



February 2013 Update

- John Floros, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension, met with several Kansas legislative committees in Topeka January 22. He answered questions and shared information from the recent *Making a Difference for All Kansans, 2013 Report to the Legislature*. The report was printed in black and purple. Color PDF and flipbook versions are online at <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/p.aspx?tabid=300>.
- Dean and director John Floros, associate director Daryl Buchholz, and others from the K-State Research Extension administrative team met with extension board members, agents, area specialists, and advisory councils in late January to dialog and plan for the future of research and extension at the local level. "K-State 2025: A Vision for Research and Extension" was the theme for this year's annual partnership meetings in Ottawa, Abilene, Scott City, and Great Bend.
- The Kansas Radon Program hosted a webinar for all K-State Research and Extension agents on January 10. The KRP partnered with K-State Research and Extension to host local media events and public presentations to increase awareness about residential radon testing. During January, events were scheduled in Abilene, Marysville, Sabetha, Great Bend, Larned, and Hill City.
- On January 11, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced four projects totaling \$25 million for research and development of next-generation renewable energy and high-value biobased products from a variety of biomass sources. K-State's **Xiuzhi Susan Sun**, university distinguished professor of grain science, will lead a \$5.08 million project to make the oilseed crop camelina a cost-effective biofuel and bioproduct feedstock. Other investigators include K-State's **Donghai Wang**, professor of biological and agricultural engineering, and researchers at Montana State University and the University of Wyoming. **Praveen Vadlani**, Lortscher endowed associate professor of grain science, will lead K-State's efforts on a \$550,000 subcontract on a \$6.4 million grant awarded to Ceramatec in Salt Lake City, Utah. This project will study converting lignocellulosic biomass to infrastructure-compatible renewable diesel, biolubricants, animal feed, and biopower.
- During January and February, K-State Research and Extension agents are presenting Ag Profitability Conferences in Goodland, Home City, Pratt, and Salina, plus sessions in El Dorado and Iola streamed from Salina. Presentations vary by location and include topics such as beef and cattle economic market outlook; crop profitability outlook for 2013; human resources; managing employees; update on the 2012 farm bill; crop insurance and the 2012 drought; and 2012–13 farmland cash rental rates in Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado.
- K-State Research and Extension specialists are joining the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission, Sorghum Checkoff Program, KFRM-550 AM Radio, and Huskie Herbicide to present In-Depth Sorghum Schools in Salina, Greensburg, Hillsboro, Oakley, Tribune, and Ulysses in February. Topics include sorghum for risk management, importance of sorghum for the ethanol industry, weed control strategies, and management of sorghum irrigation, planting, fertility, and insects.
- Mickey Ransom, professor of agronomy, talked about Kansas soils and landscapes, and Ron Wilson, director of the Huck Boyd Institute, recited Kansas cowboy poetry during the Kansas Day 2013 celebration January 29 in Hale Library.