

## News Briefs

### Understanding the Affordable Care Act

Roberta Riportella, the Kansas Health Foundation professor of community health in the College of Human Ecology, is heading up an effort to help Kansans learn more about how the Affordable Care Act (ACA) — sometimes referred to as “Obamacare” — will affect them once the law goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2014.

In Kansas, it stands to most directly impact more than 365,000 who are currently without health insurance, many of whom now will be required to purchase insurance from private providers authorized through a marketplace exchange.

Kansans will begin making those choices when open enrollment begins October 1.

“Kansas citizens who are uninsured will have a product to buy, they’ll have a marketplace to go to,” Riportella said, “and they’ll have people to help them enroll.”

“K-State Research and Extension is helping the people of Kansas understand the provisions and choices of the Affordable Care Act,” said Daryl Buchholz, associate director for extension and applied research.

“We feel it is important for Kansans to understand how their personal decisions relating to ACA potentially may affect their lives, their businesses, and their communities.”

Read more online at

[www.ksre.ksu.edu/news/story/Obama\\_care062413.aspx](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/news/story/Obama_care062413.aspx).



Courtesy of Marsha K. Landis

### High-Tech Crop Management

K-State researchers are leading the nation in using small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) in agriculture, a new technology gaining considerable interest among producers, crop consultants, plant breeders, and researchers.

As another means of conducting remote sensing, agronomists recently demonstrated potential applications for crop scouting, estimating crop yields, crop variety selection, drought and heat stress research, greenhouse gas measurements, and nutrient management and recommendations.

For more information, contact Kevin Price, professor of agronomy, [kpprice@ksu.edu](mailto:kpprice@ksu.edu).



Photo courtesy of Ward Upham

### Ribbon Cutting at Horticulture Center

On April 29, K-State Research and Extension celebrated the opening of its new building at the John C. Pair Horticulture Center near Haysville. The 3,000-square-foot metal building includes reception and classroom space as well as offices. A 1,300-square-foot covered patio accommodates outdoor events.

“This new building has been much anticipated and long overdue,” said J. Ernest “Ernie” Minton, associate director for research and technology transfer. “It will significantly improve our ability to fulfill both research and extension missions at the Pair center.”

The center is named for former director John C. Pair.

From left, Jason Griffin, director of the John C. Pair Horticulture Center; Ernie Minton, associate director for research and technology transfer; and John Floros, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension; officially dedicate the new horticulture facility near Haysville.

## Strategic Plan Completed

The year-long effort to formulate the College of Agriculture/K-State Research and Extension 2025 plan has come to an end. Departments and units are now beginning their part of the planning process.

The goal is to be in the Top 5 nationally by 2025 through four strategic focus areas: (1) Empower students and citizens to lead; (2) Develop integrated solutions for problems in dryland plant, animal, and food systems; (3) Enhance the quality of life for people, communities, and the environment; and (4) Develop the physical and human infrastructure needed for a Top 5 role. The plan will evolve in response to scientific, economic, and cultural changes to ensure that it remains a good guide for the efforts and activities of faculty, staff, and students.



Photo courtesy of New Generation Feeds

## Animal Candy Awarded Patent

Animal scientist Jim Drouillard has been granted a U.S. patent for a supplement block that improves absorption of specific omega-3 fatty acids in livestock.

“It’s a free-choice type of supplement in a block form — sort of like a big, 250-pound piece of candy for livestock,” Drouillard said. “The product’s physical characteristics restrict the animals to consuming less than a pound each day, making it a convenient and cost effective way to deliver nutrients.”

New Generation Feeds has retained exclusive rights to the patented technology.

## O.H. Kruse Feed Technology Center Nears Completion

The O.H. Kruse Feed Technology Innovation Center rises along the Manhattan horizon. As a joint project between the departments of Grain Science and Industry and Animal Sciences and Industry, the \$13.5 million structure will replace the pilot mill in Shellenberger Hall and the feed mill on the corner of Kimball and Denison avenues.

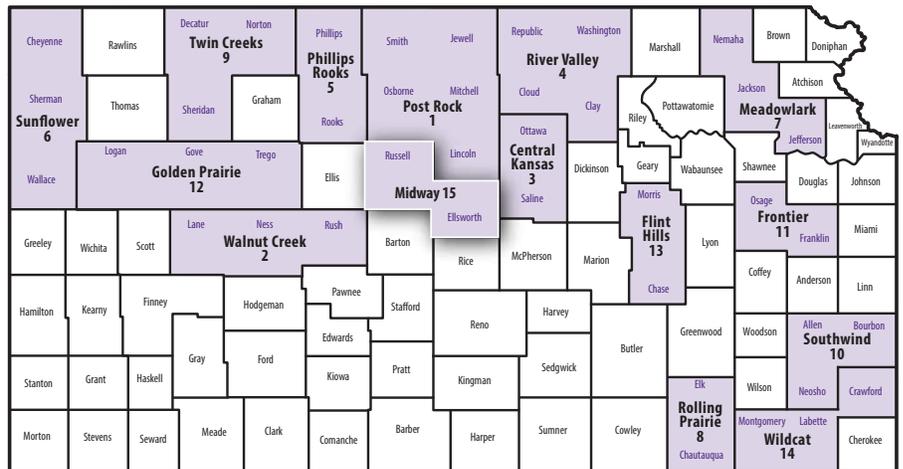
The facility also houses the Cargill Center for Feed Safety Research, which will be used to study food and feed safety issues.

Charles Stark (BS '88 animal science; MS '90, PhD '94 grain science) will serve as the Jim and Carol Brown associate professor in feed technology and manufacturing and faculty coordinator of the new center. Stark assumed his responsibilities at K-State in teaching, research, and outreach. Stark says he is especially looking forward to working with students.

The center will be dedicated at 3 p.m. Friday, October 11, 2013.



## Ellsworth and Russell Counties Form New District July 1, 2013



Ellsworth and Russell counties have joined to form the Midway Extension District #15, effective July 1, 2013. Since 1991, Kansas counties have had the opportunity to create extension district partnerships that provide better public access to agents with specialized expertise, better support for local offices, and often better use of human and financial resources. Statewide, there are now 42 counties that have formed 15 districts.

To learn about districts, go to [www.ksre.ksu.edu/districts](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/districts).