



December 2010 Update

- Kansas is one of six states selected for a national effort to encourage youth development strategies in schools, youth groups, sports teams, and community programs. The Kansas Building Partnerships for Youth Development program is funded by The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and developed with the National 4-H Council. The goal is to build collaborations to reinforce positive development and life choices. Elaine Johannes, youth development specialist, is leading the state's effort.
- A research team recently patented a process to control soybean cyst nematode, a parasite that attacks soybean plant roots, causing millions of dollars in damage each year. The process was developed by Harold Trick, professor of plant pathology; Timothy Todd, an instructor of plant pathology; Michael Herman, associate professor of biology; and Judith Roe, former assistant professor of biology. The team engineered soybean plants to turn off specific genes when root parts are ingested by nematodes.
- Dan Devlin is the new director of the Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment, (KCARE) and the Kansas Water Resources Institute. Devlin, who had been an agronomy specialist since 1986, began his new role Nov. 1.
- Eleven participants from various grain processing companies, including General Mills, Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM), and Kraft Foods, explored steps of the milling process during the recent Buhler-Kansas State University Executive Milling short course. The course is set up to teach the basics of the milling process to executives, who may have no prior milling experience.
- Associate agronomy professor P.V. Vara Prasad and Gary Pierzynski, interim director of K-State Research and Extension, traveled recently to West Africa. Prasad is the lead investigator for a team with projects in Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, and Ghana. K-State researchers worked with in-country cooperators to plan and implement experiments, with a goal of improving yields, ecosystems, and profitability.

Faculty Awards

- Awards were presented to faculty at a joint meeting of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America. **Dan Devlin**, professor, received ASA's Agronomic Extension Education Award. **Mary Beth Kirkham**, professor, earned the CSSA Crop Science Research Award. Professor **Gerard Kluitenberg** received the SSSA's Don and Betty Kirkham Soil Physics Award, named for Mary Beth Kirkham's parents. Associate professor **Jianming Yu** earned the Early Career Professional Award co-sponsored by the organizations and CSSA's Young Crop Scientist Award.
- Professor **Mary Beth Kirkham** received the 2010-11 Iman Outstanding Faculty Award for Research.
- KSU faculty received awards at the recent American Phytopathological Society meeting. **Frank White**, professor of plant pathology, was named a Fellow. **Anna Whitfield**, assistant professor of plant pathology, was named an "up-and-comer" in virology and presented on her current and future research priorities at the Schroth Faces of the Future Early Career Professionals Symposium. **Lorena Gomez-Montano**, doctoral candidate in plant pathology, received the Zahir Eyal and Eugene S. Saari awards. **Kehinde Obasa**, also a doctoral candidate in plant pathology, received the Janell Stevens Johnk Award.