

K-State Research and Extension



October 2009 Update

- University Distinguished Professors Charles Rice, agronomy, and Duy Hua, chemistry, are being honored this year with the prestigious Higuchi Awards. The awards recognize outstanding research accomplishments in applied, basic and biomedical sciences as well as humanities and social sciences by faculty at the University of Kansas and other Kansas Board of Regent institutions.
- The Kansas DropINs program is hosting its first Dropout Prevention Summit in Wichita this month. Kansas DropINs is an organization of more than 25 partners, including K-State Research and Extension, committed to seeing all children graduate from high school ready for the next phase of life. This summit will focus on building community capacity. Before and after the summit, regional discussions are being held in the project's eight regions. These conversations will play a crucial role in the state's action plan and help identify prevention strategies specific to different areas.
- A research team from Kansas was recently awarded a five-year, \$20 million grant from the NSF Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research. The research will address accelerating impacts of global climate change and need for renewable energy sources. The social science component includes modeling of climate and human variables, such as changes in land cover and crop decisions. Natural scientists will be evaluating agricultural products closely tied to climate issues, biomass and its conversion to biofuels, and basic science fundamentals of solar energy conversion by photosynthesis and manmade technologies. The work links K-State, University of Kansas, Wichita State University, Haskell Indian Nations University, Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation, Abengoa Bioenergy, MGP Ingredients, Nanoscale, ADM and Netcrystals.
- Charles Barden, professor and forester with K-State Research and Extension, has been
 named a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters. Barden is being recognized because of
 his strong commitment to professional service to the society and to sustained leadership in
 the forestry profession. Having served in many leadership capacities, he currently chairs the
 Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams.
- The Kansas Bioscience Authority will award \$300,000 to Megastarter, LLC, to develop and commercialize a microbial supplement for livestock and dairy. The supplement will provide a low-cost method to improve animal health and increase profitability by counteracting and preventing rumen acidosis, a destructive digestive condition in cattle caused by the build-up of lactic acid. The development of the supplement followed research by Jim Drouillard, professor of animal sciences and industry. In addition, KBA is investing \$1 million to assist the city of Manhattan in building a wet-lab incubator park, with Megastarter's research and production facility as a potential first tenant.
- The 35-member WRAPS team at K-State is receiving the 2009 Partnership Award from the USDA-Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service. Through WRAPS or Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy, Extension watershed specialists, with support from a research team, developed a comprehensive educational program that worked with K-12 and higher education. Moreover, the specialists worked with community leaders to develop protection and restoration plans for their watersheds.