



August 2011 Update

- Jack Fry, professor of horticulture, has been awarded the 2011 Fred V. Grau Turfgrass Science Award from the Crop Science Society of America. He will receive the award at the CSSA International Annual Meeting, October 16–19 in San Antonio.
- K-State Research and Extension agents Anna Mae Brown, Susan Schoneweis, Denise Sullivan, and Nichole Burnett completed *I Am Moving, I Am Learning* training and will offer the training and curriculum to colleagues and partners. The training is part of the Childcare and Youth Training and Technical Assistance Project supported by the U.S. Department of Defense in partnership with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension and Pennsylvania State University Extension. IMIL, which originated with Head Start, is a proactive approach to address childhood obesity at home and child-care centers. National evaluation results are available at <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/earlychildhood/imil.asp>.
- Brian McCornack, assistant professor of entomology, is part of a team that received a \$938,000 competitive grant by the USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Sustainable Bioenergy Research Program. Kansas State University, the University of Arkansas, Oklahoma State University, and the USDA-Agriculture Research Service Arid-Land Agricultural Research Center are cooperating on, “Impact of bioenergy crops on pests, natural enemies and pollinators in agricultural and non-crop landscapes.”
- John Reese, professor of entomology, helped organize the Hemipteran-Plant Interactions Symposium, July 11-14, at the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. The conference brought together entomologists and plant physiologists to foster a greater degree of understanding and collaboration among researchers who share an interest in the interactions between hemipteran feeding behavior, plant physiology, and plant pathogens. Reese also co-authored a paper, “Molecular basis of host defense against green peach aphid.”
- Entomologists Kun Yan Zhu, professor, and Yoonseong Park, associate professor, along with Michael Kanost, university distinguished professor and head of the Department of Biochemistry, presented at the Third International Symposium on Insect Physiology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, July 2–5, in Shanghai, China. Zhu gave the plenary speech, “Nanoparticle-based RNAi to silence chitin synthase genes through larval feeding in *Anopheles gambiae*.” Park presented a keynote speech, “Neural control of salivary secretion in the black-legged tick.” Kanost gave a keynote speech, “Functional genomics and biochemistry of cuticle in *Tribolium castaneum*.”
- A 4-H project technology group from Leavenworth County earned second place in the K–12 division of a map-making contest at the International User Conference in July in San Diego, Calif. Also, Kansas 4-H youth recently earned numerous awards — including first-place individual in air pistol and first place team in air rifle — at the 2011 4-H National Shooting Sports Invitational in San Antonio, Texas.