



## August 2010 Update

- Steve Irisk of Irisk Family Partnership, Cimarron, received the Kansas Forest Service's 2010 Agroforestry award. Over the last two decades, the Irisk family has planted and cared for 35 acres of windbreaks around dairies, feedlots, feed mills, elevators, cropland, and farmstead. A long-time supporter, Irisk has served K-State Research and Extension in numerous capacities.
- Kansas Forest Service foresters Kim Bomberger and Dave Bruton helped the Kickapoo Tribe establish conservation tree plantings in tribal housing areas. The project began with workshops on tree plantings for energy efficiency, including hands-on planting demonstrations of red elm and bur oak. The project prompted the Bureau of Indian Affairs to award \$3,500 for additional work.
- Research conducted by K-State entomologists may help control mosquito populations. Professor Kun Yan Zhu, along with graduate student Xin Zhang and visiting scientist Jianzhen Zhang, investigated using nanoparticles to deliver double-stranded ribonucleic acid, dsRNA — a molecule capable of specifically triggering gene silencing — into mosquito larvae through their food. By silencing particular genes, Zhu said the dsRNA may kill the developing mosquitoes or make them more susceptible to pesticides.
- The K-State Center for Engagement and Community Development was recognized for the Rural Grocery Project at a meeting of the International Community Development Society. The CDS Innovative Program Award recognizes the overall K-State effort connecting campus-based individuals and resources, K-State Research and Extension professional staff, nongovernment organizations, and community members to address important sustainability issues that affect rural grocery stores.
- The National Institute of Food and Agriculture awarded K-State one of eight Children, Youth and Families at Risk Sustainable Community Project Grants. The five-year grant provides \$660,000 to reduce sedentary habits and consumption of unhealthy foods among youth from diverse racial, ethnic, gender, and socioeconomic strata.
- Kansas State University and Monsanto recently announced a new public/private collaborative relationship that will allow both to improve their wheat breeding programs. Agreements of this type benefit Kansas wheat growers because they will have a greater selection of improved varieties from both public and private wheat breeding programs.
- Reno County students at Prosperity Elementary School in Hutchinson are working with adult master gardeners to collect data on tomato and sweet pepper varieties. As part of a program begun by Charlie Barden, K-State forester, the students will rate plants for vigor and sturdiness, whether disease problems develop, number of tomatoes or peppers produced, and size and uniformity.

## Faculty Awards

John Unruh, professor of meat science, was elected to a three-year term on the American Meat Science Association board. He also will serve as chair of the 2012 Reciprocal Meat Conference.

Brian Faris, sheep and meat goat specialist, was elected president of the American Boer Goat Association.

Mike Christian was named to the Hall of Fame of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.