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# From the desk of **Allen Featherstone**



**“We are proud of how our students, faculty and staff have responded to adversity during this pandemic and continue to make an impact on campus, on education, on industry and around the nation.”**

Although campus and classes look a little different due to COVID-19, a new fall semester is upon us. We are proud of how our students, faculty and staff have responded to adversity during this pandemic and continue to make an impact on campus, on education, on industry and around the nation.

Even though faculty, staff and students have been working and studying remotely since March, the Agricultural Economics Department was still providing research, outreach and education. In this issue, we wanted to highlight some of our achievements, activities and future opportunities in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University.

The focus of the Department of Agricultural Economics continues to be on providing unbiased expertise to guide and educate the food and agricultural sector in a dynamic global environment especially during times of uncertainty. We continue to provide insight into the tough questions facing the agricultural community.

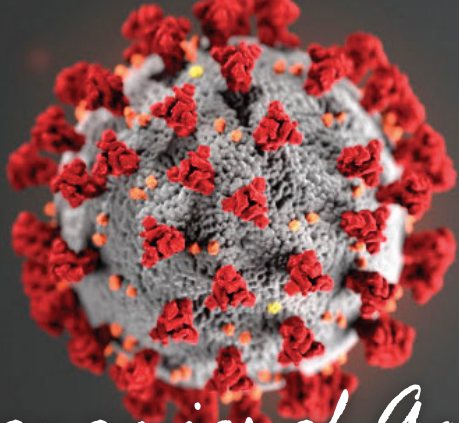
In this edition of the Exchange, you'll see updates on former students and faculty now leading at other universities, prestigious faculty awards and research. We also introduce two new faculty members, Jenny Ifft and Logan Britton. We are excited to announce a number of student awards: Clara Wicoff was selected at the 2020 Marshall Scholar, and Sara Gammon was chosen as a 2020 Harry S. Truman Scholar. Hannah Shear, Bailey Hinkle and Devin Brand, graduate students in the department, have taken on new leadership roles at the University level. Our Department of Agricultural Economics Scholarship Banquet and the Alumni Tailgate Party have been postponed until later this fall or next spring – be watching for updates on this!

Please take time to learn more about the activities of our department. We also encourage you to share your career and family developments so we can keep your fellow alumni informed. Please e-mail me [afeather@ksu.edu](mailto:afeather@ksu.edu) or Mary Bowen, our communications coordinator, at [mjbowen@ksu.edu](mailto:mjbowen@ksu.edu) with information you would like to share with the department.

**GO CATS!**

**Dr. Allen Featherstone**

Department Head, Professor, Master of Agribusiness Program Director



# *Economics of Agriculture* during COVID-19

The COVID-19 Pandemic has affected every aspect of life, including agriculture. Through-out the pandemic, Agricultural Economists have been busy providing updates and consulting on the impacts of the uncertainty and economic disruption are having on livestock markets, grain markets, land values and the overall agriculture economy. In coordination with AgManager.info, Agricultural Economics faculty developed an on-going series of webinars, The Economics of Agriculture During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Series of Online Gatherings.

“When the COVID-19 Pandemic started and the economy was shutting down, our Agricultural Economics team recognized that Kansas stakeholders would have a number of questions. We could address these questions in a webinar format,” Brian Briggeman, agricultural economist and director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center, said.

Primary topics of the webinar series have been updates on the macro economy, grain markets and planting intentions, effects on livestock markets, effects on land values, Kansas farm income, and a discussion of the CARES Act and Agriculture with Representative Roger Marshall and Senator Pat Roberts. Presentations on each subject were followed by the opportunity to discuss and ask questions.

“The webinar series had a primary goal of addressing questions from Kansas stakeholders. However, March and April was filled with unprecedented changes. There were significant needs and questions coming from every industry. A more focused response was required. Our Agricultural Economics team was up to the task by producing additional applied research, fact sheets, webinars, and interviews, all aimed at helping agricultural leaders make better and more informed decisions,” Briggeman said.

In addition to the original webinar series, there have been

a number of other videos and interviews on stimulus programs, oil and biofuels, the Federal Reserve’s response, as well as weekly updates on the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) COVID-19 Projection Model. All of these resources are posted on the AgManager.info website.

“AgManager.info provided us with the necessary platform for K-State agricultural economists to connect with local, state, regional and national audiences,” Briggeman said.

The webinar series was continued throughout the summer and became the focus of the 2020 Annual Risk and Profit Conference that was a fully virtual event this year.

“From producers to processors to consumers, the new coronavirus has affected every aspect of the food and agricultural supply chain, so this year’s conference focused on the economics of the COVID-19 pandemic,” Dr. Allen Featherstone, Department Head and Professor, said.

The webinars and resources are meeting the needs of producers and agribusinesses for information during the uncertainty of the pandemic.

**“When the COVID-19 Pandemic started and the economy was shutting down, our Agricultural Economics team recognized that Kansas stakeholders would have a number of questions. We could address these questions in a webinar format.”**

**- Dr. Brian Briggeman**

“This webinar series was developed recognizing the rapidly growing demand for economic information on multiple aspects of the agricultural sector

and the fact our combined faculty have valuable expertise to help meet this demand for knowledge,” Glynn Tonsor, agricultural economist, said. “Economists are perhaps in highest-demand in times like this. The large number of attendees have expressed thanks and noted benefits of this effort in several ways.”

Recordings of the webinars are available on AgManager.info and the YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/AgManagerInfo>.



# Award-Winning Faculty Research

Two faculty members have been awarded the 2020 Quality of Research Discovery Award by the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA). A maximum of two awards are given each year, and this year both came to K-State's Agricultural Economics Department. The winning articles demonstrate excellence in research methodology that conceptualizes researchable problems, as well as empirical verification.



**Nelson Villoria** won the AAEA Quality of Research Discovery Award (Honorable Mention) for the article, *"Technology Spillovers and Land Use Change: Empirical Evidence from Global Agriculture."*

"It is a real honor to receive this prestigious award from the AAEA," Villoria said. "The research focused on how interconnected markets are influencing the conservation of resources with the use of technology. As natural resources are being

depleted, more efforts are being made to find the best solution to keep assets like the Amazon Rain Forest from being consumed by producers cutting down the forest to cultivate farmland."

The study compares land used in over 70 countries from 1960 to 2014. Traditionally, there is a paradox between technology being a tool to help producers to get more out of their current acres and lessening the need for producers to cultivate more land, and those cautioning that technology will speed the spatial expansion of farmland to maximize profits.

Nelson's research points to the fact that both ideas are true, but rely on elasticity in the markets. When technology comes into the equation, producers in this situation will reduce acreage to maintain production levels and maximize profits.

However, if a farmer can sell on the larger global market prices are traditionally elastic. Therefore, if technology allows more production then the producer will expand acres to increase profits.

## Spreading knowledge

From April 1 to August 1, Agricultural Economics and KSRE faculty and staff have been quoted in more than 70 major local, regional, national and international publications! Our faculty are often called on for their expertise on livestock markets, grain markets, land values and the overall agriculture economy, especially during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This graphic shows a small snapshot of the media featuring K-State Agricultural Economics faculty.

**Ed Perry** was a recipient of the 2020 Quality of Research Discovery Award from AAEA.

"I was nominated with Federico Ciliberto of the University of Virginia and GianCarlo Moschini of Iowa State University for our paper, *'Valuing Product Innovation: Genetically Engineered Varieties in U.S. Corn and Soybeans,'*" he said.

His research focuses on the economic and environmental impacts associated with the widespread adoption of genetically engineered crops.

"I studied how the adoption of genetically engineered crops interacts with tillage system adoption and pesticide use. I'm also researching the implications of changing market structure for producer welfare in the corn and soybean seed markets," Perry said.

Using the demand estimates, they found farmers are willing to pay a significant premium for genetically engineered traits, and the extent of this willingness has increased significantly over time.



# Tonsor to serve as President-elect:

## Western Agricultural Economics Association



In December the Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA) announced Dr. Glynn Tonsor was their new President-Elect. Tonsor is a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University.

The majority of Tonsor's interests and experiences span issues

throughout the meat and livestock supply chain stemming from his hands-on background in the industry. Through active research, engaged outreach with industry, and first-hand knowledge with livestock production, Tonsor has economic expertise in an array of topics. His resulting integrated research and extension programs resulted in multiple journal article publications, outreach contributions, and awards. Since 2010, Tonsor has more than 78 peer-reviewed publications, provided over 225 presentations to an in-person audience exceeding 27,000 attendees, conducted numerous educational webinars, and written a multitude of non-technical publications. He has been interviewed or been cited by high-impact outlets

including the CBS Evening News, BBC News, Economist magazine, Time magazine, Wall Street Journal, and the U.S. Farm Report. Most recently, his efforts have been heavily focused on meat-livestock industry issues around the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am honored by the opportunity to serve the WAEA membership as President. As with other associations, several issues will impact the future success of the WAEA," Tonsor said. "Given multiple possible directions for the

association, it is important to directly assess the situation and preferences of current and future, potential members to gain an improved understanding that can guide the WAEA moving forward.

Beyond this assessment

of member preferences, my view on further integrating land-grant university missions will underlie my efforts as WAEA President. Specifically, I would support additional integration across research, teaching, and extension such that WAEA activities reflect modern realities in our respective academic units while also better appealing to off-campus stakeholders."

**"I am honored by the opportunity to serve the WAEA membership as President. As with other associations, several issues will impact the future success of the WAEA."**

**- Glynn Tonsor**

## Donation Challenge issued by Dr. Arlo Biere

Dr. Arlo Biere, Faculty Emeritus, has donated money to create an Undergraduate Student Center that is welcoming for students and student recruits. He sees the need to move the Agricultural Economics Department forward with improved facilities and other updates. He is challenging those who have benefited from their time in the department, whether as students or faculty, to step up and contribute.

There are various opportunities to give depending on your interest:

- faculty endowments
- graduate scholarships
- facility improvements
- undergraduate scholarships

Dr. Biere chose to contribute to facility improvements, because his passion has always been for undergraduate students, and he wants to create a space that is modern and inviting. Construction on the new Center will begin this fall.

Contact Dr. Allen Featherstone, Agricultural Economics Department Head, if you would like to visit about

Departmental needs.

Please remember if you decide to donate to the Department, your employer may match your contribution dollar for dollar. You can check with either your company or Kim Schirer (kims@ksufoundation.org) at the KSU Foundation to determine if your company has a matching program.

### Other Options for Giving:

- Ag Econ Departmental Support Fund - D15290
- Ag Econ Emeritus Faculty & Friends Scholarship Fund - O50290
- AgManager.info - D15180
- Arthur Capper Cooperative Center - C55950
- Coolidge (J.H.) Farm Management Fund - D58235
- Flinchbaugh (Barry) Chair in Agricultural Economics - O65027
- Kansas Society Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers - O08650
- Master of Agribusiness Scholarship Fund (MAB) - O01137
- Risk Management Center - D84855



# Extension: Mental Health and Substance Abuse Training



Dr. John Leatherman has a long history as an Extension Outreach Specialist and Researcher in areas related to community and regional economics, public finance, environmental management and rural health. His interest in rural health led to involvement in a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)/USDA sponsored initiative called Community Assessment and Education to Promote Behavioral Health Planning and Evaluation (CAPE).

As part of the initiative, Dr. Leatherman developed an educational training program to promote community behavioral health using lectures, training and discussion, combining distance education and in-person training.

“CAPE training is intended to increase behavioral health literacy, create and sustain community coalitions addressing behavioral health, and community action planning to address mental health and substance abuse,” he said.

The CAPE Training program has three primary objectives: (1) Enhance participant mental health literacy and equip them with the capacity to heighten mental health literacy in the communities they serve, (2) enhance participant capacity to initiate and sustain local coalitions focused on community behavioral health challenges, and (3) enhance participant capacity to create effective action plans to address substance abuse or other community behavioral health needs.

Interested in promoting behavioral health, Leatherman is currently conducting research in 12 North Central states to determine the extent that community coalitions can combat opioid abuse and the perceptions of the effectiveness of their efforts. The project is to help show that community mobilization should be added to the list of evidence-based strategies to combat the epidemic.

“This research is intended to clearly place Extension as a partner in dealing with behavioral health generally and the opioid tragedy, in particular,” he said.

The CAPE videos are available at [www.youtube.com/user/kstateagecon](http://www.youtube.com/user/kstateagecon).

## New faculty join department



**Logan Britton** joined the Department of Agricultural Economics this year as an assistant professor with teaching and research appointments. He is teaching AGEC 202 Small Business Operations and AGEC 513 Agricultural Finance. He will teach AGEC 115 Decision Tools for Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness and AGEC 315 Contemporary Issues in Global Food and Agricultural Systems in the spring. His research spans three areas including agribusiness, consumer demand, and price analysis and marketing.

Britton earned a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Oklahoma State University in 2020. He received his M.S. in agricultural economics in 2016 and his B.S. in agricultural economics and agricultural communications and journalism in 2015, both from K-State. Britton’s previous work experience includes teaching in the Department of Agricultural Economics at OSU and analyzing coarse grain and co-product trade at the U.S. Grains Council in Washington, D.C. Britton is originally from Bartlett, Kansas, where he actively participated in 4-H and FFA during high school. He is ecstatic about returning to Waters Hall. He looks forward to working with the department’s faculty and staff and helping students reach their educational and career goals.



**Jennifer Ifft** recently joined the Department of Agriculture Economics, after several years on faculty at Cornell University. She has published widely in both academic journals and the farm press and regularly works with farm sector policymakers and stakeholders. Her research considers how farm and nonfarm policies and regulations influence U.S. agriculture, with topics ranging from nontraditional finance to crop insurance to farm labor. Over the course of the next year she hopes to learn more about the challenges facing Kansas agriculture, to build a forward-looking and effective extension program in agricultural policy.

Ifft has also worked at the USDA Economic Research Service, where she contributed to the USDA farm sector forecasts. She received her Ph.D. at the University of California Berkeley and an MPhil at the University of Cambridge as a Gates Cambridge Scholar. She is excited to finally be back in the Midwest and closer to family. She grew up in central Illinois, where her family still operates a grain and hog farm. She also has a sizable number of relatives in Kansas, as her grandmother was born and raised in Northeastern Kansas (Sabetha area).

# Outstanding Student Scholars

The Agricultural Economics Department celebrated three outstanding students during the 2019-20 school year. Clara Wicoff, Sara Gammon and Kat Gregerson have received a number of awards during their time as students at K-State.

**Clara Wicoff**, 2020 graduate in agricultural economics, global food systems leadership and entomology, was selected as a Harry S. Truman Scholar in 2019. Then in 2020 she was awarded the Marshall Scholarship. The Marshall Scholarship provides funding for a graduate study in the United Kingdom, and she will be attending the University of Reading to complete a 12-month program in MSc Agricultural Economics for the first year of her scholarship.



"As a result of this Scholarship, I was awarded two years of graduate school funding. As someone who is passionate about food security and the agriculture industry, I am eager to deepen my understanding of economics at a university with such a rich history in agricultural policy. I am planning to travel to the United Kingdom to start the year-long program in September. I do not yet know where I will be studying in the second year," Wicoff said.

Wicoff developed her passion while working with local summer food service program for three summers. To gain food and agricultural policy experience, she completed internships with the United States Senate Agriculture Committee, the Kansas State Legislature, Kansas Grain and Feed Association and Cargill.

"Clara Wicoff is an exceptional choice for this prestigious scholarship," said K-State President Richard Myers. "Clara's history of leadership and public service certainly fits the Marshall Scholarship objective to serve as an ambassador between the two countries, and her dedication to global food security represents K-State's land-grant mission well."

In addition to the Marshall and Truman scholarships, Wicoff has received a K-State Presidential Scholarship, the Gladwin A. Read Memorial Scholarship, Leonard W. Schruben Agricultural Economics Scholarship, CoBank Outstanding Student Scholarship, Flinchbaugh Agricultural Policy Scholarship, a K-State Kassebaum Scholarship and is a National Merit scholar.



**Sara Gammon**, 2020 graduate in agriculture economics and global food systems leadership, is K-State's 36th recipient of the Truman Scholarship. The Truman scholarship is a competitive national award that provides up to \$30,000 for graduate study to students committed to future careers in public service.

"I applied to be one of K-State's nominees during the spring of my sophomore year. The application is rigorous. There are several essay questions and

a written policy proposal.

My proposal was focused on reforming United States International Food Aid. I was shocked, but excited when I got the email that I would be interviewing in Kansas City. The interview was scheduled for March 20th, but over spring break they moved all interviews to Zoom. After the interview, I waited almost three weeks for the results. President Myers called me and told me I was just

named as K-State's 36th Truman Scholar," Gammon said.

In addition to the Truman scholarship, Gammon received a 2020 Phi Kappa Phi graduate fellowship. She will use the money from both scholarships toward a one-year Master

**"We are proud of the hard work, scholarship, service and leadership demonstrated by these ladies during their time in the Agricultural Economics Department. We wish them great success as they continue making an impact in the global food and agriculture industry."**

**- Dr. Allen Featherstone, Department Head**



Top: Clara Wicoff  
Middle: Sara Gammon  
Bottom: Kat Gregerson



of Philosophy in development studies program at Cambridge University this fall and a one-year Master of Science in development economics at SOAS University of London.

"I hope to eventually work for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the Agricultural Development Economics Division, where I can focus my research and projects on eliminating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition through improving gender equality," Gammon said. "I believe that women's empowerment is vital to moving the world forward and lifting people from poverty to prosperity. I was lucky to be born with the privilege to go to school and have a career; I won the lottery of life. Because of this I believe my life's purpose is to use my education and privilege to help those who are not as fortunate. By breaking the barriers we can not only empower women, we can empower the world."

During her time at K-State, Gammon conducted research on the rural dairy economy in India as a 2017 Borlaug Ruan intern in association with the World Food Prize. In summer 2018, she worked as a K-State International Service Team volunteer at the Children and Youth Empowerment Center in Kenya.

Gammon has also received the David and Susan Barton Cooperative Leadership Scholarship, Gladwin A. Read Memorial Scholarship, the Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding First-Year Performance Award and the McKelvie Scholarship. She was a national finalist in the FFA Agriscience Research competition and received second place in the Kansas Farm Bureau Discussion Meet. She co-authored "A Brief History of Farm Management" published in the *Journal of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers* with Dr. Terry Griffin.

**Katheryn Gregerson**, 2020 graduate in agricultural economics and global food systems leadership, was awarded the Anderson Senior Award for Service by the K-State Alumni Association. Gregerson was nominated by Dr. Elizabeth Yeager, Director of Undergraduate Programs, for the outstanding senior award for service.

"My specific award was for service," Gregerson said. "To me, having a service-oriented perspective means you are willing to put others ahead of yourself to reach a common goal, even when this might be challenging. Servant-hearted leaders can develop and invest in others while expecting no praise or compensation in return. Although a servant-hearted leader may expect nothing in return, they gain the best gift: an understanding of those from a different background than themselves. The many relationships and organizations I have been a part of at K-State have taught me that this servant-hearted lifestyle allows your heart to be opened to new perspectives and a world full of deeper, more loving exchanges."

This honor has humbled me and allowed me to look back on my past four years at K-State with pride and hopefulness. My hope is that others may follow my path and create new paths that lead to serving others on our campus and in the Manhattan community in meaningful, creative ways," Gregerson said.

In addition to the Anderson Award, Gregerson also received the Dean of Student Life outstanding Graduating Senior Award, the John and Pearl E. Bullock Scholarship and a Muir Alpha Tau Omega Blue Key Leadership Scholarship. She has served as director of YouLead for Blue Key Senior Honorary, president of the K-State Food Recovery Network, she helped fight and expand food-waste efforts in the community. Gregerson also was student co-chair of the Cats' Cupboard advisory board for the on-campus food pantry. Gregerson served as a student assistant with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agriculture Service Cochran Fellowship program and was a member of the first cohort of Cargill Fellows. She also served a K-State International Service Team in Kenya in summer 2019, conducting an in-depth survey analysis on food insecurity to develop an anti-hunger action plan. She was a student data intern for the academic records director in the College of Agriculture and also served as public relations director for the global food systems leadership program in the Staley School of Leadership Studies.

"We are proud of the hard work, scholarship, service and leadership demonstrated by these ladies during their time in the Agricultural Economics Department," Dr. Allen Featherstone, Department Head, said. "We wish them great success as they continue making an impact in the global food and agriculture industry."

What do all of these K-State Scholars have in common?

4 of 36 Truman Scholars

2 of 15 Marshall Scholars

2 of 13 Rhodes Scholars

They are all Agricultural Economics students!





## Agricultural Sales Option and Minor offered

The Agricultural Economics Department is now offering a new minor in Agricultural Sales for students outside the department and a Sales option for students majoring in Agricultural Economics. The minor will be very beneficial to students outside of our department as many of them accept positions in sales after graduation.

“The department is excited to be offering a new minor in agricultural sales. This minor includes our key marketing and sales courses, and allows students to select their additional courses from the agricultural economics or marketing departments to focus on their needs and interests,” Dr. Elizabeth Yeager, Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Programs, said. “It’s an important addition for students outside of our department

who are interested in pursuing a career in agricultural sales as it will allow them to build their academic portfolio and set themselves apart from other potential applicants. Many students find themselves employed in a sales type position upon graduation and having the skill set to succeed is critical.”

The minor is available to students in the College of Agriculture and students across all colleges and departments. The courses for this minor are stackable to fit any degree program. It will be beneficial to students who pursue careers in sales such as fertilizer, pharmaceutical and grain science as feed sales representatives. The minor will also work well for students pursuing a Professional Strategic Selling Major or Certificate.

## Professional Development: Workshops & Certificates

Today’s agribusiness leaders need a diverse and effective set of skills to get ahead and stay ahead in the agribusiness industry. K-State Olathe and the Department of Agricultural Economics have partnered to provide a series of Agribusiness Professional Development Programs. These programs offer certificates in leadership, finance, and sales/marketing, with topical agribusiness workshops to provide the in-demand skill-sets and cutting edge knowledge today’s agribusiness professionals need to be successful.

The first workshop, *Agribusiness Risk Management: Managing through Crisis: Lessons Learned and Opportunities for the Future* on October 8 will be lead by Agricultural Economics Professors Dr. Allen Featherstone and Dr. Vincent Amanor-Boadu. The workshop focuses on enterprise risk identification, assessment and management strategies. It explores the short-term and long-term, and encourages participants to think about “Black Swans.”

“The COVID-19 pandemic is certainly challenging business strategies and business models worldwide,” said Amanor-Boadu. “Yet, it creates superb opportunities for agribusiness firms to create novel and innovative solutions

that entrenches their competitiveness.”

The first certificate will follow in the Spring of 2021, Agribusiness Finance. The Essential Leadership Certificate will be offered in the fall of 2021, Sales and Marketing Certificate in the spring of 2022, and finally an Advanced Leadership Certificate in the fall of 2022.

In addition to the identified certificates, participants can take part in additional topical workshops that will be offered periodically. These workshops are aimed at addressing important topics for agribusiness management that fall outside the identified certificates or are covering a salient topic impacting the industry.

To find out more information and register as workshops are scheduled, visit the K-State Professional Development website: [www.olathe.k-state.edu/professional-dev/](http://www.olathe.k-state.edu/professional-dev/). Courses will be offered in person and online.





# Pandemic Brings Unique Opportunity for *Collaboration*

Change leads to innovation. As the COVID-19 pandemic developed, the government created programs to help bridge some of the financial impacts to businesses in a rapidly slowing economy. SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans were one of the tools rolled out in the CARES act.

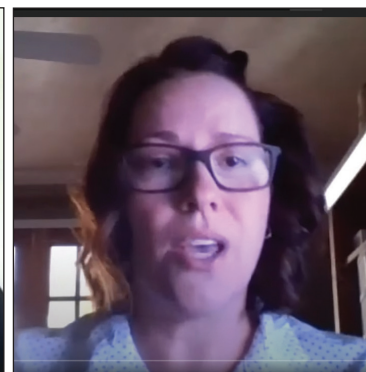
With the new program came uncertainty and a number of questions. For the cooperative community, one big question was, how does the Paycheck Protection Program apply to cooperatives?

A response was needed and meeting in person in April 2020 was not an option because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Brian Briggeman, Agricultural Economics professor and director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center (ACCC), and Brandi Miller, President/CEO of the Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC), worked quickly and collaboratively to put together a virtual roundtable to address the questions surrounding the PPP loan program.

“Addressing this question required a quick response because PPP funds were being quickly depleted. On April 13, 2020, with the help of Rich Llewelyn of K-State’s AgManager.info, 400 registrants met virtually to learn and ask questions from a panel of experts.

“The COVID-19 pandemic opened my eyes to how quickly a virtual meeting can reach stakeholders with needed information to help them make more informed decisions. A virtual Zoom webinar was a perfect way to bring a group of experts together with cooperative leaders,” Briggeman said.

The virtual roundtable panelists were Briggeman; Miller; Kevin Herbel and Mark Dikeman, Ag Econ/ KFMA; Eric Steinle, Martindell Swearer Shaffer Ridenour Law Firm; Mark Kliewer, Kennedy Berkley Yarnevich &



Williamson Law Firm; Brent Knoche, Lindburg Vogel Pierce Faris Accounting Firm; and Marty Shaffer, Campbell Shaffer & Company Accounting Firm.

The PPP webinar was recorded and posted on the AgManager.info website for further outreach.

“KCC received very favorable feedback on the Paycheck Protection Program webinar, members appreciated that we were able to be reactive during a time of uncertainty. Partnering with the ACCC certainly was a great way to provide expertise to the industry and quickly address questions that both organizations were fielding regarding PPP,” Miller said.

Collaboration and a cooperative spirit will create future opportunities for those open to change.

The Arthur Capper Cooperative Center was established in June 1984 through a public-private partnership between the Kansas Cooperative Council and the Kansas State University Department of Agricultural Economics. <https://acc.k-state.edu/>.

A recording of the webinar can be found at: [agmanager.info/news/recent-videos/sba-paycheck-protection-program-cooperatives-and-farmers-webinar](https://agmanager.info/news/recent-videos/sba-paycheck-protection-program-cooperatives-and-farmers-webinar).

**Roundtable on the Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)**

Program hosted by

**CC**  
KANSAS COOPERATIVE COUNCIL

**KANSAS STATE**  
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
Arthur Capper Cooperative Center

**AgManager**.info

As you enter the Zoom meeting please make sure to:

- (1) Mute your audio and video
- (2) Print off the “questions” document emailed to you or available on [www.agmanager.info](http://www.agmanager.info)

# Ag Econ Alumni guiding future leaders in agriculture

The Agricultural Economics Department has a history of producing leaders in the agriculture industry. It should come as no surprise that some department alumni are now at other universities guiding future leaders in the industry. A few of them share how K-State prepared them for a career in higher education, a little about their current roles and reflect on their time at K-State.



**Sean Fox, Agricultural & Consumer Economics Department, Professor & Department Head, University of Illinois**

At K-State I had opportunities to learn from great colleagues and from the examples of some very skilled administrators. In particular, I was fortunate as an assistant professor to have Dr. Dan Bernardo as my department head. From

Dan, I learned a great deal about how to be a good leader including how important it is to be an optimist, to try to frame problems as opportunities, to have an entrepreneurial mindset, and to always strive to create conditions in which others can succeed.

Without doubt what I enjoy most about my position is the opportunity to help others succeed. I get my greatest (workplace) joy from seeing students graduate and get great positions, colleagues get promoted, win awards, and earn leadership positions in our profession. Plus, there's something new every day – it's not boring! It's a role, as I recall Dr. Allen Featherstone telling me when I was leaving K-State, that stretches you – and that is certainly true.



**Barry Goodwin, Agricultural and Resource Economics Department, William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor, North Carolina State University**

I began my career in the K-State Ag Econ Department after being hired by Dr. Marc Johnson. I owe much of my career to the mentoring, collegiality, and friendship of many individuals in the

department. I learned how our academic discipline actually works from Drs. Ted Schroeder, Allen Featherstone, and Jim Mintert. I also benefited immensely from having Dr. Andy Barkley as a colleague.

I have also served on faculty at Ohio State, but have spent much of my career at North Carolina State University, of which I am an alumnus. I currently am the William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Graduate Alumni Distinguished Professor in the Department of Economics at North Carolina State. The years I spent at K-State, 1988-1993, are among the highlights of my career. Any successes that I have enjoyed are due to the wonderful start I received there.

department. I learned how our academic discipline



**Lisa House, Food and Resource Economics Department, Professor & Department Chair, University of Florida**

The faculty in the Ag Econ Department at K-State were key in my preparation for a career as a professor in agricultural economics. The coursework was solid, but what was more important was that each professor invested time

in making sure we all understood the methods we were learning, as well as why they were important. We had support to conduct research, present findings and get feedback at professional meetings, and more. We even had the opportunity to get involved in committees and see how an academic department worked, which I believe was a key factor in leading a number of us to move on to academics. The atmosphere was welcoming and it was easy to ask questions. Another key factor was the other students--we took classes together, studied together, and became life-long friends and colleagues. I have a memory of how faculty, staff, and students worked together in the flood of 1993 to place sandbags around the homes that were threatened. It was just a good example of how we all enjoyed working together, whether it was in class, research or outside of work.

in making sure we all understood the methods we were learning, as well as why they were important. We had support to conduct research, present findings and get feedback at professional meetings, and more. We even had the opportunity to get involved in committees and

One thing I really enjoy about being Department Chair is the interaction with faculty, industry, and other administrators. Being able to take time and see how the Food and Resource Economics Department at UF can help industry solve complex problems, while at the same time contribute to the profession in advancing the field of agricultural and natural resource economics.



**Jayson Lusk, Agricultural Economics, Department Head & Distinguished Professor, Purdue University**

I had excellent mentors and advisors in graduate school at K-State. They plugged me in to research from the moment I arrived. There was a curious and energetic group of early career faculty who were passionate about their research and outreach, and this spilled over to the attitudes we inherited as students. We talked about economics in Waters Hall, at lunch in the Union, on napkins at the bar in Aggieville, at football tailgates, and at home. My time at Kansas State helped instill a passion for learning, problem solving, and teamwork.

Beyond the outstanding faculty and staff at K-State, I couldn't have asked for a better cohort of classmates. From a fairly sheltered upbringing in West Texas, my horizons immediately expanded as I befriended people from all over the United States and the world. I met some of my best friends, closest colleagues, and my wife in grad school at K-State. I'm proud to be a Wildcat. I'm not sure becoming a Department Head is a top of mind career goal for most productive faculty. However, after a stint as president of the Agricultural and Applied Economics

**Joe Parcell, Division of Applied Social Sciences Director, Agricultural and Applied Economics Professor, University of Missouri**

My graduate experience at KSU paved the way for a successful academic and leadership career. While at KSU in the graduate program, I was given teaching opportunities, served as extension specialist for a year, and worked in a research center. Therefore, I entered my career with a deep passion for the land grant mission. Many of my peer administrators may understand only two of the three legs of the land grant mission.

Also, the network of KSU Ph.D.'s pursuing academic careers and administrative careers has provided me an incredibly strong network of peer colleagues to call upon. Each of us sharing the KSU tie.

I've always had an interest in pursuing a leadership role.

**Christine Wilson, College of Agriculture, Office of Academic Programs, Associate Dean/Director Academic Programs, Purdue University**

I enjoyed my time at K-State as both a student and faculty member. The faculty have been excellent and passionate about the mission of the department – teaching, research and extension. I learned to think critically and make decisions with an economic and policy framework, as well as advance my knowledge.

In my current role as Associate Dean, there are many opportunities for growth. We have a great team of leaders including the dean, provost and academic department heads. It is challenging making decisions that impact and

Association (AAEA), I felt the work of agricultural economists can and should have a broader impact than it was having. I also found that I enjoyed helping others make progress and find success. When the head position at Purdue came knocking, it was an opportunity to lead one of the largest agricultural economics departments in the country in a college that had the resources and commitment to make an impact on U.S. agriculture.

With more than 40 faculty, another 40 staff, and more than 100 graduate and 500 undergraduate students, our department at Purdue has a wide diversity of interests and talents. At any moment, there are numerous interesting and impactful projects going on. I enjoy learning what people are doing, helping promote and cheer-lead, and remove roadblocks to productivity.

It was just a matter of finding the right time for my family and myself to pursue an opportunity. At the University of Missouri there are not department chairs in the college of agriculture. We have division directors that are similar to a small college within a college. I have administrative authority over agricultural and applied economists, rural sociologists, hospital management, agricultural education, science and agricultural communications, community and economic development extension, and agribusiness management & policy extension.

educate the next generation. I get to help students find their passion for a career in agriculture and become leaders.

Jayson, Lisa, Joe, Barry and I are all still connected. We're all serving in academics as colleagues and K-Staters making an impact in the industry and on future leaders in agriculture.



# Leading the way: Graduate Student Council

Three Agricultural Economics graduate students are serving on the Graduate Student Council. The Graduate Student Council is an organization that works to represent the graduate students at Kansas State University, provide support and enhance the graduate student experience.

**Hannah Shear** is a fourth year Ph.D. student who is serving as the Graduate Student Council President.

"I pursued leadership within the GSC because it allowed me the opportunity to speak-up for graduate students and to serve as a representative of our diverse graduate student body. It has provided me with numerous opportunities to grow in my leadership, as well as to work with K-State's Administration on Budget Review Committees, Curriculum and Teaching, Graduate

Faculty and more," Shear said.

She received her undergraduate degrees from the University of Kentucky in Animal Science and Agricultural Economics. She then went on to earn a dual Masters in Agricultural Economics and International Rural Development from the University of Arkansas and the European Consortium respectively. Shear loves teaching and agricultural economics, so she made the decision to pursue her Ph.D. Her background is in livestock and animal science and the focus on livestock economics and farm management is what lead her to Kansas State University. She hopes to use her academic knowledge and leadership skills to pursue a career in Extension and Teaching.

**"I pursued leadership within the GSC because it allowed me the opportunity to speak-up for graduate students and to serve as a representative of our diverse graduate student body. It has provided me with numerous opportunities to grow in my leadership, as well as to work with K-State's Administration."**

**- Hannah Shear**



Top: Hannah Shear, President  
Left: Devin Brand, Treasurer  
Right: Bailey Hinkle, Secretary

**Bailey Hinkle** is a master's student and currently serves as the Graduate Student Council Secretary.

"When I first considered joining the GSC, I was nervous. I knew I had the skills and ability to do well in the position, and I had the desire to help other students be successful. So, with the encouragement of a few colleagues, I overcame my fears and ran for secretary," Hinkle said. "Serving as secretary,

I have learned to communicate with a large group of students of all different disciplines through weekly newsletters, recording meeting minutes, coordinating meetings and more. Being able to help plan events and ensure our graduate students have the opportunities and resources they need to succeed and seeing the execution of the events and witnessing students utilize the resources is very rewarding."

Hinkle received her undergraduate degree from Oklahoma State University in Agricultural Economics. Her research interests include agricultural finance, agribusiness management and risk management.

**Devin Brand** is a master's student and serving as Graduate Student Council Treasurer.

"I decided to participate in the Graduate Student Council because it provided me the opportunity to work to positively impact the lives of fellow graduate students across the entire K-State community while also developing invaluable leadership skills. Although I was quite nervous at first, it has turned out to be one of the best decisions I have made and I am incredibly thankful for the experience I have had," Brand said.

Brand earned a B.S. degree in Agricultural Business at South Dakota State University. Throughout various coursework and internship experience during his time in South Dakota, he developed a strong interest in agricultural policy, as well as international trade. Brand discovered he wants to spend his career working to have a positive impact in the lives of producers. He believed he needed more knowledge and skills to be effective in that pursuit so decided to attend K-State to pursue a M.S. degree in Agricultural Economics. Brand's thesis research focuses on dairy farm growth and the impact of supply control policies on different dairy farm size groups.



# Distinguished Young Alumni

Two agricultural economics alumni were selected as the 2020 Distinguished Young Alumni by the K-State Alumni Association: Mindy McBee (Agribusiness '12) and Sarah Sexton-Bowser (Agricultural Economics '08).

The award recognizes K-State graduates who are younger than 35 and are using the scholarship, leadership and service experience they acquired at K-State to excel in their professions and contribute to their communities.

**Mindy McBee** went to work for Cargill after interning with them before her senior year. She is a Strategic Account Sales Leader where she works with large Ag Retail customers.

"I work with our large Ag Retail customers who we supply both branded and private label feed. The customers range from New York to Washington State so it's a very large and diverse footprint. My team helps customers with strategic planning, risk management, product assortment, training, etc. Our supply chain is very complex so there is never a dull moment or a boring day!" McBee said. "I also get to help lead our rotational Management Associate program. I love helping to mentor and coach our young employees and start to give back what has been given to me in my career. I get to stay close to K-State

through serving on our Cargill Steering Committee which started programs like Project Impact and the Cargill Fellows Program."

Though she grew up on a farm, she originally came to K-State to study fashion design. Listening to her friends talk about their experiences in the College of Agriculture, she decided to change her focus.

"I loved my time in the Ag Econ department. I felt like my classes were rooted in purpose and I could always connect with them personally. I remember from my very first agriculture classes feeling like I was getting a breath of fresh air – my classes were talking about real world problems, how we would solve them, and that was so exciting to me," McBee said.

**Sarah Sexton-Bowser** is managing director for K-State's Center for Sorghum Improvement. Her current role encompasses maintaining grain sorghum as a viable crop both through enhanced yield and competitive market expansion.

"At the Center I work to build critical mass for investments and resources to further advance the crop for farmers on the Great Plains and beyond. I actively practice coalition building with guidance from my policy classes under the principles of market discipline," Sexton-Bowser said. "This work aims to increase the resilience of cropping with sorghum and build value for the farm gate, and while challenging me with continuously learning and growth."

Sexton-Bowser remembers her time in the Ag Econ department fondly.

"The training and knowledge base in the Ag Econ department is a solid foundation for a plethora of rewarding career opportunities. For me, those experiences have been centric to the agribusiness complex in Kansas, and now the crop improvement realm," Sexton-Bowser said. "I am fortunate to have been mentored, challenged and invited to expand my horizons by many during my time as a student."

When asked if about advice for current students both mentioned the importance of internships.

"Lean in and be an active participant. Take a few challenging classes. Have great internships," Sexton-Bowser said.

## Other Agricultural Economics Distinguished Young Alumni:

2015: Corey Fortin ('06)

2014: Matt Wolters ('03)

2014: Justine Sterling ('07)



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## Agricultural Economics Alumni to Date

BS in Agricultural Economics	<b>3,673</b>
B.S. in Agribusiness	<b>1,419</b>
Master of Science	<b>793</b>
Master of Agribusiness	<b>328</b>
Ph.D.	<b>253</b>
Certificates	<b>6</b>