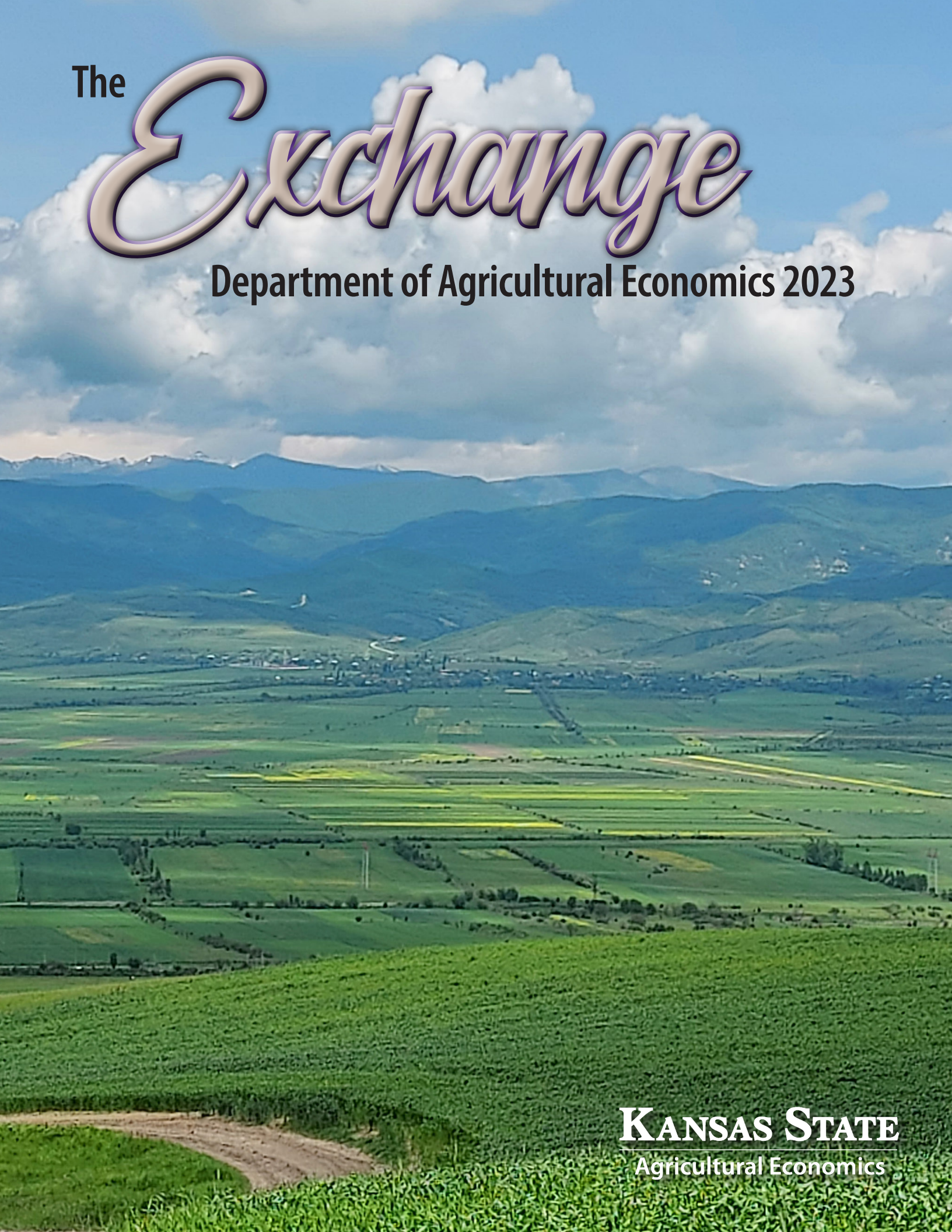


The

Exchange

Department of Agricultural Economics 2023



KANSAS STATE
Agricultural Economics



The Exchange, Fall 2023

The Exchange is for Kansas State University Department of Agricultural Economics friends and alumni. If you have story ideas, comments, or suggestions, please let us know.

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On the cover and this page: A team from Kansas State University and the USDA traveled to the country of Georgia to study the wheat production-supply chain, meet with specialists of the Agricultural Scientific Research Center, farmers, and flour mills to make recommendations on ways to improve the wheat sector and increase the sustainability of the wheat supply chain in Georgia.

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From the desk of Allen Featherstone

Our focus in 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. We continue to innovate and provide insight into the tough questions facing the agricultural community.

As the fall semester is upon us we wanted to highlight some of our achievements, activities and future opportunities. You can read updates on numerous awards won by Department faculty, staff and students for their research, outreach, and teaching efforts; global projects; updates on the Center for Risk Management Education and Research; senior Caleb Stout's election as K-State Student Body President; and much more.

We are pleased to announce our 2023 Distinguished Alumni Jay Armstrong who we will recognize at our annual scholarship and awards banquet. We hope you will join us for the scholarship banquet Friday, September 22 and at the tailgate event before the September 23 football game against new Big 12 member University of Central Florida. Be watching for more information on both events.

Our achievements are directly related to the continued support of our alumni and corporate sponsorships. We appreciate the dedication and engagement of our alumni and outside supporters. Thank you to our generous donors who give back to the Department. If you have an interest in giving before the end of the year, please contact me about departmental needs or go to our Give Back page to contribute.

We also encourage you to share your career and family developments so we can keep your fellow alumni informed. Please email me at afeather@ksu.edu or Mary Sullivan, our communications coordinator, at mjbowen@ksu.edu with information you would like to share with your fellow alumni.

Go Cats!



Dr. Allen Featherstone

Department Head, Professor, Master of Agribusiness Program Director



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Master of Agribusiness Scholarship Fund (MAB) - O01137

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Improving wheat production in Georgia

A team from Kansas State University including Drs. Allen Featherstone and Antonina Broyaka from Agricultural Economics, along with others from K-State and the USDA traveled to Georgia over the past year to help with their wheat production.

Wheat demand in Georgia is from 650,000 to 750,000 metric tonnes, but production is around 100,000 to 110,000 metric tonnes. This shortfall causes Georgia to be dependent on imports for wheat, flour, and livestock feed.

The objective of the project is to identify challenges in the wheat sector and increase the sustainability of the wheat supply chain for Georgia. Specifically, conducting wheat yield gap analysis, examining milling issues, and analyzing the wheat supply chain to provide recommendations to enhance wheat flour availability.

“The project will be successful when Georgia achieves its main goal - increases the yield of wheat and satisfies the local market demand with its own manufacturing capabilities,” said Featherstone.

While in country, the team met with individuals from the Georgian government, local producers and millers including the First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture George Khanishvili.

According to Khanishvili, an increase in quality, as well as quantity of local wheat production, replacing dependence on international markets, and encouraging domestic industry by limiting imports of manufactured goods is crucial for Georgia.

“I would like to express my gratitude for the team’s efforts,” Khanishvili said. “With the adoption of competent final

recommendations, a new stage will begin in the wheat sector, which will be related to the wheat, seed, and grain crop production in the country. I believe, that we will be able to achieve the desired goal with effective teamwork.”

The initial research conducted in the wheat sector showed that Georgia has potential to increase production and improve the quality of wheat products. Issues noted by the group range from farmer access to information, the need for more diverse crop rotation, excessive seeds per hectare, fertilizer/pesticides, and harvest timing. Mills and bakeries were also analyzed for possible areas of improvement.

“Georgia’s consumption relies on bread. Producing wheat for bread is one of the goals of the Georgian government,” Featherstone said. “Under the Soviet Union, Georgian focused on wine, citrus, and tea production. Unlike Kansas, there is not a long history of wheat production.”

K-State Wheat Team

Dr. Marty Draper, Retired, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Director for K-State Research and Extension

Dr. Romulo Lollato, Wheat specialist, Department of Agronomy

Dr. Kelsey Andersen Onofre, Wheat pathologist, Department of Plant Pathology

Dr. Eduard Akhunov, Director of Wheat Genetics Resource Center

Dr. Allan Fritz, Wheat Breeder, Department of Agronomy

Shawn Thiele, International Grain Program, Flour Milling and Grain Processing

Paul Blodgett, Milling Operation Associate Director

K-State chosen to lead global animal health effort

An agricultural economist, Dr. Dustin Pendell, has been selected to lead a project to develop decision-making tools and improve communication on the economic impacts of animal disease, ultimately improving the health of those animals and the safety of meat.

Pendell was recently named head of the Americas region of the Collaborating Centre for the Economics of Animal Health. The project is supported by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH).

WOAH is similar in purpose to that of the World Health Organization. It approved the creation of the center during its 90th General Assembly in late May. WOAH has 183 member countries, 33 of which are in the Americas region.

“Our thought process is that we can start to work together across the 33 countries in the Americas region to develop a set of consistent methods and tools that everyone can use to estimate the economic impacts of animal health,” Pendell said. “Then we can take that knowledge and disseminate that information back to the decision-makers, whether that be animal health officials, producers or anybody throughout the supply chain, so they can make better management decisions.”

The CCEAH-Americas centers its operations at K-State’s Manhattan campus, though there are no physical buildings representing the group. It will involve partners at the University of Sao Paulo, University of Brasilia, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, and Washington State University.

“K-State, the College of Agriculture, and the Department are already leaders in the animal health space. I think WOAH’s center designation is a global recognition of the great work we are not only doing here today, but where we are headed



in the future. It is my vision that anyone across the globe will immediately turn to K-State when they think about anything related to animal health economics,” he said.

The center will focus its effort on animal health related to terrestrial livestock and aquaculture.

“As an economist, I will focus my work in that area, but this center is much more than economics,” Pendell said. “It will take multiple disciplines, such as veterinarians, economists, epidemiologists, engineers and more, to make this a success.

“The Center looks to identify and help fill in the data gaps, improve accessibility and visibility of data, develop methods and tools to evaluate animal health events, assist with global, national, and local policy dialogue, and provide training and capacity development for decision makers and animal health officials. As a state and country that produces a significant number of livestock and livestock products, the Center’s aims will directly contribute to the citizens and producers in

Kansas and across the United States,” he said.

Pendell said he anticipates the center’s work will build upon recent global efforts such as the Global Burden of Animal Diseases, or GBADs, and Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases, a joint effort of WOAH and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Pendell said knowing the burden of animal diseases across the world will not only assist governments and animal health officials invest appropriately in combatting those

diseases but will help everyone across the livestock and meat supply chain.

“My hope is that we can provide decision-makers with the information such that they will be able to optimally allocate their limited resources,” he said.

Pendell said his vision for the CCEAH-Americas is rooted in K-State’s land-grant mission.

“As an agricultural economist at a land-grant university, my job is to provide unbiased research to our stakeholders, such that they can make a better-informed decisions,” he said. “We want business management decisions to be data-driven as opposed to a gut feeling. My vision for this center incorporates the land-grant philosophy and gets the research into the hands of the stakeholders, both here at home and around the world.”

“K-State, the College of Agriculture, and the Department are already leaders in the animal health space. It is my vision that anyone across the globe will immediately turn to K-State when they think about anything related to animal health economics.”

Featherstone named university distinguished professor

Kansas State University has bestowed the highest faculty title of university distinguished professor upon Dr. Allen Featherstone, professor, director of the Master of Agribusiness program, and department head of agricultural economics. Instrumental in the development of the university's innovative MAB program, Featherstone has been the director of the program since its inception in 1997.

"Dr. Featherstone is an internationally recognized researcher in his field who has distinguished himself as a teacher and mentor," said Chuck Taber, executive vice president and university provost. "He is dedicated to excellence in teaching, research and service and will continue to support Kansas State University's strategic plan to become a next-generation land-grant university."

University distinguished professors are appointed following a university-wide nomination and evaluation process conducted by the provost. Featherstone will receive a personalized plaque and medallion at the university's fall 2023 commencement ceremonies.

"I am honored to be awarded such a prestigious award. Certainly, it is a recognition of the importance of the multifaceted approach of a land-grant university has to its citizens in the areas of teaching, research, and extension," Featherstone indicated.

Featherstone is globally recognized as a leading expert in the field of agricultural finance and agriculture production economics. His research includes some of the most impactful areas in agricultural economics, including the influences of taxes on farmland, the probability of agricultural loan default and loan loss severity, groundwater allocation in irrigated crop production, management of corn yield and interactions of weather and soils.

Awarded more than \$7.1 million in research funding, Featherstone has published more than 150 peer-reviewed journal articles, including the flagship *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, the *Journal of Econometrics*, and the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, among other leading journals. His work has been reported in leading national publications and outlets. His agricultural policy and land-value work was cited by then-Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman and then-President Clinton as rationale for farm program support to agriculture.

"Excellence in research provides a foundation for teaching and extension," Featherstone said. "I was challenged as a graduate student at Purdue University by one of the retired professors that would often ask me, what have you done for the taxpayer of Indiana today. I have thought about that

question often throughout my career, and as such tried to address issues important in the State of Kansas."

An internationally recognized conference speaker and presenter, Featherstone has been honored by many professional organizations, including numerous honors from the Agricultural Finance and Management Section, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association; the 2003 Distinguished Faculty Award and the 1999 Outstanding Research Award from the K-State chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta; the Phi Kappa Phi Scholar Award; and the Gold Quill Award for Outstanding Journal article, *Journal of American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers*. In 2005, he received K-State's Commerce Bank Distinguished Graduate Faculty award. Featherstone is active on university and college committees and has served on leading industry advisory boards and as a research journal associate editor.

In the MAB program, Featherstone teaches Agribusiness Financial Management, Agribusiness Risk Management Comparative Food and Agriculture Systems, and the Seminar in Agricultural Economics Analysis courses.

Featherstone earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and his master's and doctorate in agricultural economics from Purdue University.



Graduate team wins global agribusiness competition

The team of Ph.D. candidates Walter Ac Pangan, Priyanka Sharma, Catherine Obiribea Ofori-Bah, Lonnie Hobbs Jr., and M.S. student Manoj Sharma, won the International Food and Agribusiness Management Association's (IFAMA) 2023 Student Case Competition. Led by faculty advisor Dr. Aleksan Shanoyan, the team from the Department of Agricultural Economics competed in Christchurch, New Zealand June 17-19, 2023.

"Our team was determined to continue the tradition of K-State Ag Econ students placing in case study competitions and directed significant time and effort in preparing for this competition. They spent many hours over the course of several weeks prior to the competition refining their knowledge of economic and management concepts, practicing case analysis, and enhancing their teamwork abilities," Shanoyan said.

Twenty-two teams from around the world competed to analyze case studies in front of professional and academic judges. In each round, teams either analyzed or revised a case study and were scored based on their presentation and responses to questions from the judges. The team scored in the top five to advance to the semi-finals and in the top two to advance to the final round, where they later won the competition.

"The IFAMA case study competition was a time-bound group task. We had to develop a solid understanding of the case – which involved analyzing whether Bayer Company should partner with an NGO in Honduras – and identify challenges faced by the company along with potential pragmatic approaches to address them," said team member Manoj Sharma.

Shanoyan helped prepare the team for the competition.

"During the preparation stage, I helped them in developing a toolbox of the most applicable economic and management concepts, provided advice on the process of case analysis and preparation and delivery of effective solutions. During the competition my role was limited to providing encouragement and cheering for our team," said Shanoyan. "Ultimately, it was the students' hard work and determination that led to the team's success."

Working under the time constraints of the competition added an extra challenge while developing their strategy.

"Equally challenging were the time constraints and combining the different views and approaches of each team member. There was a limited timeframe to identify the underlying themes and challenges and develop practical strategic solutions to address these challenges while incorporating the different perspectives of each of us on the team," Ofori-Bah said.

The team was formally recognized for their accomplishment at the IFAMA Presidential Banquet and during an awards ceremony. Cash awards and other prizes were awarded at a later date.

"It's a testament to our team's ability to apply the knowledge and skills we've gained in a highly competitive international platform," said team member Priyanka Sharma about winning the competition. "It underscores the strength of our curriculum and the expertise of our faculty, as well as the potential of our students."



Left to right: IFAMA team Manoj Sharma, Lonnie Hobbs, Jr., Catherine Obiribea Ofori-Bah, Priyanka Sharma, Walter Ac Pangan, and Dr. Aleksan Shanoyan

Parcell returns to K-State as Director of the Center for Risk Management Education and Research

Dr. Joe Parcell, an agricultural economics professor, has returned to K-State to serve as professor in the Agricultural Economics Department and Director of the Center for Risk Management Education and Research (CRMER), an interdisciplinary program with student fellows from across the campus and collaboration between the colleges of Agriculture, Business, and Engineering.

“The passion and commitment of the faculty, staff, students and community is one of the reasons I wanted to return to K-State,” Parcell said. “I also like the interdisciplinary nature of the Center that was established by Dr. Ted Schroeder, professor of agricultural economics and former CRMER Director, and others involved with the creation of the program. Risk management strategies are becoming less siloed within organizations, and CRMER is a good opportunity for students across colleges and majors to experience this.”

The Center engages students and industry partners in innovative education and research advancing their risk management skills and knowledge. Through undergraduate and graduate education, executive and professional education, and collaborative research, CRMER facilitates effective risk management practices among new and established industry professionals.

“I am looking forward to introducing students to new concepts that are used by industry to manage risk, as well as welcoming new industry partners to the Center,” Parcell said.

As far as plans for growth of the program, Parcell has areas he’d like to focus on in the near future.

“The Center’s Advisory Council challenged me to increase the number of students in the Center. With that in mind, we have adapted CRMER student experiences to involve a larger group of students at different stages of their educational programs. We are excited to launch the new CRMER RISE approach to career preparation. RISE emphasizes Research engagement, Interdisciplinary experiences, Systems approach and Experiential learning. It provides students



“I am looking forward to introducing students to new concepts that are used by industry to manage risk, as well as welcoming new industry partners to the Center.”

with the opportunity to engage with the center for up to three years. The managing director, Emily Garwood, and I want to continue growing the connections between alumni of the Center to current student fellows. I’m going to work on building awareness of the interdisciplinary Center across campus. An initial step was opening a Center office in the Business Building, in addition to our office in the Agricultural Economics Department,” he said.

Dr. Parcell received his bachelor’s degree in mathematics from the University of Northern Iowa, and he earned his master’s and doctoral degree from Kansas State University. Parcell has more than 25 years of academic and consulting experience, and is the author of over 200 journal articles, book chapters, abstracts and proceedings, posters, organized symposium presentations, and extension publications. To date, he has secured over \$5 million dollars in grant funding. Dr. Parcell co-authored the seventh edition of *The Global Agricultural Marketing System* by V.J. Rhodes, J. Dauve, and J. Parcell. Prior to returning to K-State, he served as Division Director of the Applied Social Sciences division from 2017-2022 at the University of Missouri.

Hobbs receives awards for teaching and multiculturalism

Lonnie Hobbs Jr., a graduate teaching assistant and doctoral student in agricultural economics, won the Kansas State University Presidential Graduate Teaching Assistant Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching for his classroom contributions in 2023. In addition, Hobbs has won Gamma Sigma Delta's Outstanding Ph.D. Graduate Teaching Award and awards for enhancing multiculturalism on campus this year.

Hobbs was presented with the Presidential Award by President Richard Linton during one of his classes. He describes receiving the award as an honor and validation of his efforts in and out of the classroom.

"There are some very effective teachers out there doing a great job in the classroom, so to be recognized by the university as one of the top ones this year means a lot to me, it lets me know that I must be doing something right," Hobbs said. "What made it even better was the way they presented the award because if it wasn't for the students, I wouldn't have gotten the award in the first place. For them to be able to share in that experience made it all the better."



Since 2018, Hobbs has worked as an undergraduate teaching assistant at K-State, where addressing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging is a cornerstone of his teaching philosophy. He connects with his students by creating a learning environment where asking questions and openly communicating are encouraged. Hobbs also strives to make course content accessible, engaging, and relatable for students.

As a student who has benefited from multicultural programs at K-State, Hobbs is passionate about supporting and providing opportunities for multicultural students. Through his work at the College of Agriculture's Diversity Programs Office and the student group K-State Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS), Hobbs has made a lasting impact on minority students and diversity efforts.

"A lot of the success that I've had is because someone opened the door for me," Hobbs said. "It's important to have diversity efforts, but also to continue them so we can keep bringing in great people that continue to add to the mission of the university and to the overall mission of agriculture."

Hobbs completed a bachelor's degree in agriculture at Prairie View A&M University, and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics with an agribusiness specialty from K-State. He will join the Department of Agricultural Economics as a faculty member. His goals for this position include connecting the department and its students with grain and futures commodity companies, beginning a research program geared toward pet food and its economics, and continuing his personal development as a teacher and researcher.

Hobbs' 2023 Awards

- **Presidential Graduate Teaching Assistant Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, K-State**
- **Teaching, Learning, and Communications Graduate Student Teaching Award, K-State College of Agriculture**
- **1st Place Graduate Student Case Competition, International Food and Agribusiness Management Association (IFAMA)**
- **Richard Elmore Brown Graduate Student Teaching Award, Applied Agricultural Economics Association**
- **Outstanding Ph.D. Graduate Teaching Award, Gamma Sigma Delta**
- **Presidential Student Award for Distinguished Services in Enhancing Multiculturalism at K-State, Commerce Bank**
- **Alumni Association Robinson Family Multicultural Leadership Awards, K-State Alumni Association**
- **Graduate Student Teaching Award, North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA)**

Department study receives USDA grant

The team of Drs. Logan Britton, Brian Coffey, Dustin Pendell, and Glynn Tonsor have received a grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture to support their study, "Supply Chain Implications for a Non-Zoonotic Foreign Animal Disease."

The grant, which was awarded through the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, Economics, Markets, and Trade program, is worth \$530,087 and will fund the study from 2023-2026.

Foreign animal diseases, such as foot-and-mouth disease, pose a threat to the United States. While an FMD outbreak has not occurred in the United States since 1929, the economic implications could be significant. Such an outbreak has the potential to cripple the U.S. meat supply chain and the greater economy if not properly controlled or promptly identified.

"The standard USDA control method for FMD is to euthanize infected livestock within a specific geographic radius if an outbreak is identified. Yet, studies have determined meat harvested from recovered animals is safe for human consumption," Britton said. "To preserve animal protein, contain disease, and mitigate losses by the government and businesses in the supply chain, stakeholders have suggested alternative responses. These may include combinations of

welfare depopulation of animals, vaccination, and segmented slaughter. These responses may be of little to no economic value to the government and stakeholders if consumers do not perceive benefit or processors are not willing to take on the risk from meat derived from animals within the infection zone."

Specific objectives of the study are:

- Gauge perceptions of meat harvested from livestock within an animal disease infection zone
- Identify which segments of the food-retail supply would be affected by these meat products
- Quantify the discounts required to sell these meat products in the marketplace

"Our long-term goal is to improve the understanding of how a significant non-zoonotic disease outbreak will affect demand and consumption for meat if recovered and healthy livestock within an active disease outbreak are sent to processors. The overall objective of this project is to assess demand for these meat products, the discount required to sell them in the marketplace, and their best use in the food supply chain. We will survey consumers as well as interview processors within the industry," Britton said.

Ifft named Flinchbaugh Chair

Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh and friends established the Flinchbaugh Agricultural Policy Chair to ensure agricultural policy education and leadership remained an important piece of the Agricultural Economics Department where he taught for more than 49 years. Dr. Jennifer Ifft, associate professor of agricultural economics, was named the inaugural Flinchbaugh Chair during the Fall semester 2022.

"I'm honored and excited to have stepped into the role of the Flinchbaugh Agricultural Policy Chair. This chair honors the storied legacy of Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh, who was known throughout Kansas and U.S. agriculture policy circles for his popular agricultural policy class and close ties with policymakers over several decades," Ifft said.

Endowed chairs, or chaired professorships, are designed to permanently elevate scholarship and teaching in a particular field. In practical terms, the Flinchbaugh Agricultural Policy Chair provides a platform and seed funding for continued leadership in agricultural policy in the Agricultural Economics Department. For Ifft, this means advancing or informing solutions to shared problems in food and agriculture, through research, education, and outreach. Further, supporting students, producers, policymakers, and other stakeholders to address challenges facing food and agriculture over the next century is an important part of the educational mission of Agricultural Economics and the broader land grant mission.

"It feels like I've been preparing for this work my entire life.

From my family farm in Central Illinois, my education has taken me from University of Illinois as an undergraduate to University of Cambridge in England as a Gates Cambridge Scholar to University of California-Berkeley for a PhD. Throughout this time, I've gained international experience in places like India, China, and Vietnam, always focused on agriculture and policy, one way or another," she said. "For the past 15 years, I've been working on U.S. agricultural policy, covering topics such as crop insurance, farm labor, and farmland markets."

While serving as the Flinchbaugh Chair, Ifft continues teaching undergraduate agricultural policy, and conducting applied research and extension programs. She is also working to create an advisory board for the Chair to develop a strategic plan, coordinating and partnering with the newly-announced Barry Flinchbaugh Center for Agricultural Policy, and providing regular agricultural policy updates and outreach.

"I realized right away that the legacy of Barry Flinchbaugh requires filling some 'big shoes,'" Ifft said. "I hope to honor his legacy by doing well at my job and continuing to develop as a leader in agricultural policy research and extension."



Armstrong named 2023 distinguished alum

Named the 2023 Agricultural Economics Distinguished Alum, Jay Armstrong is a fourth-generation farmer near Muscotah, KS, where he grows wheat, corn and soybeans.

Armstrong earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Kansas State University and also participated agribusiness seminars at the Harvard Business School.

When he came to K-State in 1971, he had not decided on a major, but he knew he planned to return to the family farm and wanted to study something that would help on the farm.

"I liked the courses I took in production analysis and ag policy, so I signed up for agricultural economics," he said. "Looking back, my agricultural economics education wasn't just study and get a piece of paper—it was studying and networking throughout my whole life."

During his time at K-State, Armstrong was Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh's second teaching assistant in 1972-1974.



"I drove him around to every county in Kansas when he educated farmers on how use-value appraisal would work. It was complicated, but Barry's style made it so farmers could understand it," Armstrong said. "From that effort, ag organizations took hold of their now educated membership and got urban candidates to support a change to the Kansas constitution that has saved farmers untold millions.

Armstrong served as a Kansas Wheat Commissioner from 2007-2015, and the Kansas Wheat Chairman in 2015-2016, representing Districts 7, 8 and 9 in eastern Kansas. Armstrong has also served as the Farm Foundation Chairman, U.S. Wheat Associates Board of Directors and Wheat Innovation Association, president of the Delaware watershed, a member of his local church board, president of the Kansas

Agriculture and Rural Leadership program, the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, and the Kansas State Fair Board.

"I am honored and humbled to be selected as the Distinguished Alum for Agricultural Economics," he said. "Thoughts of Barry came back to me when I received the call about the award. I hope I have made him proud."

Inaugural Landowner conference announced

K-State Department of Agricultural Economics is launching a new conference. We are looking forward to hosting the inaugural Kansas Landowner Conference tailored specifically to folks who have agricultural land and do not live on the property. We understand that owners of agricultural land face unique decisions related to their agricultural property. The Department recognized a trend that an increasing number of owners are not familiar with the agricultural sector. We developed this conference to provide an information hub for those individuals.

"In Kansas, roughly 15% of agricultural land is held by individuals outside of the state," Dr. Allen Featherstone, agricultural economics professor, said. "Helping landowners understand the economics of the agricultural sector will enhance landlord/tenant conversations."

The inaugural Landowner Conference is designed to be a resource where participants collaborate in meaningful discussions, build networks, and increase their knowledge in many aspects of land management. The inaugural conference will focus specifically on agricultural land market conditions, risk management strategies, and property tax regulations.

The conference will be held Friday, November 10, 2023 in Manhattan, Kansas. A block of rooms are available at the Holiday Inn, as are tickets to the K-State vs. Baylor football game held on November 11, 2023. We encourage participants to join us for breakfast and stay late for our social event. Make a weekend of it, if you want, and stay for the football game on Saturday!

More information can be found on the conference website at www.agmanager.info/landowner.

Stout elected K-State student body president

Caleb Stout, a senior in agricultural economics and global food systems leadership, has been named the 2023-24 student body president at Kansas State University. His election makes him the 22nd agricultural economics student to hold the position.

Stout, who is passionate about supporting his fellow students, initially chose to run for Student Governing Association (SGA) President as a way to give back to the K-State community.

“At K-State, we are very fortunate to have a strong culture and tradition of shared governance where faculty and administrators really value student input,” Stout said. “SGA provides students with a unique opportunity to serve their university.”

During his term, Stout aims to work with his fellow cabinet members and student body vice president Jessica Binckley to enable all K-State students to succeed on campus and beyond graduation. Through new positions and programs, as well as a student-centered approach to governance, Stout hopes to continually provide new and improving opportunities for students.

“Our main goal is to make K-State a ‘land of opportunity’ for its students,” Stout said. “Whether this be through



new positions or programs, we know we want to view everything through the lens of how we can help prepare all K-State students for success in their lives.”

As Stout prepares to graduate this year, he reflects on what brought him to the Department of Agricultural Economics. He was first introduced to agricultural economics through an agribusiness class in high school and has been interested in the field ever since.

“I had an incredible ag teacher in high school,” Stout said. “When I took his agribusiness class my junior year of high school, I was hooked and knew right away that was what I wanted to study in college.”

As a K-State student, his studies in agricultural economics have provided him with a comprehensive exploration of the industry.

“Agricultural economics gives me plenty of flexibility in choosing my classes and eventually, a career,” Stout said. “It is a major that can look however you want it to. For me, that has meant more law and policy classes, for others that can be completely different.”

After graduating from K-State, Stout is still considering options, but plans to work with law and policymaking in an agricultural context. For now, Stout is preparing for his term as president by focusing on how he can best serve his constituents.

“My job is to advocate on behalf of all K-State students. I bring to the table a set of open ears, eager to learn and then act accordingly.”

Past Presidents from the Department

- Parker Vulgamore 2022-23
- Reagan Kays 2014-15
- Nate Spriggs 2012-13
- Wayne Stoskopf 2009-10
- Lucas Maddy 2006-07
- Michael Burns 2005-06
- Jake Worcester 2000-01
- Tracey Mann 1998-99
- Tim Riemann 1997-98
- Jennafer (Neufeld) Watson 1997-98
- Jackie McClaskey 1991-93
- Todd Heitschmidt 1990-91
- Steven Johnson 1986-87
- Sam Brownback 1978-79
- Chris Badger 1976-77
- Mark Edelman 1974-75
- R.D. Harmon 1971-72
- Sam Forrer 1962-63
- Don Biggs 1951-52
- Floyd Ricker 1950-51
- Merle Eyestone 1944-46

Polson named 2023 Truman Scholar



Hattie Polson, a senior in agricultural economics and global food systems leadership, has been named a 2023 Harry S. Truman Scholar. Her selection makes her the fifth agricultural economics student out of a total of 38 Kansas State University students to receive this honor.

The highly competitive national scholarship provides recipients with up to \$30,000 for public service-based graduate studies and opportunities for leadership building, career development, and federal internships and fellowships. To be selected, Polson demonstrated academic excellence, leadership capabilities, communication skills, and a commitment to public service.

"To be named a Truman Scholar is a huge honor and it's incredibly humbling," Polson said. "Being able to continue that legacy at K-State as number 38 speaks a lot to K-State's commitment as a land grant university to serve its students. I'm number five from the Department of Agricultural Economics, and it's amazing that one department can produce so many people doing amazing things in the world; being able to sit alongside them is an honor and a privilege."

Originally a prospective engineering student, Polson decided to study agricultural economics as she learned more about the significance of domestic and international food systems. Her experiences on her Kansas family farm gave her a unique understanding that has aided her in her

studies. The support of the department's faculty is another factor Polson attributes her success to.

"In my global food systems leadership classes, I was learning about our food system and being challenged to think differently," Polson said. "Agricultural economics has been able to fill in the gaps of knowledge and questions I have. I came to agricultural economics for one reason, but I stayed because of how fantastic and helpful the faculty are."

Polson, who is also earning a minor in nonprofit leadership studies, will attend the Truman Foundation's Summer Institute Program in Washington, D.C. during the summer of 2024. This program introduces Truman Scholars to professional public service work through internships for nonprofits and federal agencies, seminars on politics and policymaking, and interactions with previous Truman Scholars and public servants.

After graduating from K-State in May 2024, Polson will work in the public service field and explore graduate study specialty options for a couple of years. During this period, Polson hopes to gain more insight into

Past Scholars from the Department

Sara Gammon - 2020 Truman

Clara Wicoff - 2020 Marshall, 2019 Truman

Vincent Hoffer - 2009 Rhodes

Leslie Turner - 2002 Truman

Tim Riemann - 1999 Marshall, 1998 Truman

Kelly Welch - 1987 Rhodes

issues like food security and poverty among international farmers. Afterward, she plans to attend either Cornell University or Ohio State University to complete a graduate degree in a public service-related area. Following the completion of her graduate studies, Polson will reenter the workforce as a public servant in the agricultural sector.

Over \$1,000,000 in cooperative scholarships awarded

A milestone in cooperative scholarship awards was reached in the 2022-2023 academic year. Since 1985, \$1,013,130 in cooperative scholarships have been awarded to 439 Kansas State University College of Agriculture and Department of Agricultural Economics students through the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center (ACCC) in the K-State Department of Agricultural Economics (AGEC) on behalf of the cooperative community.

Dr. Brian Briggeman, agricultural economics Professor and ACCC Director, noted the value of the cooperative scholarship program. "Cooperatives and cooperative leaders are strong supporters of Kansas State University. One-way co-ops show their support is through the cooperative scholarship program, which directly benefits K-State students. Scholarship recipients connect directly to the cooperative community, and the generosity of co-ops will continue with future generations of K-Staters."

The first cooperative scholarship was awarded in 1985

to Jeff Bechard of Clay Center, Kansas, as part of the cooperative student internship program. The cooperative scholarship program has grown over the years to include memorial scholarships, cooperative leader scholarships and scholarships provided by regional cooperatives/ service providers who partner with Kansas State University. \$49,542 has been awarded for the 2023-2024 academic year, ranging from \$1,900 to full tuition and fees.

More information on the cooperative scholarship program can be found on the ACCC website: acc.k-state.edu/studentresources/scholarships.html

The ACCC was established in 1984 as a public-private partnership between the Kansas Cooperative Council and the K-State Department

of Agricultural Economics. The purpose of the Center is to determine, develop and deliver research, education and outreach on cooperative issues. The cooperative scholarship program was one of the first ways the ACCC was able to connect university students and cooperatives.



Back row L to R: Kagan Keeten of Glade, KS – agribusiness, Garrett Korte of Latham, KS – agribusiness, Jalen Tucker of Johnson, KS – agricultural economics and Liberty Thompson of Elkton, SD – agricultural economics and global food systems leadership

Front row L to R: Baylee Wulfkuhle of Lawrence, KS – agricultural economics and global food systems leadership, Samantha Mies of Laomi, IL – agricultural economics and global food systems leadership, Piper Schlatter of Hutchinson, KS – agribusiness, Hannah Ballard of Madison, KS – agribusiness and Riley Buss of Grantville, KS – agricultural economics and math

AgKansitions Landlink hosts farm transition conferences

Forty percent of U.S. farms will change ownership in the next 15 years, and 40% of primary producers on Kansas farms are 65 years or older. This means that there will be a significant number of farms that will need to be transitioned to new owners in the coming years.

Without a succession plan in place, the transition of a farm can be difficult and chaotic. This can lead to financial losses, family disputes, and the loss of the farm legacy. Starting last December and continuing through this fall, the Office of Farm and Ranch Transition is hosting transition conferences to raise awareness about the importance of succession planning.

Check for conferences in your area or learn more about transition consulting and the Landlink matching program at www.agkansitions.org.



AgKansitions
Protecting Your Ag Legacy

Villoria Recognized with Top MapBiomass Research Award

Nelson Villoria, Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University, alongside coauthors Rachael Garrett, Florian Gollnow, and Kim Carlson, has been honored with the distinguished Mapbiomas Research Award. Their study, titled "Leakage does not fully offset soy supply-chain efforts to reduce deforestation in Brazil," published in *Nature Communications*, secured first place within the General Category—the top prize awarded by MapBiomass.

MapBiomass is a Brazil-based initiative formed through collaboration between NGOs, universities, and technology startups focused on generating land cover and land use information to promote conservation efforts. The distinction that Nelson Villoria and his coauthors have received is part of the 5th Edition of the Mapbiomas Research Award. This edition attracted 163 submissions from seven countries. The award aims to stimulate applications and projects that leverage data produced by MapBiomass. From this competitive pool, eight exceptional works emerged as exemplars of advancing knowledge and driving positive change, highlighting the significance of collaborative research.

The winning study delves into the intricate dynamics of

zero-deforestation supply chain policies within Brazil's soy sector. Driven by rapid commodity expansion and weak forest governance, the study assesses the impact of these policies on curbing deforestation. Findings underscore the effectiveness of these policies in forest conservation efforts, even as they reveal potential challenges from deforestation leakage, whereby deforestation pressures shift to other regions with weaker governance.

The study showcases that while domestic leakage offsets a significant portion of avoided deforestation, cross-border leakage remains minimal due to soybean production relocating to existing U.S. farmland. Notably, the research demonstrates how eliminating deforestation from supply chains exporting Brazilian soy to significant importers like the EU and China could substantially impact global and Brazilian deforestation rates.

Villoria's recognition underlines Kansas State University's dedication to impactful research that transcends disciplinary boundaries. Dr. Villoria and his coauthors' contributions provide valuable insights into the economics of sustainable global food systems.

Faculty and Student Association Awards 2023



Jason Bergtold



Brian Briggeman



Jesse Tack



Hunter Biram

- **Bergtold, Jason.** Presidential Recognition Award for Editor of Applied Economics and Teaching Resources. American Agricultural Economics Association, 2023.
- **Briggeman, Brian.** Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program, More than 10 years of Experience. American Agricultural Economics Association, 2023.
- **O'Brien, Dan.** Outstanding Extension Career Award. Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA), 2023.
- **Perry, Edward.** Outstanding American Journal of Agricultural Economics Article Award Honorable Mention for "Uncertainty and Learning in a Technology Dynamic Industry: Seed Density in U.S. Maize." American Agricultural Economics Association, 2023.
- **Tack, Jesse.** Outstanding JAAE Article Award for "Mitigating Price and Yield Risk Using Revenue Protection and Agricultural Risk Coverage." Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA), 2023.
- **Tack, Jesse and Hunter Biram.** Outstanding Published Research Award. Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA), 2023.
- **Ukraine-Russia Project (Allen Featherstone, Antonina Broyaka, Dan O'Brien, Gregg Ibendahl, Brian Briggeman, Glynn Tonsor, Jude Kastens, Guy Allen, and Rich Llewelyn).** Outstanding Extension Project Award. Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA), 2023.

2023 Student Spotlights and



Samantha Mies

What is your major and why did you choose to pursue agriculture?

My major is agricultural economics with a secondary major in Global Food Systems Leadership and a minor in Non-Profit Leadership. I grew up on a six-generation family farm of grain and cattle, so agriculture has always been a major factor in my life. I knew I wanted to stay within the agriculture industry because of the family atmosphere and passion to feed the world.

What are some of your favorite classes, professors, clubs, etc.?

My favorite classes at K-State are within my secondary major when we discuss global issues within the field of agriculture. AGEC 315 Contemporary Issues in Global Food and Agricultural Systems and AGEC 710 Comparative Food and Agriculture Systems were a few of my favorite classes. My favorite club is the Ag Econ Club because of the many connections that are made and the career opportunities that are presented to us throughout the school year. Another organization that I enjoyed was Food Security Scholars where we discussed the issue of food insecurity globally and locally.

What kind of internship do you have, what you do on a daily/weekly basis, where is it located, and what made you want to work for the internship you chose?

I am interning with Scoular as a merchandising intern for the western rail team in Overland Park, Kansas. My daily tasks vary dependent on the week; however, I listen in on many market reports and updates, speak with customers, hedge futures contracts, write overfill/underfill contracts, and calculate freight rates. I have also been given the opportunity to travel to facilities during wheat harvest in Salina and to Waverly for a train loading experience. After speaking to numerous employees and past interns, Scoular seemed like a great place to work with a great internship program. My assumptions were correct!

What are your career goals with your major?

I am still attempting to find my career goals, but I have loved my internship this summer. I may continue my career path in merchandising!

Are you going to further your academic career or continue into the work field?

I plan to continue into the work field after I graduate in December.

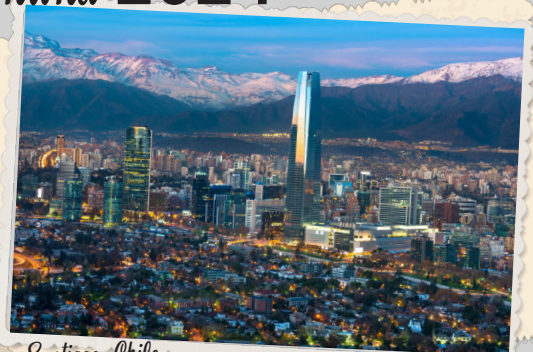
Farm and Ag tour of Chile and Argentina 2024



Winery in Mendoza, Argentina



Fresh fruit from market in Chile



Santiago, Chile

Kansas State University's Master of Agribusiness (MAB) program is offering a farm and agribusiness tour of **Chile and Argentina in May 2024**. We'll visit livestock and cropping operations, fruit orchards, wineries and have several sightseeing opportunities. Anyone interested in getting a better understanding of this region is encouraged to join us. For more information or to sign up, contact Mary Sullivan at mjbowen@ksu.edu or 785-532-4435. Itinerary and pricing will be available soon!

Summer Internship Q&A's

Piper Schlatter

What is your major and why did you choose to pursue agriculture?

My major is Agriculture Business at Kansas State University in the College of Agriculture. I chose to pursue a major in agriculture because of my upbringing and love of the industry. When I was younger my favorite place to be was my grandparent's farm and my favorite activities were 4-H and FFA, so pursuing a career and major in agriculture was a very natural route for me. I wanted to be able to give back to the industry that shaped me into the person I am today by pursuing a career in the agriculture business.

What are some of your favorite classes, professors, clubs, etc.?

I have loved my time at K-State and will miss it once I am gone! I have been so appreciative of my time spent in Dr. Logan Britton, Dr. Andy Barkley, and Mr. David Lehman's classes, they have been so invested in my success and education. My favorite courses at K-State have been Ag Marketing, Ag Sales, Agriculture Market Structures, and Ag Finance. I have been able to learn so much relevant knowledge to the industry in these classes. I have been extremely involved on campus during my time here. My two favorite clubs I have been a part of are the College of Agriculture Ambassadors and the Agriculture Economics Club. Over the course of my Junior year at K-State, I was able to serve as the President of Ag Ambassadors. It was an honor to serve the college in that way, and I have been able to build on personal leadership skills and become a better version of myself while serving the people of our organization. Through the Ag Econ Club, I have been able to meet many industry professionals and create relationships with my peers in Ag Econ.



What kind of internship do you have, what do you do on a daily/weekly basis, where is it located, and what made you want to work for the internship you chose?

This summer I am a Crop Protection Commercial Sales intern for Corteva Agriscience living in Kearney, NE. My day-to-day tends to be very different! For my position at Corteva there is not an office I report to every day, so I am classified as a remote worker for the company. This means that I have a very flexible schedule that allows me to plan every day for myself. At the beginning of my internship, I rode along with other territory managers in Nebraska and learned how to call on customers. In the fourth week of my internship, I began calling on customers by myself. Each visit looks a little different—whether I am doing a survey or just stopping in to see how they have been doing. I have two main projects for the summer that include surveying retail customers on the effectiveness of Corteva Field Demo's and Planning the details for three weeks of Enlist Demo Day's put on by our area's Enlist specialist. By the end of the summer, I will have done the survey with around 30 of our retail customers and after that I will compile the data to provide it back to my team with the goal of this data adding value back to our field demos for next year! Overall, my day-to-day activities vary widely depending on the week and the opportunities that arise each week, but every day has been very fulfilling, and I have been able to learn so much through this structure. I would say that my main takeaway from my time interning at Corteva is that it has truly felt like they gave me the opportunity to see what a real job looks like and provided me with expectations and that an actual employee may be tasked with so I have a clear idea of what a job with the company would look like!

What are your career goals with your major?

My career goals beyond college are to be in a customer facing role at an ag based company. The main thing I have taken away from this and other internship experiences is that I want to be able to work directly with the customer to help them do their part in feeding the world. I have really enjoyed being able to listen and help customers this last summer and hope to do that in a full-time career. Overall, I am very interested in an ag sales or finance based career post-graduation.

Are you going to further your academic career or continue into the work field?

I will be graduating with my Bachelor's degree in December of 2023 and am planning to go into the field. I am hoping to start a full-time job in January 2024!

2023-24 Scholarship Award Recipients

Aaron Patrick Morrison Scholarship:
Alexis Hansen

Adrian John Polansky II Scholarship:
Hattie Polson

Bill Hanson Crop Insurance Professionals Association Memorial Scholarship:
Kash Liddeke

Charles Dean and Harriet McNeal Memorial Scholarship:
Garin Cooper
Hailey Gillespie
Ashlind Gumpenberger
Matthew Hammes
Madelyn Hill
Jayla Johnson
Ethan Leidig
Hannah Macke
Mackenzie Malson
Cole Rogers

Jenson Schoenfeld
Brady Stuewe
Madeline Welch
Ray Wright

Charles W. and Lois H. Nauheim Agricultural Economics Scholarship:
Jacob Deay
Emma Kasselmann
Kagan Keeten
Aaron Maxwell

CHS Foundation Scholarship:
Trent Beier
Riley Buss
Courtney Clinesmith
James DeRouchey
Cody Fosket
Mollie Reno
Emma Thorpe
Cleo Harvey Kuhn Scholarship:
Trevor Johnson

CoBank Outstanding Student Scholarship:
Hannah Cryer
Piper Schlatter
Caleb Stout

Dan and Beth Bird Scholarship in Agricultural Economics:
Hannah Andringa
Trent Beier
Brynn Boxberger
Jaylee Callaway
Hunter Engle
Evan Fowler
Reece Geer
Matthew Hafliker
Carson McEachern
Brett Pendland
Jaren Rush
Benjamin Suber

Dave Woolfolk Scholarship:
Brock Merkel

David and Susan Barton Cooperative Leadership Scholarship:
Liberty Thompson
Baylee Wulfkuhle

Duane and Pauline Murphy Scholarship:
Brandon Springston

E. Robert and Donna Kern Agricultural Economics Scholarship:
Alea Russell

Farmers National Company Foundation Scholarship:
Samantha Mies

Flinchbaugh Agriculture Policy Scholarship:
Brooklynn Bennett

George R. Hanson Scholarship in Agriculture:
Jackson Lindamood
Daelynn Peine

Gladwin A. Read Memorial Fund Scholarship:
Blake Allender
Jackson Arenda
Maci Behrnes
David Branson
Joel Bryan
Makenna Campbell
Brody Canant
Hanna Cryer
Adelaide Easter
Christopher Faller
Michael Farenden
Ryan Feldkamp
Presli Firkins
Connor Fisher

Cody Fosket
Kristin Gerety
Hunter Hatcher
Gabriel Heger
Johnathan Hensley
Michael Hill
Philip Hodges
Callie Humbolt
Andrew Husband
Trevor Johnson
Chancy Johnson
Sarah Kalman
Lauryn Karr
Mason Klug
Rhett Larson
Margaret Lugo
Jackson McVey
Brock Merkel
Matthew Nemecek
Matthew Pauly
Garrett Peck
Haley Plaschka
Ella Roberts
Lauren Rudy
Alea Russell
Britney Sanchez
Corbin Smith
Jonathan Temaat

Brandon Vail
Paige Vulgamore
Jenna Wallace

Hosea S. Harkness Agricultural Economics Scholarship:
James DeRouchey
Bailey Price

J. Adair Hodges Memorial Fellowship Scholarship:
Korben Clawson
Samantha Mies
Sarah Wood

James E. Pruden Jr. Memorial Scholarship:
Gillian Mae Villa

Jim and Mary Lou Birkbeck Family Scholarship:
Quinn Allen
Riley Buss

John T. & Pearl E. Bullock Memorial Scholarship:
Joel Bryan

Joseph Lieber Memorial Cooperative Scholarship:
Lane Klepper

Kansas Ag Bankers Scholarship:
Ryan Feldkamp
Lauryn Karr

Leonard W Schruben Agricultural Economics Scholarship:
Corbin Smith

Matthew Kent Stamper Memorial Scholarship:
Jarek Meyer

Orlen Grunewald Ag Econ Scholarship:
Cole Rogers

Otis and Mary Lee Molz Cooperative Scholarship:
Garrett Korte

**130 Scholarships
103 Students
\$224,972**

**Packebush Family –
Mary Vanier KSU Family
Scholarship:**
Makenna Campbell

**Ruth McClanahan
Dotson and John Dotson
Agricultural Economics
Scholarship:**
Maci Behrnes

**Sam and Martha Logan –
Kruse Family Scholarship:**
Chancy Johnson

**Seyfert Family – Vanier
Family Scholarship:**
Matthew Nemechek

**Stanley G. Wendland
Memorial Scholarship:**
Dalton Carey
Kash Liddeke
Hattie Polson
Caleb Stout

**Ted Heath Memorial
Scholarship Fund:**
Rhett Larson

**Thomas G. Hobbs Memorial
Scholarship:**
Benjamin Suber

**Tim Lim Undergraduate
Scholarship in Agriculture:**
Alexis Hansen

**W. Dan and Lynn Weaver
Scholarship:**
Sarah Kalman

**W.L. “Bill” Webber Memorial
Scholarship:**
Rhett Larson

**William S. May Scholarship
for Ag Finance:**
Weston Guetterman
Kylie Miller
Paige Vulgamore

Agricultural Economics Scholarship Banquet & Tailgate

Banquet - September 22, Manhattan, Please RSVP the number of attending and names to Hope at hjackso@ksu.edu or 785-532-6702
Tailgate - September 23, Manhattan, Please RSVP Mary at mjbowen@ksu.edu, 785-532-4435 or <https://conta.cc/3KK50Go>

AgLenders Conference

K-State’s annual Agricultural Lenders Conferences are designed to provide the Kansas financial community with updates on current agricultural topics. But it’s not only for lenders and bankers. Producers, landlords, crop insurance agents, and agribusiness managers also attend. For more information about this event, please call or email Rich Llewelyn (rwl@k-state.edu) or 785-532-1504.

**September 26, Garden City
September 27, Manhattan and Online**

Kansas Crop Insurance Workshop

This one-day workshop will help crop insurance agents, agricultural lenders, farmers/ranchers, and other financial consultants provide better risk management information and advice to their clients or apply to their farm-ranch. If you are involved in the crop insurance industry, either as an agent, a producer, or an ag lender, you should consider attending this workshop. For more information about this event, please call or email Rich Llewelyn (rwl@k-state.edu) or 785-532-1504.

**October 18, Akron, CO
October 19, Grand Island, NE
October 20, Salina**

Kansas Income Tax Institute

The Department of Agricultural Economics invites you to attend the 74th annual Kansas Income Tax Institute. The program is for tax professionals and is designed to provide up-to-date training on current tax law, regulations, and updates. For more information about this event, please call or email Rich Llewelyn (rwl@k-state.edu) or 785-532-1504.

**November 2-3, Online
November 6-7, Garden City
November 8-9, Hays
November 20-21, Lawrence
November 27-28, Salina
December 7-8 Wichita
December 13-14, Pittsburg
December 18-19, Online
Topeka and Online - *Ethics***

Kansas Landowner Conference

K-State Department of Agricultural Economics is looking forward to hosting the inaugural Kansas Landowner Conference. We are offering a new conference tailored to folks who have agricultural land in Kansas, but do not reside on the property. For more information about this event, please call or email Rhonda Lund (rrlund@ksu.edu) or 785-532-4016.

November 10, Manhattan

Join us at our 2023 football tailgate!

Ag Econ Department and Master of Agribusiness



September 23
KSU vs UCF



RSVP for tailgate online at
<https://conta.cc/3KK50Go> or scan the QR code

There are a limited number of football tickets available. To order tickets for the game:

1. Visit www.kstatesports.com/grouptickets
2. Enter Promotional Code: **F03AGEC**



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Agricultural Economics

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