



July 2009 Update

- Professor Scott Smith and his team have discovered that some rosemary extracts and Thai spices prevent the formation of cancer-causing compounds when grilling meat. Rosemary extracts reduced formation of heterocyclic amines (HCAs) in cooked beef patties by 61 to 79 percent. Thai spices can inhibit the formation by 40 to 43 percent. Several publications have reported the research, which was funded by the Food Safety Consortium. Additional funding was provided by Mitsubishi-Kagaku Foods Corporation, American Meat Institute Foundation, the National Pork Board, and the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station.
- Twenty-five students from 22 Kansas counties gathered on campus in June to take part in the first K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy. The academy gave high school students the chance to evaluate real-life livestock situations, gain familiarity with college life, and tour many facilities within the animal sciences industry.
- More than 1,000 people have participated in the annual “Woman Managing the Farm” conference led by Charlotte Shoup Olsen, Family and Consumer Sciences Specialist with K-State Research and Extension. The conference, started in 2006, provides a safe, supportive setting for Kansas and Oklahoma farm women to address five risk management areas: human, financial, production, price, and legal. Funding for the conference has been secured from USDA, K-State Research and Extension, Kansas State University, and more than 20 private-sector partners and agricultural sponsors.
- The Tenth Annual Fusarium Laboratory Workshop this June helped 27 participants from all continents learn how to identify and work with these important fungi and the toxins they produce. In 2009, 12 countries and nine states were represented. This year is the bicentennial of the first formal description of the Fusarium species, although reports of poisonings from its toxins date back to ancient Greece.
- How’s wheat harvest going? Check out the Wheat Harvest Survey at www.grains.ksu.edu. The Department of Grain Science and Industry, in cooperation with International Grains Program, the Kansas Wheat Commission, the Kansas Grain and Feed Association and grain elevator partners across Kansas, is pleased to provide real-time information on Kansas wheat production. Linking producers and industry, the program uses interactive technology to create the 2009 Harvest Quality Survey, in addition to providing producer profiles, harvest comments, and farm weather forecasts.
- A consortium of universities and agencies are working together to develop resistance to a virulent and mutating fungus that could threaten the wheat crop worldwide. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation requested Cornell University lead a plan to address Ug99 or wheat stem rust. The Durable Rust Resistance in Wheat project is focused on research, plant breeding and global coordination. K-State’s Michael Pumphrey, adjunct assistant professor in agronomy, is one of five team leaders for the project and is supported by others at K-State.