



# K-State Research and Extension



## April 2009 Update

- A Kansas National Guard group, called the Agribusiness Development Team (ADT), spent March 2-6 in Manhattan, learning about agriculture before they headed to Afghanistan as part of a three-year effort to improve the country's agricultural industries. The Colleges of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine built a curriculum for their training and included faculty from Arts and Sciences and Engineering as well. The diverse curriculum focused on production of crops, livestock, vegetables and fruit, as well as post-harvest handling, food safety, and pest management. K-State is providing ongoing support to the team while it is in Afghanistan.
- K-State Research and Extension has opened and staffed a new Extension office at Fort Riley. This is only the second such Extension office on a military base in the U.S. The Extension agents are supporting soldiers and their families with Extension programming tailored to their needs. Educational programming includes topics such as: parenting, family communication, child and youth development, child care, nutrition and food preparation, physical activity and health, and financial literacy and security.
- A team of researchers led by University Distinguished Professor Barbara Valent landed a \$1 million grant from USDA to study wheat blast. A grass blast fungus, wheat blast has emerged in Brazil. Left untreated, the fungus can reduce yield by 80%. The team is focused on sequencing the fungus' genome and creating tools for field identification. In addition Valent and her team will be screening domestic wheat varieties for resistance. In 2008, the value of the wheat crop in Kansas was \$2.5 billion.
- A new addition to the K-State Research and Extension Web site is a searchable database that provides information about "Faculty with International Experience." So far, the Web site has 82 profiles of faculty members, showing where they have worked and traveled, as well as their areas of expertise.
- K-State Research and Extension invests about 13.5% of its State General Funds and Federal Formula Funds in the partner colleges of Engineering, Human Ecology, Arts and Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine.
- With the site announcement for NBAF, pressure is on to change the use of the land north of Kimball Avenue, so that it would be available for commercial development. Currently, the land is used for research and hands-on learning activities for both the departments of agronomy and animal sciences and industry, affecting researchers and students from across the university. The land is critical to these functions. Moreover, as the Manhattan campus is bound by commercial and residential property on all other sides, this land represents the only area where growth could practically occur in the future.