



June 2010 Update

- Fifty Kansas 4-H members will share in \$37,150 in scholarships for next school year. The scholarship program is funded by the Kansas 4-H Foundation, and recipients were honored at the 4-H Emerald Circle Banquet June 3 in Manhattan. Also honored were 32 Kansas 4-H members who earned project awards and the opportunity to attend the 2010 National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 26–30.
- Income for Kansas farmers in 2009 was above average through much of the state for the third year in a row. In its annual summary, the Kansas Farm Management Association reported that average net farm income for 1,477 farms was \$104,781. That figure was down from \$124,617 in 2008 and \$115,312 in 2007, but well above the five-year average of \$89,554. The Kansas Farm Management Association, a part of K-State Research and Extension, is one of the largest such programs in the United States. Twenty economists in K-State's Department of Agricultural Economics work with the association's members, providing production and financial management information for Kansas farm families.
- K-State entomologist John Reese was recognized at the International Plant Resistance to Insects 19th biennial workshop in Charleston, S.C., for his career contributions in making crops and other plants resistant to insects. Reese is an expert in plant resistance to several species of aphids, including greenbugs, soybean aphids, green peach aphids, and pea aphids. He uses a technique called the Electrical Penetration Graph in which a feeding aphid completes an electrical circuit, resulting in waveforms that tell the researcher where the piercing-sucking mouthparts are inside the plant and what they are doing.
- Martha Giraldo, plant pathology doctoral student, received a \$1,000 scientific travel award sponsored by Wichita biologists Alvin and RosaLee Sarachek to present her research at the ninth International Mycological Congress in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, in August. Her research focuses on understanding the mechanism by which a fungal pathogen delivers proteins inside living rice cells to take control of the cell and block its defenses. Her major professor is Barbara Valent, university distinguished professor.
- Gary Pierzynski, professor of agronomy and interim dean of the College of Agriculture and interim director of K-State Research and Extension, has been chosen as president-elect of the Soil Science Society of America. His term as president-elect begins January 1, 2011; he assumes the role of president on January 1, 2012. Pierzynski will be just the third K-State agronomy faculty member to serve as president. He will succeed Chuck Rice, K-State agronomy faculty member, who serves as president of SSSA in 2011.
- Three Kansas State University graduate students have earned cash awards for their research work in sustainable energy areas. Earning a \$500 first-place award was Juyhun "Camila" Yoo, doctoral student in grain science from Korea. Earning \$250 awards were Ronny Michalsky, doctoral student in chemical engineering from Germany, and Khushal Brijwani, doctoral student in grain science from India. The research is conducted through the K-State Center for Sustainable Energy. Selections were based on the students' presentations and explanations of their studies, with the cash awards provided by ConocoPhillips. All three students received graduate student assistantships with the K-State Center for Sustainable Energy.