

Above and Beyond for Students and Agricultural Businesses

“Welcome to this overview of the Department of Agricultural Economics, which was established in 1912,” said David Lambert, department head. “Our undergraduate program continues to grow, reflecting the excellent training and job placement for students choosing careers in agricultural economics or agribusiness.

“Our faculty have a national reputation for the quality of their educational programs and services. None of these accomplishments would be possible without the strengths each and every one of our faculty, staff, and students brings to accomplishing our mission.”

The department has a strong record of student leadership, with 16 students having served as student body president since 1962. Undergraduate students have an impressive history of participation on marketing teams for the annual National Agri-Marketing Association meetings. Graduate student teams have placed first at recent Agribusiness Case Study competitions.

Through research and extension annual programs such as the Ag Lenders Conference, Tax Institute, and Risk and Profit Conference, faculty and staff provide farm management, outlook, and risk management educational programs to help producers, agribusiness leaders, and consumers.

Since the 1960s international work has been a mainstay of the department, with successful projects across the globe funded by the U. S. Agency for International Development, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the International Sorghum and Millet Collaborative Research Support Program, and others. USDA cooperates with K-State to manage the Ghana Monitoring, Evaluation, and Technical Support Service.

Professor Art Barnaby developed the idea that producers need to be able to protect income with crop insurance. Eventually, USDA's Risk Management Agency picked up the idea and made revenue protection available to producers nationwide. Professor



Professor Kevin Dhuyvetter shares management tips with farmers and ranchers.

Emeritus Barry Flinchbaugh has worked on every farm bill since 1968. Barnaby and Flinchbaugh were recently listed in *Top Publisher* magazine as Brave Thinkers: 30 Leaders Who Made a Difference.

Established in 1931, the Kansas Farm Management Association (KFMA) is now one of the largest farm management programs in the United States. K-MAR-105 was added in 1968 as the information processing unit.

The Arthur Capper Cooperative Center (ACCC) was started in 1984 by an agreement between K-State and the Kansas Cooperative Council to develop and deliver research and education for the cooperative community.

The Office of Local Government was formed in 1997 to offer educational outreach, technical assistance, applied research, and information and referral services to city and county governments, local organizations, K-State Research and Extension, and Kansas citizens.

The Master of Agribusiness (MAB) program was created in 1998 as the first distance education master-level curriculum in agribusiness. In 2001, it received the Peterson's Award for most innovative program in the nation from the University Continuing Education Association.

MAB participants can choose an agribusiness option at the Manhattan campus; a cohort for animal health professionals at K-State Olathe; or the Southeast Asia option for an increased understanding of the food and agribusiness system on a global scale.

The *AgManager.info* website averages more than 70,000 visits by more than 25,000 unique visitors each month. It's a comprehensive source of information, analysis, and decision-making tools for agricultural producers, agribusinesses, and others. In 2010, it received the Outstanding Electronic Media Education Award from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association.

Department faculty launched Management, Analysis, and Strategic Thinking (MAST) in 2001 as an interactive learning program for agricultural producers and agribusinesses to enhance and strengthen their farm management skills.

The new Center for Risk Management Education and Research provides students and businesses with the information and tools necessary to identify, quantify, and manage risk.

For more information, visit www.ageconomics.ksu.edu.