

New facility offers industry experience for students

Training Leaders

The fourth building in the Grain Science and Industry North Complex, the nearly 160-foot O.H. Kruse Feed Technology Innovation Center, adds an impressive new feature to the Manhattan skyline. Students, faculty, and industry professionals toured the center during the Oct. 11, 2013, dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Located north of Bill Snyder Family Stadium, the \$16 million facility replaces two older campus feed mills — one in Shellenberger Hall and the other at the corner of Kimball and Denison on the site of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF).

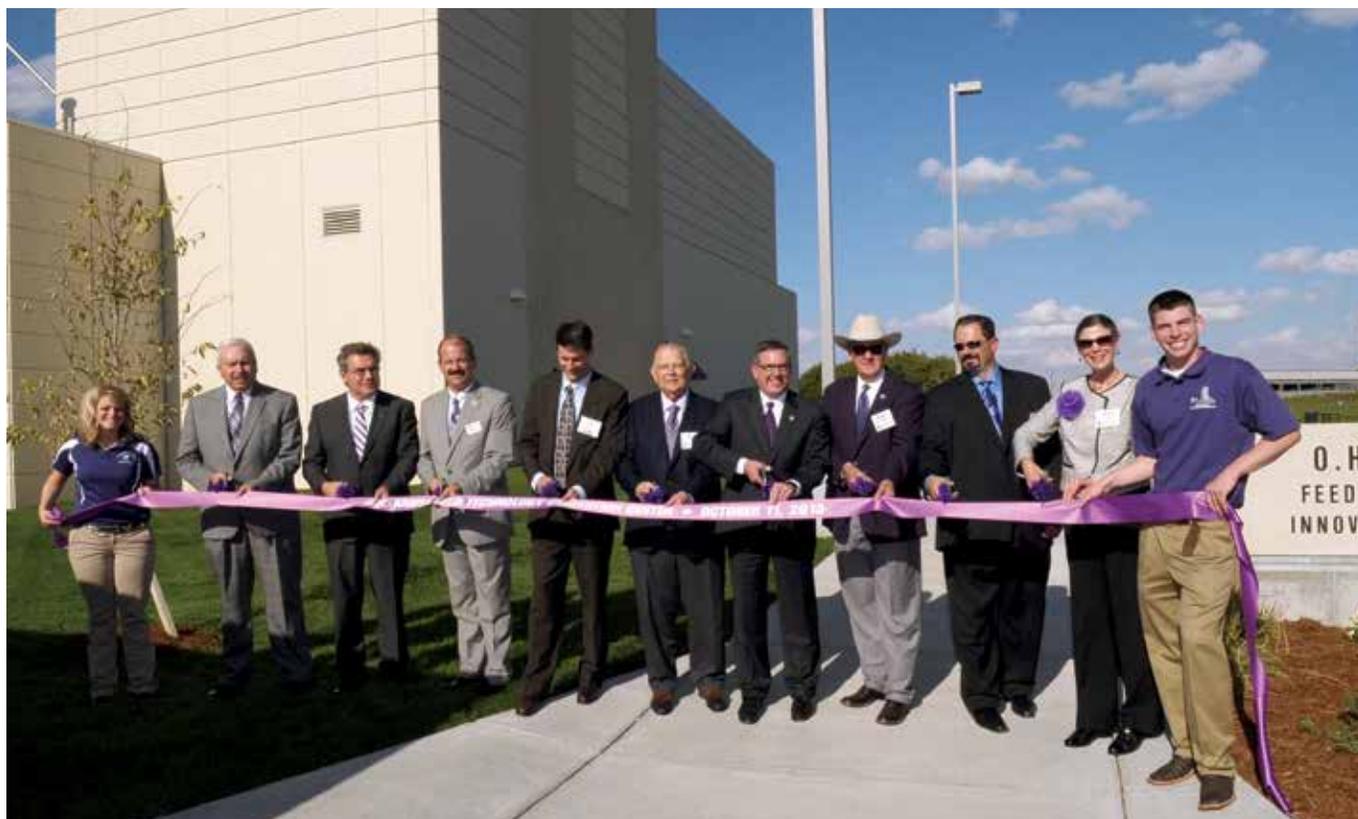
“From an educational standpoint, I believe this is going to give us the opportunity to train the next leaders of the feed industry,” said Charles Stark, coordinator for the new center. “The next generation will have an opportunity to come to Kansas State University, learn the feed manufacturing process, and transfer those skills back into the industry.”

As a joint project between the departments of Grain Science and Industry and Animal Sciences and Industry, the center offers industry experience for students in several majors. Stark, who has K-State degrees in both animal science and grain

science, serves as the university’s Jim and Carol Brown associate professor in feed technology.

Cole Rickabaugh, senior in feed science and management and president of the Feed Science Club, spoke during the dedication ceremonies. He works about 20 hours a week in the feed mill.

“The O.H. Kruse Feed Technology Innovation Center gives students an opportunity to see both the integrated and commercial side of feed manufacturing and to conduct new experiments to improve the feed manufacturing industry,” Rickabaugh said. “The goal is to have every feed science student work at least one semester in the new mill.”



Ribbon-cutting photo (left to right) Kara Schwarzkopf, Block and Bridle Club president; Ken Odde, head of the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry; John Floros, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension; Dirk Maier, head of the Department of Grain Science and Industry; Rob Sheffer, managing director for Cargill; Ron Kruse, owner and CEO of Western Milling LLC; Kirk Schulz, K-State president; Dale Rodman, then-Kansas secretary of agriculture; Tony Simpson, Kansas Bioscience Authority managing director; April Mason, K-State provost and senior vice president; and Cole Rickabaugh, Feed Science Club president.

Molly Doyle, a senior in feed science and management from Alto, Mich., has been accepted into the K-State College of Veterinary Medicine to become a large animal veterinarian.

“My feed science background provides insight into the importance of animal nutrition and will allow me to be an effective communicator between producers and manufacturers,” Doyle said.

The Cargill Feed Safety Research Center within the O.H. Kruse Feed Technology Innovation Center gives students access to research projects on developing higher quality and safer feed for livestock.

“As the world’s population continues to grow along with global increases in middle income, this will move more diets from a plant protein to an animal protein diet,” said Rob Sheffer, managing director for Cargill.

“With this shift comes the increased need for safe, affordable food. We at Cargill believe this starts with quality feed processes and safety. Partnering with K-State to provide a center where



Feed science and management students (from left) Cole Rickabugh, Molly Doyle, and Wyatt Ross work in the control room of the O.H. Kruse Feed Technology Innovation Center.

expertise in feed safety and research can be done is a great start to help feed the growing needs of the world in a safe, affordable manner.”

K-State is the only university in the United States that offers bachelor’s degrees in feed, baking, and milling

science and management. The Department of Grain Science and Industry now offers minors in bakery science, feed science, and grain handling operations as stand-alone minors through distance education.



Ron Kruse, left, accepts a plaque commemorating the mill dedication handmade by Keith Behnke, professor emeritus of grain science and industry and project manager of the feed mill planning team.

The Story Behind the Name

The O.H. Kruse Feed Technology Innovation Center was made possible by the support of people and organizations dedicated to bettering the future of the feed industry.

One of those is Ron Kruse, owner and CEO of Western Milling LLC, who donated the first \$2 million toward the center’s construction.

“We’ve had a lot of graduates from Kansas State work in our organization, and they’ve

been very helpful and innovative in making our company a success,” Kruse said. “In my mind, Kansas State has done a better job than anybody in the country in educating people in our industry. Because of that, it was simple for me to decide to make a significant donation to this project.”

Kruse (BS ‘62 feed science and management) said his family is especially proud of their

support for the facility named for his father, Otto Henry Kruse.

“My father was a dedicated man who embraced free enterprise and had vision that brought about a big change in the feed industry, or at least on the West Coast, where he introduced bulk feeds and the delivery of feed in bulk to customers,” Kruse said.

In the early 1950s, the American Feed Manufacturing Association approached O.H. Kruse about donating money to establish a feed technology program at K-State.

Ron Kruse remembers his first trip to K-State.

“I was in high school at the time, and I was really impressed,” he said.

Several years later, he toured the K-State feed mill in Shellenberger Hall.

Although he had seen California feed mills, the equipment in this facility was new and exciting. He said he hopes future students will tour the O.H. Kruse Feed Technology Innovation Center and decide to come to K-State, just as he did.

Ron Kruse’s son, Doug, followed his father to K-State, completing a degree in feed science and management in 1988. He now owns and manages Kruse Vineyards and Jack Creek Cellars in Templeton, Calif.