



## May 2013 Update

- K-State agricultural economists Art Barnaby and Barry Flinchbaugh were included in the article “Brave Thinkers: 30 Leaders Who Made a Difference,” in the April 3, 2013, issue of *Top Producer*.
- India’s Punjab Agricultural University and Kansas State University extended their agreement for collaborative research and education another five years with a memorandum of understanding signed April 25 by PAU’s Vice-Chancellor Baldev Singh Dhillon and John Floros, College of Agriculture dean and director of K-State Research and Extension.
- At the annual Classified Employee Recognition Ceremony April 24, Lois Schreiner, administrative specialist for animal sciences extension programs, received the university’s Classified Award of Excellence for office and clerical employees. From the College of Agriculture/K-State Research and Extension, those who received employee of the year honors at the ceremony were Frank Jennings, Department of Animal Sciences and Industry; Alka Kapil, Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources; Theresa Mangiaracino, Department of Grain Science and Industry; and LuAnn Ward, Office of the Dean and Director, College of Agriculture/K-State Research and Extension.
- Presenters at the Priester National Extension Health Conference, April 15–18 in Corvallis, Ore., included Jodi Drake, Pratt County; Sharolyn Jackson and Joan Kahl, family and consumer sciences; Dan Kahl, community development; and Roberta Riportella, community health, family studies and human services.
- Kraig Roozeboom, associate professor of agronomy, was elected to the Crop Science Society of America Board of Directors. He also serves on the Crop Improvement Committee, which advises the United Sorghum Checkoff Board.
- Raymond Cloyd, professor and extension entomology specialist, was selected by the American Rose Society to receive two Award of Merit certificates for newsletter articles.
- John Floros, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension, was a plenary keynote speaker at the 2013 American Chemical Society Meeting April 7 in New Orleans.
- University distinguished professor of plant pathology Barbara Valent and a team of colleagues received a \$5.5 million USDA grant to develop novel disease-control strategies for rice blast and wheat blast.
- The Kansas Wheat Commission, Kansas Wheat Alliance, and Kansas Crop Improvement Association will fund more than \$1.4 million in research in Manhattan and Hays for the 2014 fiscal year. Funding comes from \$0.015 collected on every bushel of wheat sold in the state through the Kansas Wheat Commission, royalties collected on licensed public varieties through the Kansas Wheat Alliance, and contributions from the research support fund generated by certified seed growers.
- Two international research teams led by K-State faculty are gaining discoveries related to wheat genetics. A team led by university distinguished professor Bikram Gill has developed a physical map of wheat’s wild ancestor, *Aegilops tauschii*. Eduard Akhunov’s team is comparing the genetic code of ancient wheat varieties to that of modern varieties with a goal of improving wheat for different growing conditions. Akhunov’s team includes K-State plant pathologists Shichen Wang, Alina Akhunova, Cyrille Saintenac, and Seifollah Kiani. Both teams had articles published in the online edition of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.