



## November 2009 Update

- K-State Research and Extension received a \$153,762 grant from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to reduce occupational injuries and illnesses among workers in landscaping and tree services in the central United States. The program will provide safety and health training \_ in both Spanish and English \_ to at least 1,000 workers and employers. Training topics will address the most serious hazards facing this population of workers, including chainsaw operation, wood chippers, skid-steer loaders, power line tree clearance activities, and aerial lifts. Leaders of the project are Mitch Ricketts, Alan Stevens, Rodney St. John, and Ted Carey.
- Linking survivors of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and their families and caregivers to community resources is the focus of a K-State Research and Extension program currently under development. TBIoptions is a collaborative effort between Extension and academic faculty in the School of Family Studies and Human Services, linking community and human capital with the power of Web-based technologies. The program kicks off in November and is supported by funding from the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.
- A Kansas Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop grant will be used to evaluate alternative conifer species and their adaptability to this region. Jason Griffin and Cheryl Boyer from the Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources, along with Megan Kennelly from the Department of Plant Pathology, received the \$44,688 grant. The project will fund a research and evaluation planting to study species that might be used as Christmas trees or in the nursery or landscaping industry.
- The Change Agent States for Diversity, a national Extension initiative, has received the multi-state partnership award from USDA – Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service. The team was recognized for developing successful and systemic change strategies that support greater diversity and welcoming climates throughout the land-grant University system. Kansas is one of 18 participating states. The efforts here are led by Paula Peters, assistant director for K-State Research and Extension, and Zelia Wiley, assistant dean for diversity for the College of Agriculture.
- Several K-State agronomists are being recognized for outstanding contributions. From the American Society of Agronomy, Chuck Rice will receive the Environmental Quality Research Award, Fred Cholick will receive the Agronomic Service Award, and Dave Mengel will receive the Werner Nelson Award for Diagnosis of Yield-Limiting Factors. Rice also will be recognized as a Distinguished Graduate Faculty member at K-State.
- A team of entomologists has launched a beta version of a user-friendly, interactive tool to manage and track soybean aphid populations using a phone with an Internet connection. The Web-based decision- support system, [www.soypod.info](http://www.soypod.info), can be operated on any device with an Internet connection. Through the system, growers and consultants can add field-specific information, upload aphid density estimates, and manage re-sampling efforts related to previous work. The team is led by Brian McCornack, assistant professor of entomology. McCornack and John Reese, professor of entomology, also were recognized by the Entomological Foundation for their North Central team contributions in soybean aphid pest management.