

September 2013 Update

- The National Science Foundation named Kansas State University as its lead institution for the Industry/ University Cooperative Research Center on wheat. The NSF I/UCRC Wheat Genetics Resource Center is the first of its type established by NSF for any crop plant. Its focus is improving the food production and disease resistance of wheat and other crop plants while training graduate students and young researchers. The center will be divided between K-State and Colorado State University, under the direction of Bikram Gill, university distinguished professor of plant pathology and director of the K-State's Wheat Genetics Resource Center.
- Scott Irwin, chair of agricultural marketing at the University of Illinois, and Terry Kastens, K-State professor emeritus and agricultural economist, were keynote speakers at the 18th annual Risk and Profit Conference, August 21–22 in Manhattan. The conference, which drew more than 130 participants, was sponsored by K-State Research and Extension and coordinated by the Department of Agricultural Economics.
- Forty-six teens, volunteers, and K-State Research and Extension staff attended the seventh annual Northwest Area 4-H Youth and Leaders' Forum and Day Camp August 24 at the K-State Agricultural Research Center—Hays. The theme was "Mission: I'm Possible." Chelsey Smith, Ellis County 4-H alumna and K-State agricultural education student, was the keynote speaker.
- Daniel Kahl, PRIDE coordinator, presented "Who Makes Community Change for Whom? A Case Study of Civic Leadership" at the recent Community Development Society conference in Charleston, S.C. He coordinates outreach and extension efforts through the university's Center for Engagement and Community Development.
- Yoonseong Park, K-State professor of entomology, and colleagues have helped identify a neuropeptide, natalisin, which regulates insects' sexual and reproductive capacities. Park says the finding may open new possibilities for environmentally friendly pest management. The research is published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.
- Youth from across the state competed in the 2013 Kansas 4-H State Livestock Sweepstakes, August 24–25 in Manhattan, testing 4-H members' knowledge in meats judging as well as livestock judging, skillathon, and quiz bowl. The K-State Livestock and Meats judging teams, K-State faculty, staff, graduate students, and volunteers organized the event, which included 265 participants.
- Cary Rivard, assistant professor of horticulture, and a team of researchers from K-State's Plant Pathology and Biological Sciences departments have been awarded \$158,434 to develop grower recommendations for tomato grafting, a process relatively new to U.S. vegetable production. The North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program will fund the three-year project.
- Results from the joint meeting of the American Phytopathological Society and The Mycological Society of America August 3–7 in Austin, Texas: Doug Jardine, professor and state leader in the Department of Plant Pathology, was named an APS Fellow; Ananda Bandara, graduate student, won the Storkan-Hanes-McCaslin Foundation Award, which supports research on soilborne disease; and undergraduate Morgan Halderson earned the Darrell Rosenow Memorial scholarship for sorghum research. Bandar and Halderson work with Associate Professor Christopher Little.
- Kansas Operation Military Kids was awarded a Department of Defense grant to conduct camps for youth and families connected to the military. The Express Yourself camp for teens was August 8–10, and the Purple on the Prairie camp for families was August 16–18 at Rock Springs 4-H Center.