



September 2011 Update

- Kansas hosted the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference August 7–11 in Overland Park. Dennis Patton, Johnson County, was recognized as top columnist in the nation; Gary Cramer, Sedgwick County, received an achievement award; and Larry Crouse of Butler County and John Stannard of Russell County received distinguished service awards. Richard Fechter, Rolling Prairie District, was elected NACAA secretary.
- Cathie Woteki, chief scientist and undersecretary for research, education, and economics for USDA, visited Manhattan. She was briefed on K-State livestock and crop health and security research, and how K-State Research and Extension works with Fort Riley Garrison Command on army family educational programs.
- A team of entomologists — associate professor Yoonsenong Park and professor Tom Phillips, two former K-State graduate students, and adjunct professors James Campbell and Richard Beeman of the USDA-ARS Center for Grain and Animal Health Research — published “Anatomical localization and stereoisomeric composition of *Tribolium castaneum* aggregation pheromones” in *Naturwissenschaften*, an international journal. *Tribolium castaneum* (red flour beetle) is a serious pest of stored grain products worldwide.
- The K-State Beef Conference — webcast from Weber Hall to the Butler County Community Building, Pratt County Fairgrounds, and WaKeeney Public Library August 16 — attracted about 120 participants. Presenters included Glynn Tonsor, Justin Waggoner, Bob Weaber, Chris Reinhardt, and Kevin Dhuyvetter.
- The 2011 Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes drew more than 200 participants to compete in livestock and meat judging, skillathon, and quiz bowl. Extension assistant Chelsea Tomascik organized the event, with help from animal sciences and 4-H Youth Development staff, graduate students, and judging teams.
- Norman Klocke, professor of irrigation engineering at the Southwest Research-Extension Center – Garden City, and Loyd Stone, professor of agronomy, were selected for a 2011 Educational Aids Blue Ribbon Award. The American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers chose them, along with two private computing specialists, for developing the Crop Yield Predictor, a new computer modeling tool for irrigators.
- The Southwest Research-Extension Center – Tribune celebrated 100 years of working to determine the best crops and crop management practices for southwest Kansas during its Dryland Ag Day, Aug. 17.
- Agronomists Jianming Yu, Tesfaye Tesso, and Scott Staggenborg, and biological and agricultural engineer Donghai Wang received an \$800,000 grant from the U.S. departments of Agriculture and Energy. The grant funds a three-year study to provide the genetic groundwork for potentially turning sorghum into biofuel by increasing the plant’s biomass yield.
- Agricultural economist Timothy Dalton completed two research projects sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Howard G. Buffet Foundation, and other charitable sources. The projects involved African farmers’ response to using drought-tolerant maize seed and how climate change affected their decisions.