressing challenges?" at a firstof-its-kind international agricultural communications symposium at the University of Illinois.

Entomolgy

Kun Yan Zhu, professor, was appointed to the editorial board of

the international journal, *Pesticide Biochemistry and Physiology.* **Raymond Cloyd**, professor, and Ricard Cowles of the Connecticut Agricultural Research Station, received the Outstanding Leaflet Award from the American Society of Horticultural Science. Cloyd also received the 2011 Alex Laurie Award for Research and Education from the Society of American Florists.

Grain Science and Industry

Sajid Alavi, associate professor, was named an adjunct professor by the academic council of Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology College of Technology and Engineering, and the Department of Processing and Food Engineering in Udaipur, India.

The North American Millers' Association (NAMA) has made a commitment of \$300,000 to the Department of Grain Science and Industry to establish the NAMA Instructor of Milling Award. Fran Churchill (BS '83 milling science and management), who has more than 20 years of milling industry experience, has been hired for the position. Xiuzhi "Susan" Sun, university distinguished professor, received a Higuchi-University of Kansas Endowment Research Achievement Award, which includes a plaque and a \$10,000 grant to be used for research materials, summer salaries, fellowship matching funds, hiring research assistants, or other research support. Subramanyam "Subi" Bhadriraju, professor, was named the first Donald A. Wilbur Endowed Professor in Stored-Product Protection for three years. The endowed professorship was created by Don and Eunice Wilbur to honor Prof. Donald A. Wilbur, former entomology professor. The award will alternate between faculty members in the departments of Entomology and Grain Science and Industry.

Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources

Dale Bremer, turfgrass scientist, received the Outstanding Associate Editor Award from the editorial board of the journal *Crop Science*. **Ted Cable**, professor, and Mary Hale Tolar, director of the School of Leadership Studies, received a \$10,000 2011 Academic Excellence Award to bring faculty from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Kenya to K-State. The Kenyan faculty are meeting with researchers, speaking to classes, and giving seminars.

Sid Stevenson, associate professor of recreation resources, was highlighted in the December issue of *Parks & Recreation* magazine for compiling the statewide park and recreation geodatabase and converting that data to the National Recreation and Park Association GIS model, making Kansas the first state with comprehensive coverage.

Southeast Agricultural Research Center

The Research Center Administrators Society honored Lyle Lomas with its Distinguished Service Award for his years of service to the organization. He oversees K-State's research locations in Mound Valley, Parsons, Columbus, and Altamont and directs the center's beef cattle research.

Daniel Sweeney, professor of soil and water management, received the 2011 Werner L. Nelson Award for Diagnosis of Yield-Limiting Factors from the American Society of Agronomy.

Southwest Research-Extension Center

Norman Klocke, irrigation engineer, and Loyd Stone, professor of agronomy, received a 2011 Educational Aids Blue Ribbon Award from the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers for outstanding educational material in the electronic and Webbased delivery category. The pair, along with two private computing specialists, developed the Crop Yield Predictor, a new computer modeling tool for irrigators.

Innovation Awards

The horticultural therapy graduate certificate won the Innovative Credit Program Award, the food science program earned the Mature Credit Program Award, and the NurseryWorks Conference received the Innovative Noncredit Program Award from the central region of the University Professional and Continuing Education Association.

K-State Research and Extension

Cindy Evans, Shawnee County family and consumer sciences agent, and David Key (BS '86, MS '87 agricultural education), Meadowlark District director, were selected as north central region participants in the 2012 National Extension Leadership Development Program. The program consists of three seminars and a trip to Costa Rica.

In Memorium

Donald Leo Figurski, Fort Collins, Colo., died Oct. 13, 2011. He began his

career in Colorado in 1955. In 1966, he became district extension economist, farm management in Hiawatha, Kan. He moved to area extension economist in Manhattan in 1972 and remained in that position until his retirement in 1989.

Gary M. Paulsen, 72, Manhattan, died Dec. 28, 2011. He joined the K-State Department of Agronomy in 1965 as a crop physiologist. He was the major professor for 80 MS and PhD students; at times, there were students and visiting professors from six continents in his laboratory. He received many awards for his teaching and research. His most cherished award was from the department heads of agronomy, horticulture, and plant pathology for "Outstanding leadership and tireless effort during planning, construction, and equipping Phase I and Phase II of the Throckmorton Plant Sciences Center." He retired in 2003 and operated an Angus and Hereford cattle partnership near Olsburg, Kan.



Larry Berger (BS '73, MS '75 animal science) spoke with retired animal science faculty on Oct. 18, during their regular breakfast at Vista Drive In Restaurant in Manhattan. Berger is head of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Animal Science. He attributed much of his career development to the faculty in the room, especially Dave Mugler, who recruited him to K-State at an FFA speech competition in Illinois. Berger's twin brother, Loren, also completed BS and MS degrees in animal science.

Department Head Ken Odde estimated that the group had more than 500 years of service to Kansas State University. Standing from left: Cliff Spaeth, Jack Riley, Larry O'Neill, Ben Brent, and John Schlender; seated from left: Don Kropf, Melvin Hunt, Bob Schalles, David Schafer, Carroll Hess, Dave Schoneweis, Larry Berger, Herman Westmeyer, Odde, Miles McKee, Guy Kiracofe, and Mugler.



K-State current or retired faculty have been named to the top 150 Kansas scientists.

Current K-State faculty

- Dan Devlin, director of the Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment, studies water quality and water quantity.
- Abbey Nutsch, assistant professor of food science, has studied intervention technologies to kill bacteria on beef carcasses.
- Charles Rice, university distinguished professor of agronomy, researches how agriculture can adapt and provide a solution to climate change.
- Xiuzhi "Susan" Sun, university distinguished professor of grain science, focuses on how to make materials from grain byproducts.
- Anna Whitfield, associate professor of plant pathology, specializes in the study of plant diseases.

Retired faculty

- **R. Carl Hoseney** studied the ways milling and dough quality affect baking.
- Robert Schoeff was considered one of the world's experts in mill and elevator safety.
- Paul Seib researched carbohydrates, especially starches to increase dietary fiber and lower calories.
- Charles O. Swanson combined K-State's milling, baking, and feed technologies into one department, making it the only such department at a university in the United States.

To view the entire list, go to *http://www.adastra-ks.org/ events/150_scientists_index.html.*

Classroom Style *Ag economist honored for innovative teaching methods*

Since joining K-State's Department of Agricultural Economics in 1986, Allen Featherstone has taught a variety of innovative undergraduate and graduate classes. He was recently recognized for his efforts with a regional teaching award from the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities.

K-State has received 11 APLU teaching awards — second only to the University of Florida with 12 and tied with the University of Illinois.

Featherstone teaches Comparative Food and Agriculture Systems with eight international professors to educate students on the global dimensions of agriculture. He also teaches a course in conjunction with Frontier Farm Credit where the class serves as a board of directors. "The students research and ultimately resolve decisions that a board of directors would face," Featherstone said. "The 'real world' experience is invaluable as they move from the 'black and white' of academe into their careers. The goal is to prepare the next generation of directors for profit and nonprofit enterprises in rural America."

In 1998, he guided the development of K-State's award-winning Master in Agribusiness (MAB) degree, a distanceeducation program for individuals who do not have access to a traditional on-campus degree program. It is a combination of a master's degree in agricultural economics and a master's of business administration (MBA) degree with a focus on the food system.

"Through communication with the on-campus distance education

<image>

developers, we developed a system that catered to different learning styles through the use of audio voiceovers, live audio chatrooms, and a combination of four one-week campus sessions over a two-year period," Featherstone explained.

"It provides a quality professional degree experience by challenging the students to apply the knowledge gained in the program to their day-to-day decision-making process."

Featherstone's students often express their appreciation for his teaching style and dedication.

"In Dr. Featherstone's class, Financial Management, I learned techniques that more than paid for the tuition of the whole program," said Ben McClure, farm manager for Kramer Farms in Hugoton, Kan.

Carlos Piana, manager of international trade, Universal Sweet Industries in Ecuador, was a student in the MAB program.

"As an international student, I was hoping to not only earn a master's degree from a highly reputable U.S. institution, but to also develop connections with my cohort members and faculty members," said Piana.

"Dr. Featherstone made a positive impression on me from the first week the program started. He was always available to answer questions through the weekly chat sessions, by email, or in person during the campus sessions.

"He goes above and beyond to make sure all students have a good understanding of course material and know that their concerns or struggles with the program are important. His dedication and enthusiasm for teaching in the MAB program is extremely valuable to the success of the program."

Allen Featherstone teaching one of his classes in a Waters Hall classroom.

A Tribute to the Kansas Wheat Industry

Wheat breeder Joe Martin retired January 2012, concluding his 37-year career at the Agricultural Research Center–Hays.

His departure and service to the wheat industry in Kansas and beyond was noted by journalists around the state. Larry Dreiling of the *High Plains Journal* referred to Martin as "the unsung hero of wheat," and Mike Corn of the *Hays Daily News* called Martin the "face of Kansas wheat."

Martin earned the respect of farmers, journalists, and fellow scientists for his dedication to the Kansas wheat industry.

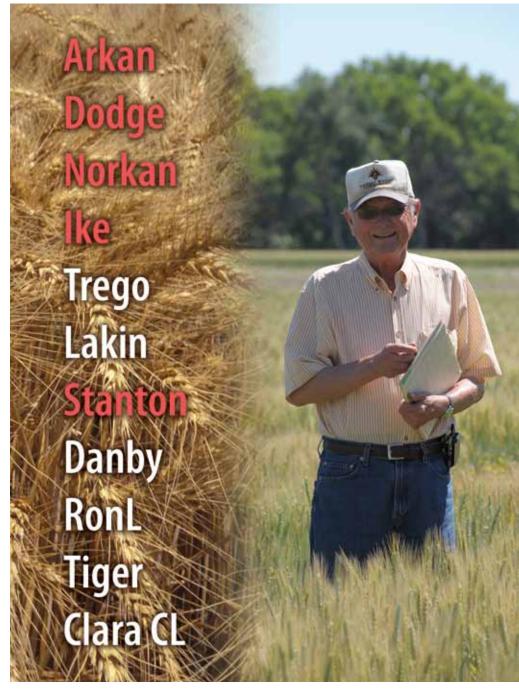
He joined the faculty at Hays in 1974 as a plant pathologist and took over as wheat breeder in 1979 to develop wheat especially suitable for western Kansas. During his tenure, he developed hard red winter wheat varieties — Arkan, Dodge, Norkan, Ike, and Stanton. Martin also field tested varieties developed by wheat breeders on the Manhattan campus to see how those varieties fared in western Kansas.

In response to international market opportunities for white wheat, Joe shifted the Hays program's focus to white wheat in 1987. He developed six hard white winter wheat varieties — Trego; Lakin; Danby; RonL, named for his predecessor Ron Livers; Tiger, a tribute to the many Fort Hays State University Tigers who worked for him during the summer; and Clara CL, named for his granddaughter.

White wheat hasn't been as widely received as Martin had hoped — only about 5 percent of Kansas wheat acreage is planted to white wheat varieties. In 2005, he revised the breeding program to include both red and white winter wheats.

Wheat breeding is a long, step-bystep process to incorporate disease resistance, drought tolerance, and insect resistance, while maintaining or increasing yields. It can take 10 to 12 years to develop a new variety; however, the research has proved valuable for Kansas — a return of \$18.50 for every dollar spent.

In March, Martin's replacement Guorong Zhang joined the faculty at the Hays research center. His extensive experience in barley and wheat breeding in China and North Dakota will help him fill the big shoes of Joe Martin, the unsung hero of Kansas wheat.



Speaking from Experience

Alumni Fellow Jim Riemann shares life lessons with students



Jim Riemann's career path has taken some interesting turns ... from the classroom to industry, from marketing executive to retirement and now government. In February, he was honored as the 2012 College of Agriculture Alumni Fellow.

While in Manhattan to accept the award, he shared with students and faculty how his experiences at Kansas State University have supported his varied career.

"I'm humbled by this honor," Riemann said. "I haven't achieved any successes on my own. When people offered me opportunities, I was willing to take a chance."

Riemann serves as assistant secretary of the Kansas Department of Agriculture. In that position, he leads the Agricultural and Business Services Division, which includes the laboratory, dairy, food safety and lodging, meat and poultry inspection, plant protection and weed control, pesticide and fertilizer, and agriculture marketplace protection.

He admits that a political career was far from his first choice. He earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural education in 1966 and had enrolled in graduate school to become a vocational agriculture teacher when he was drafted into the U.S. Army.

As a first lieutenant, he considered a military career, but his love of agriculture drew him back to K-State. He contacted Don Kropf, his former meats judging team coach, about applying for graduate school. Riemann was accepted and completed a master's degree in animal science with an emphasis on meat science in 1973 and a doctorate in food science in 1974.

Comfortable in the Classroom

For the next 15 years, Riemann taught meat science at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. He also conducted research on meat animal composition, meat palatability, packaging, and further processing. One of his students was Randy Phebus, who is now a K-State professor of food science. Riemann addressed Phebus' Introduction to Food Science class.

"Having alumni come back and talk with us is very important... I appreciated the opportunity to meet such a great alumnus."

"Having Dr. Riemann visit my class now to discuss agriculture and food science with my undergraduate students almost seems like coming full circle to my undergraduate days at Tennessee," said Phebus.

"One of the most rewarding personal relationships that I've had over my adult life, both personally and professionally, has been with Dr. Jim Riemann. He told me about the great opportunities in food science and convinced me to enter graduate school."

While on campus, Riemann talked to students in six other classes and met informally with faculty and students. He encouraged students to be proactive about applying for scholarships, internships, and jobs. "Pay attention to details — make sure you include all the materials required on the application," Riemann said. "Be sure you sell yourself by including all your leadership activities. Write a detailed resume and make sure your references know what you want them to include in their letter. Finally, follow up to make sure your packet and all the reference letters were received."



Jim Riemann answers questions from a student.

R&D Chapter

In 1992, Dell Allen (BS '62 animal science) contacted Riemann about a new opportunity. Allen, former K-State faculty and Riemann's former professor, worked for Cargill. Allen encouraged Riemann to accept a position as director of a new beef research and development project for Excel Corp., a division of Cargill in Wichita.

About that time news broke about a huge beef recall where four people died and many became ill, Riemann told students in Terry Houser's Meat Processing class. "We were determined that we would not have an instance like that."

Excel began working with Frigoscandia, a food equipment

> Alumni Fellow Jim Riemann talks to graduate students in Professor Liz Boyle's Meat Technology class.

manufacturer, and K-State on a steam pasteurization process to kill *E. coli* contamination. Riemann is listed on the patent for the process.

"We did pilot plant testing on steam pasteurization right here in Weber Hall with microbiology and meat science faculty, including my former student Randy Phebus and his student Abbey Nutsch," Riemann explained.

Another Opportunity

About six years later another K-Stater approached Riemann with an opportunity. Larry Corah (BS '61 animal science), former K-State beef cattle specialist and part of the executive team at Certified Angus Beef LLC, asked Riemann to consider the presidency of Certified Angus Beef (CAB), the oldest and largest branded beef program.

"I told him I was a teacher and a scientist," Riemann said. "I didn't know anything about marketing. Then I remembered my brother telling me, 'Don't say no until you've researched it."

Riemann went to Wooster, Ohio, to make a presentation at CAB. He liked what he saw, interviewed for the job, and was hired. He spent the next year working with Mick Colvin, company founder and current president.

"I found that my background brought science to the discussion of evaluating meat products," Riemann stated. "I continued to use my meat science training."

A Brief Retirement

Riemann retired from Certified Angus Beef in 2006 and was living in Wamego when he received a call from Dale Rodman (BS '63 feed science and management) to serve on governorelect Sam Brownback's transition team. Riemann declined.

Rodman, who had now become Kansas Secretary of Agriculture, called again to ask Riemann to become assistant secretary of the Kansas Department of Agriculture. Eventually, Riemann accepted the new challenge.

"The government process was a steep learning curve," Riemann admitted. "I find it interesting and continue to learn. There's a huge growth opportunity for agriculture in Kansas."

He encouraged students to check out the Kansas Department of Agriculture website and to always be open to new opportunities.

"Having alumni come back and talk with us is very important," said Alexandra Christiansen, food science undergraduate recruiter and graduate research assistant. "Dr. Riemann has such a wide range of experiences, he could really tell us the differences in careers within the agricultural industry. I appreciated the opportunity to meet such a great alumnus."



Class Notes

1950

Bob (BS animal science) and **Oma Lou Mushrush**, Elmdale, and **Joe** and **Connie Mushrush** (both BS '80 animal science), Strong City, received the 2012 Stockmen of the Year award at the Livestock and Meat Industry Council banquet on March 1.

1951

Virgil Severans (BS agricultural education, MS '56 animal science) moved to Alaska in 1956. He taught high school general science and biology for five years then became an agriculture extension agent. He retired in 1985 and now grows vegetables to sell at the farmers market and to local restaurants.

1959

A display case in the Call Hall Dairy Bar was dedicated to Harold Roberts (BS, MS '68 dairy production) in January 2012. The case holds vintage dairy packaging from K-State and other Kansas dairies. He taught at K-State (1963–1994) and coached the Dairy Products Judging Team for more than 20 years.

1973

Curt Frasier (BS animal science) was elected chair of the KSU Foundation Board of Directors. He is a partner in the law firm Frasier & Johnson LLC in Beloit and has served on the board since 2006.

1979

Bill Hartman (BS food science), owner and president of Sierra Dairy Laboratory Inc. in Visalia, Calif., and his wife Marla have established the Hartman Family Scholarship in food science and industry.

1980

Jack Lindquist (BS agricultural education), president of the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership program, was honored by the Kansas House of Representatives for his work in developing agricultural leadership across Kansas.

1982

Craig Jagger (MS agricultural economics) earned the 2011 Bruce Gardner Memorial Prize for Applied Policy Analysis given by the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association. He was an agricultural economist with the House Committee on Agriculture, and worked for the Congressional Budget Office, USDA's Farm Service Agency, the U.S. Government Accountability Office, and USDA's Economic Research Service.

1999

Andrea Burns (BS animal science) Ford County agricultural and natural resources agent and her husband, Chad, announced the birth of their third son, Carson Michael, on Sept. 13, 2011.

2001

Instructor **Brandie (Rice) Disberger** (BS '01 agricultural education, MS '03 secondary education) and her husband, William (BS '00 agricultural education/ animal science, MS '03 secondary education), assistant admissions director, announced the birth of Brigham Gage Disberger on Sept. 25, 2011.

2002

Tryon Wickersham (MS, PhD '06 animal science), assistant professor in the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University, received the 2011 Association of Former Students' Distinguished Achievement Award for College-Level Teaching from Texas A&M.

2004

Golfdom magazine interviewed Chris Erickson (BS horticulture), San Marcos, Calif., superintendent at the Crosby at Rancho Santa Fe, about his K-State education in golf course management.

Jodi Mason (BS agricultural education), Wichita, is the manager of design, development, and learning for the Organizational Development Department at Via Christi Health.



Joe Robertson (BS '40 milling science and management), 94, Brownstown, Ind., is the oldest living K-State men's basketball letterman. He wore his letterman's jacket to the Legends Reunion before the K-State vs. Oklahoma game. He talked about his life and travels with Larry Weigel, who lettered 1965–67, and gave Weigel a copy of his book, *On Kilroy's Trail: A World of Travel*. Roberston has been around the world four times and visited 160 countries. The records for Robertson Corporation are stored in the Hale Library Archives. In 2012, the 128-year-old milling business donated antique mill machinery to the Smithsonian Institution. Robertson is shown with Indiana friends Carl Shake and Jon Robson and Stormy Kennedy, Manhattan.

2005

Kelsey (Nordyke) Holcomb (MS animal science), Cowley County 4-H Youth Development agent, and her husband, Nathan, announced the birth of their son, Coy Logan, on Nov. 21, 2011.

2009

Brandi (Buzzard) Frobose (BS animal science/agricultural economics), animal science graduate student, was featured in the March 3 issue of Drovers CattleNetwork, "Five minutes with social media agvocate Brandi Buzzard." Kyle Steele (BS food science, MS '11 animal science) and Melissa Weber (MS '07, PhD '11 animal science) working with professors Elizabeth Boyle and Melvin Hunt, found that using light-emitting diode (LED) lights in refrigeration units saves energy for meat retailers and extends the shelf life of some beef products. Steele presented their research at the Capitol Graduate Research Summit in Topeka.

2011

Danielle Hill (BS animal science) was selected as Miss K-State Wildcat and will compete in the Miss Kansas pageant in June. She is a student at Cleveland Chiropractic College.

In Memorium

James Balding (BS '60 feed science and management, MS '71 agricultural economics), 79, Manhattan, died Dec. 26, 2011. He worked in the feed manufacturing businesses in Chicago, Georgia, and North Carolina before pursuing graduate studies. He was a grain science faculty member for 26 years. He did consulting to improve feed mill safety and production in Europe and Asia for the American Soybean Association.

Orville Burtis Jr. (BS'41 agronomy), 93, Lenexa, died Jan. 8, 2012. After graduation, he served in the U.S. Army. In 1947, he took a job as ranch manager for Davis-Noland-Merrill Grain Co., which was renamed the Z Bar Cattle Co. He became president and general manager of the company until it was dissolved in 1986. In retirement, he farmed and raised Barona cattle. The outdoor arena at K-State's Equine Education Center is named in his honor.

Frank R. Carpenter (BS '48 agricultural education, MS '51 education), 91, Manhattan, died Nov. 6, 2011. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he taught high school vocational agriculture and then served as Kansas Executive Secretary of FFA. He completed a PhD at the University of Missouri at Columbia. In 1961, he became assistant dean of resident instruction for the K-State College of Agriculture and was associate dean from 1977 until his retirement in 1986.

Richard Marvin Cranston (BS '58 agricultural education, MS '61 agricultural education), 77, New Glarus, Wis., died Feb. 22, 2011. Charles Imthurn (BS '55 animal science), Maple Hill, 78, died Oct. 23, 2011. After serving as a U.S. Air Force officer (1955–1958), he pursued a lifelong career in cattle ranching and promoting the livestock and beef industry. He retired in 1998. In 2001, he received the K-State Agricultural Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Francis Hobart Means Jr. (MS '59 agronomy), 78, Midwest City, Okla., died Aug. 6, 2011.He completed additional botany degrees at Mississippi State and Oklahoma State universities. He taught at Eastern Oklahoma State College, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, and Rose State College. He was regarded as an authority on the flora of southeast Oklahoma because of his extensive collection of flowering plant species from that region. Christopher Ryan Raines (MS'06 animal science, PhD '08, food science), 29, Centre Hall, Pa., died Dec. 18, 2011, in a car accident. He was an assistant professor of meat science and technology at Pennsylvania State University. He was an innovative communicator, and those on Twitter knew him as ITweetMeat. Merril Werts (BS '47 animal science), 88, died Sept. 29, 2011. After a decorated career in the U.S. Army (1943–1946), he returned to K-State, then earned an MS in agricultural economics at Cornell University in 1948. He began his banking career in Topeka. He was president of the First National Bank in Junction City, helped charter the Fort Riley National Bank, and served as a Kansas senator for 10 years.

Don Good is shown with the more than 200 cards he received for his 90th birthday on Oct. 8, 2011. He responded to each card with a letter and photograph. Good (MS '50 animal science), former head of the **Department of Animal** Sciences and Industry, died Feb. 14, 2012. He joined the K-State faculty in 1947 to coach the livestock judging team. In 1966, he was named department head and held that position until retirement in 1987. His leadership



and commitment to agriculture helped move livestock and meat production into the modern era in Kansas and beyond. Good formed the Livestock and Meat Industry Council (LMIC) to raise funds to rebuild the structures damaged by a tornado in the 1960s. Memorials may be made to the LMIC for the Don Good Student Enrichment Fund.

Honoring Distinguished Alumnae

Three successful women with very different career paths were honored as distinguished alumnae by the College of Agriculture in fall 2011.

The Department of Agricultural Economics recognized Sister Mary Frances Kobets, the Department of Entomology honored Sue Blodgett, and the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry selected Patsy Houghton. While on campus to accept their awards, they each made presentations and met with K-State faculty and students.

Sister Mary Frances Kobets (BS '69 agricultural economics, MS '80 animal science) was one of the first two females to receive a K-State degree in agricultural economics. She spoke about her 40-year career improving health, nutrition, and educational opportunities in Africa. For the past 10 years, she has worked in Zimbabwe helping children orphaned by AIDS victims get an education, acquire life skills, and learn to care for their extended families.

"Sister Fran has combined her knowledge of agriculture with her calling to help people," said David Lambert, agricultural economics department head. "She is one of the many K-State graduates who have made a positive impact on people's lives."

Greg Regier, agricultural economics graduate research assistant, visited with Kobets.

"I really appreciated meeting an alumna who has gone out into the world to pass on the knowledge gained at K-State," said Regier. "I guess the thing that stood out to me the most was her passion. She really emphasized that she came back to K-State for her master's after being in Africa for some time because she needed to learn more to more effectively teach the people, many of them farmers, in Zimbabwe.

"She encouraged us as students to do the same — to recognize the blessing and privilege of our education and to use it to help people. That it is important not only to learn, but to pass on the knowledge and make the world a better place."

In 2009, Kobets celebrated her 50th anniversary as a Maryknoll nun.

"Sister Fran has combined her knowledge of agriculture with her calling to help people. She is one of the many K-State graduates who have made a positive impact on people's lives."

Sue Blodgett (MS '87, PhD '89 entomology) is chair of the departments of Entomology and Natural Resource Ecology and Management at Iowa State University. From 2007 to 2011, she served as head and professor in the Department of Plant Science at South Dakota State University. She previously held a field crop entomology faculty position at Montana State University.

Professor Jim Nechols has known Blodgett since she was a K-State student.

"She has always been a highly motivated person who dedicates herself to helping others through her applied research and outreach," said Nechols. "She has risen quickly through the professorial ranks to administrative positions and is effective because of her people skills and leadership ability. She

Sister Mary Frances Kobets visits with students after her presentation in the K-State Student Union.





serves as an excellent role model for young women who are pursuing careers in science."

Holly Davis, doctoral student and insect diagnostician, talked with Blodgett.

"Dr.Blodgett was willing to take the time to sit down with students to listen to what we were working on, to share some funny stories from her time here at K-State, and to pass on some very valuable advice as we face the professional world," said Davis.

"She was familiar with my particular areas of interest, so I found it really inspiring to spend time with a person who has accomplished so much in her professional career. I think it's great for students to be able to meet with individuals who started where we are and have gone on to do so much."

Patsy Houghton (BS '77, MS '79 animal science) is owner and general manager of Heartland Cattle Company in McCook, Neb. To many, she is known as the force behind the now common concept of professional heifer development.

Sue Blodgett accepts a plaque from Gary Pierzynski, interim dean of the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension. David Margolies, interim head of the Department of Entomology, looks on. After serving as an instructor at California State University-Fresno and as the youth and education manager for the American Simmental Association in Montana, she completed a Ph.D. in ruminant nutrition at Purdue University. She then worked for four years as the K-State Research and Extension beef cattle specialist based in Colby. Patsy Houghton introduces her uncle, Bob Leonard (BS '47 agronomy), to Ken Odde, animal sciences department head. Leonard has attended nearly every home KSU football and basketball game since the 1940s.

In 1990, she started Heartland Cattle Co., which focuses on custom and contractual heifer development. They also maintain an active research program to implement the latest advances in nutrition, reproduction, and health programs that contribute to improve reproductive efficiency.

"She had the foresight to see the tremendous need for this special service in the United States," said Jeff Stevenson, K-State animal science professor. "Today, the company remains the premier heifer development facility in the country with more than 80,000 heifers to back its reputation.

"Patsy is a strong supporter of our department undergraduate program. She hosts tours of her facility, provides student internships, and hires some of our graduates. She also serves on the Livestock and Meat Industry Council."

Houghton talked with students and faculty about future trends and what she looks for when selecting interns and employees.



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Building Updates

K-State Livestock Marketing and Learning Center

Through support of private donors, the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry will break ground on the K-State Livestock Marketing and Learning Center.

The center will be named after the late Stanley Stout, well-known auctioneer and K-State supporter. It will serve as the home of the K-State Purebred Beef Unit's annual cattle sale, which is now held in a tent. The center will be located north of the Purebred Beef Unit across Kimball Avenue adjacent to Phase 1 of the Equine Education Center.

"We hope to host next year's sale in the new facility," said Dave Nichols, professor of animal science. "In addition to the main livestock sale arena, the center will have a large multipurpose room, a 60- by 60-foot covered area for animal demonstrations, classrooms, offices, and a kitchen."

Ken Odde, head of the animal sciences department, added, "The center will be equipped with the latest technology and will be a great facility for our Legacy Sale, youth livestock education, conferences, and other industry events. We need to raise additional funds, but we're excited about the potential for the center and the effect it will have at K-State." K-State alumnus Rich Porter (BS '72 chemical engineering, MAB '04) and his wife Sarah, Reading, Kan., recently made a donation to the K-State Livestock Marketing and Learning Center.

"I wanted to do something that would make a real difference at K-State and help it better serve the faculty and students who are doing so much good for society," said Rich Porter. "I'm very passionate about helping K-State pursue its mission."

O. H. Kruse Feed Technology Innovation Center

Construction on the O. H. Kruse Feed Technology Innovation Center will start in April 2012, with a

completion date of May 2013. This will be the fourth building in the Grain Science and Industry Complex

FFFF

on Kimball Avenue across from Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

It is named for O.H. Kruse, the founder of O.H. Kruse Grain and Milling Co. of Goshen, Calif. Ron Kruse (BS '62 feed science and management), CEO of Western Milling, made a lead gift of \$2 million toward the mill. More than 60 companies and individuals have donated to the project, including a \$500,000 donation from Cargill to help fund the Cargill Center for Feed Safety Research.

The facility is a joint project of the departments of Grain Science and Industry and Animal Sciences and Industry. It will replace the 1950s feed technology mill in Shellenberger Hall and the existing feed mill on the corner

of Kimball and Denison, adjacent to the National Bio and Agro-

> Defense Facility site. The \$13.5 million

structure will house an automatic 5-ton-per-hour feed mill and a separate Feed Safety Research Center. Scientists will be able to safely work with low virulence pathogens, such as *Salmonella*, in animal feeds and pet food.

Architect's drawing of the O. H. Kruse Feed Technology Innovation Center.



Department of Animal Sciences and Industry

Sheep and Meat Goat Center Opens



K-State faculty, students, legislators, and industry representatives prepare to cut the ribbon at the center's dedication ceremonies on March 3.



Brian Faris, K-State sheep and meat goat specialist, welcomes visitors and explains how the new facility will enhance teaching, research, and extension activities.



Wild for Ag Weekend [May 4–5, 2012 [

Yes, I will attend Wild4Ag Weekend in Manhattan No, I will not be able to attend, but I'd like to contribute \$100 or \$______ to support the mission of the College of Agriculture

Name	
Address	
City	State ZIP
Email	
Name for name tag: First	
List additional attendees:	Names for name tags:

Method of payment

Enclosed is a check made payable to the KSU Foundation

Friday, May 4

Ag Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament, \$125 per person List team members:_____

Number members	x \$125 =
Extra meal tickets	x \$25 =



Print and complete this reservation form and mail it, along with your payment, to: College of Agriculture Alumni Association Kansas State University 117 Waters Hall Manhattan, KS 66506-4015 or contact Sandy Klein 785-532-5121 or sandy@ksu.edu.

Golf reservations are due April 28, 2012.

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Ag Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament, Friday, May 4, Manhattan Country Club Four Person Scramble — \$125 Individual Entry Fee

Registration fee includes cart, range balls, practice facility, golf, ag alumni merchandise, door prize entry, and dinner following the tournament. Lunch will be available for purchase at Manhattan Country Club. **Registration** — 11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m. **Shotgun Start** — 1p.m.

Awards Reception, Saturday, May 5

2012 Award winners

4 p.m. — K-State Alumni Center

Distinguished Alumnus: Dale Rodman, BS '63 feed Science and Management

Outstanding Young Alumnus: Gregg Doud, BS '89 animal science, MS '91 agricultural economics

David J. Mugler Outstanding Teaching Award: Greg Davis, BS '79, PhD '93 horticulture

New Graduate and Alumni Dinner

6–8 p.m. — K-State Alumni Center Cost: \$25 Recognition of fall and spring graduating seniors

For additional information, contact Sandy Klein at 785-532-5121 or sandy@ksu.edu

2012 Sponsors

