



March 2013 Update

- Ananda Bandara, graduate student in plant pathology, earned a travel grant to attend the Conference on Soil-borne Plant Pathogens. He will present resistance screening work concerning the soilborne charcoal rot and Fusarium stalk rot pathogens of sorghum — diseases that cause millions of dollars' worth of annual yield loss in Kansas. Assistant professor Chris Little supervises Bandara.
- More than 1,700 4-H'ers and parents filled two sections of Bramlage Coliseum during the K-State women's basketball game against the University of Kansas: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ta0aUfeT'Z2A&feature=youtu.be>
- The University Printing staff researched and incorporated new technology and procedures at the unit's facilities in Umberger and Dole halls to eliminate hazardous waste. Rob Nixon, assistant unit director and safety coordinator for the Department of Communications and Agricultural Education, led the effort.
- Learn the value of Program Development Committees through the new entry in Gregg Hadley's Difference Maker's blog, "[Imagine There's No \(PDCs\)](#)."
- [Walk Kansas](#), an 8-week team fitness program, begins its 12th year on March 17. The program draws about 19,000 participants of all ages from nearly every county in Kansas.
- About 250 participants attended the Women Managing the Farm Conference February 7–8 in Manhattan. Speakers included Jolene Brown, a nationally known advocate for agriculture; Vincent Amanor-Boadu, associate professor of agricultural economics; Mindy Young, agriculture and natural resources agent in Doniphan County; and Jeanne Falk, multicounty agronomy specialist based in Colby.
- Family and consumer sciences agents are presenting workshops across Kansas from March through June to teach consumers about home food preservation. An increased interest in vegetable gardening has raised the need for food safety and preservation training.
- Ya Ding (Ph.D. '05 agricultural economics) and associate professor Jeff Peterson were honored for "[Comparing the Cost-Effectiveness of Water Conservation Policies in a Depleting Aquifer: A Dynamic Analysis of the Kansas High Plains](#)," published in the May 2012 issue of the Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics.
- Entomologist Kun Yan Zhu served as guest editor for a special issue of the professional journal [Insect Science](#). The issue concentrates on the great potential of RNA interference for addressing a wide range of entomological questions and for providing novel and effective solutions to pest management.
- K-State hosted the 2013 Swine Profitability Conference for producers and allied industry February 5, and about 300 youth from 45 counties attended the Kansas Junior Swine Producer Day February 16.
- K-State horticulturists launched a new [blog](#) and [Facebook page](#) featuring the Prairie Star annual flower varieties tested by K-State. The flowers exhibited superior performance for two or more years in bedding plant research trials in Olathe, Wichita, Hays, and Colby.