



August 2012 Update

- The Kansas Forest Service received \$30,000 from TransCanada to help the organization continue, maintain, and improve its conservation tree program. Through the program, the Kansas Forest Service grows tree and shrub seedlings to meet the needs of landowners for conservation purposes such as timber production, wild-life habitat, soil erosion control, and wind erosion abatement.
- Deryl Waldren, K-State Research and Extension 4-H Youth Development specialist in northwest Kansas, chairs the state's 4-H International Exchange Program (S4-H) Board. He spent part of July in Japan collaborating with S4-H president, Yoko Kawaguchi, from Seattle, and three Japanese partner organizations (Labo, Lex, and Utrek). The U.S.-Japanese Exchange Program is celebrating its 40th anniversary.
- Al Davis has been named vice president and assistant director of the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership (KARL) Program. Davis, of Spring Hill, Kan., is a Class V program graduate. Most recently he has been education director for the American Royal in Kansas City, Mo. He was previously a youth development agent with K-State Research and Extension – Johnson County and with Penn State Extension.
- K-State Research and Extension has supported a communications campaign on drought, including news releases, videos, radio interviews, publications, and a Web page, www.ksre.ksu.edu/drought. Agronomy specialists held webinars on estimating crop losses with extension educators to help them guide producers to make informed management decisions. Other practical resources linked to the drought page include a spreadsheet to estimate the value of corn silage, information and a fact sheet about toxic blue-green algae, a publication on managing drought corn, and links to relevant human health and safety information.
- Thirty-five Kansas youth participated in the 13th Annual National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational Match June 17–22 in Grand Island, Neb. Kansas earned third place in the overall sweepstakes.
- Twelve McPherson High School students attended C3 Food Science Camp (Choice, Change, Challenge), July 23–25 at K-State Olathe. Campers learned about food safety, processing, and science, including a lab in which they studied the molecular gastronomy of food. They also selected and purchased fresh ingredients from the Kansas City River Market, which they used to prepare paella. K-State Research and Extension – McPherson County procured a grant from Cargill to conduct the youth training.
- Jianming Yu, associate professor; Tesfaye Tesso, assistant professor; and Scott Bean, scientist with the USDA's Agricultural Research Service and adjunct faculty, published a study in the June 26 issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. The study delves into the genetic makeup of tannins in sorghum, the dietary staple of more than 500 million people in more than 30 countries and an important livestock feed.
- The Department of Animal Sciences and Industry hosted the Beef Profit Alliance Conference for 300 leaders from breed associations, seedstock producers, and cow-calf producers July 21–24. It was a joint effort of the American Simmental Association and the Red Angus Association of America.