Knowledge for Life
K-STATE
Research and Extension

July 2013 Update

- Bob Atchison, rural forestry coordinator, was named a fellow in the Society of American Foresters. He has worked for the Kansas Forest Service 23 years and is chair-elect for the Great Plains Society of American Foresters.

- Five students are participating in the K-State Research and Extension Multicultural Fellows Research Program. From Tuskegee University, Donunique Fine is mentored by agronomists Ganga Hettiarachchi and Gary Pierzynski; and Sydney Baltimore, Aja West, and Lauriel Stewart are mentored by animal scientists John Gonzalez, Randy Phebus, and Fadi Aramouni. Isis Lopez, University of Puerto Rico, is mentored by plant pathologist Anna Whitfield.

- Cary Rivard received $67,000 to design a system to help boost U.S. strawberry production. The project is funded by a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation and administered by the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Center for Agricultural and Rural Sustainability. See http://strawberry.uark.edu.

- An international team of researchers is learning how the rice blast fungus *Magnaporthe oryzae* invades plant tissue, a step toward disease control. Plant pathologist Barbara Valent leads the team. Findings are in the new online journal, *Nature Communications*, at http://www.nature.com/ncomms/2013/130618/ncomms2996/abs/ncomms2996.html.

- Midway Extension District #15, formed by Ellsworth and Russell counties, was formally established July 1, 2013.

- Plant pathologist Eduard Akhunov and Jorge Dubcovsky, University of California-Davis, led a project to identify a gene that gives wheat plants resistance to a deadly race of the wheat stem rust pathogen, Ug99. Other K-State researchers include plant pathologist Harold Trick; Andres Salcedo, doctoral candidate in genetics; and Cyrille Saintenac, postdoctoral research associate now at the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique in France. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and Borlaug Global Rust Initiative funded the project. The study, "Identification of Wheat Gene *Sr35* that Confers Resistance to Ug99 Stem Rust Race Group," appears in the journal *Science*.

- Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) announced a $325,000 investment in the Kansas Wheat Commission Research Foundation to enhance hard white wheat variety development at the Agricultural Research Center–Hays. Breeder Guorong Zhang and colleagues will aim to develop varieties that offer improved yield and are suited for baking.

- Terry Houser received the 2013 American Meat Science Association Achievement Award at the Reciprocal Meats Conference at Auburn University. Alexandra Christiansen, master's student in food science, placed third in the M.S. division graduate student research poster contest. Elizabeth Boyle is her adviser.

- Akinbode Adedeji received the 2013 Dr. Evangelina Villegas Excellence in Postdoctoral Research Award from the Department of Grain Science and Industry. His adviser is Sajid Alavi.

- At the North Central Branch Entomological Society of America conference, entomologist Brian McCornack earned the Educational Project Award for a Web-based application. Graduate students also were honored: Salehe Abbar took second place in the plant-insect ecosystem section doctoral posters, and Barbara Amoah and Alice Harris each won third in their respective sections of the doctoral oral competition.

- At the Association for Communication Excellence conference in Indianapolis, Ind., a Gold Award for Informational or Non-credit Educational Video Production went to Debra Pryor, Pat Melgares, Jeff Wichman, Randall Kowalik, and Elaine Edwards, all in the Department of Communications and Agricultural Education.