The next generation OF AGRICULTURE

Annual Report 2025

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Agriculture

K-STATE Research and Extension

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service


Genie

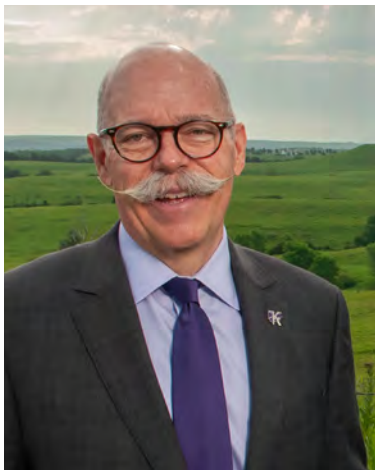
Dear Friends:

As we move forward into 2025, I am excited about what the future holds for the College of Agriculture and K-State Research and Extension.

Near the middle of last year, we broke ground on the Global Center for Grain and Food Innovation, the third facility of our "Agriculture Innovation Initiative." The other two buildings, the Agronomy Research and Innovation Center and the Bilbrey Family Event Center, are in different phases of construction. Together, they help drive Kansas State University's ambitious vision to become the nation's premier next-generation land-grant university. All three of these facilities should be up-and-running no later than 2026.

With agriculture as the state's largest economic driver – generating approximately $76 billion annually, these investments will enable us to expand the opportunities for our signature industry and create vibrant and thriving communities throughout the state.

In 2024, K-State Research and Extension and the Office of Engagement hosted approximately 80 meetings throughout Kansas, which we called, "Delivering on the Promise." From these meetings, we and our community partners identified eight issues in Kansas to focus on going forward. These include water, rural health, rural broadband, leadership development, access to higher education, childcare, housing and the development of a hunger-free Kansas program. Tackling any one of these issues requires a determined effort, but only K-State Research and Extension can address all of them. We will accomplish this through our vast network of agents, researchers, and our numerous partners throughout the state, we can help our communities move forward to address these critical challenges, from Ulysses to Olathe.



All of us at the College of Agriculture and at K-State Research and Extension are grateful for the ongoing support we receive from the state. Every dollar helps us hire and retain the brightest faculty and staff in their respective fields, and this in turn helps us attract students from all four corners of Kansas and from around the world. Thank you for your help, and we look forward to working together to build the next chapter for K-State's College of Agriculture and K-State Research and Extension.

J. Ernest Minton

J. ERNEST "ERNIE" MINTON
Eldon Gideon Dean, College of Agriculture
Director, K-State Research and Extension

As construction begins, K-State's Agriculture Innovation Initiative almost fully funded

The roar of heavy machinery has become a familiar sound on the north side of Kansas State University's Manhattan campus.

With significant support from the State of Kansas and donors from across the state, country and world, the university has now begun construction on all three projects that are part of the $210 million Agriculture Innovation Initiative announced in 2022.

The initial projects – anticipated for completion by 2026 – include construction of the Agronomy Research and Innovation Center, the Global Center for Grain and Food Innovation, and the Bilbrey Family Event Center, a livestock competition arena.

The KSU Foundation reported in late 2024 that more than $187 million – just over 89% – has been raised toward the initiative, which leverages K-State's strengths in food and agriculture.

"At K-State, we see this as a new way of thinking," said university president Richard Linton. "We think of infrastructure as a way of being an incubator for strong public-private partnerships where industry can work hand-in-hand with K-State researchers to leverage ideas and funding to move forward and develop the students of tomorrow. In doing so, we will create markets and jobs that are important for our stakeholders."

The groundbreaking events for the Agronomy Research and Innovation Center and Bilbrey Family Event Center took place in 2023, while the official groundbreaking for the Global Center for Grain and Food Innovation occurred in May 2024.

By the numbers:

$187M raised

More than 89% of the $210M has been raised through state funding and private and philanthropic donations.

3 buildings

The Ag Innovation Initiative includes three new buildings: Bilbrey Family Event Center, Agronomy Research and Innovation Center and the Global Center for Grain and Food Innovation.

Interdisciplinary spaces

These spaces encourage students to think critically, make connections between different disciplines, and develop problem-solving skills that can be applied to real-world challenges.

Facility upgrades

Call and Weber Hall will be renovated as an additional component of the Ag Innovation Initiative and are slated to be completed Winter 2027.

The livestock event center structure can already be seen driving along Kimball Avenue in Manhattan, just east of the Bill Snyder Family football stadium.

By Fall 2024, workers had demolished the former livestock arena attached to Weber Hall to make way for the Global Center for Grain and Food Innovation, which will connect Weber Hall and Call Hall and add high-level research space in animal science, grain science, food science and other food-related areas.

Boosting those efforts, K-State announced in summer 2024 that it hired renowned food scientist Joseph Awika, who will lead the university's Department of Grain Science and Industry, International Grains Program Institute, and Food Science Institute.

Awika is known internationally for his excellence in research and education, including developing technologies that maximize the ability of food to protect humans against chronic disease.

Linton said the university's Agriculture Innovation Initiative "creates a better economy for all of us in Kansas."

"It's a great example of realizing our vision of what we like to call the next generation land-grant university," he said. "We are asking questions of what the interaction needs to look like between the next generation of land-grant students and stakeholders."

BILBREY FAMILY EVENT CENTER

AGRICULTURE INNOVATION INITIATIVE

Learn more about the Ag Innovation Initiative fundraising and construction updates at kstate.ag/innovation.

GLOBAL CENTER FOR GRAIN AND FOOD INNOVATION


K-STATE

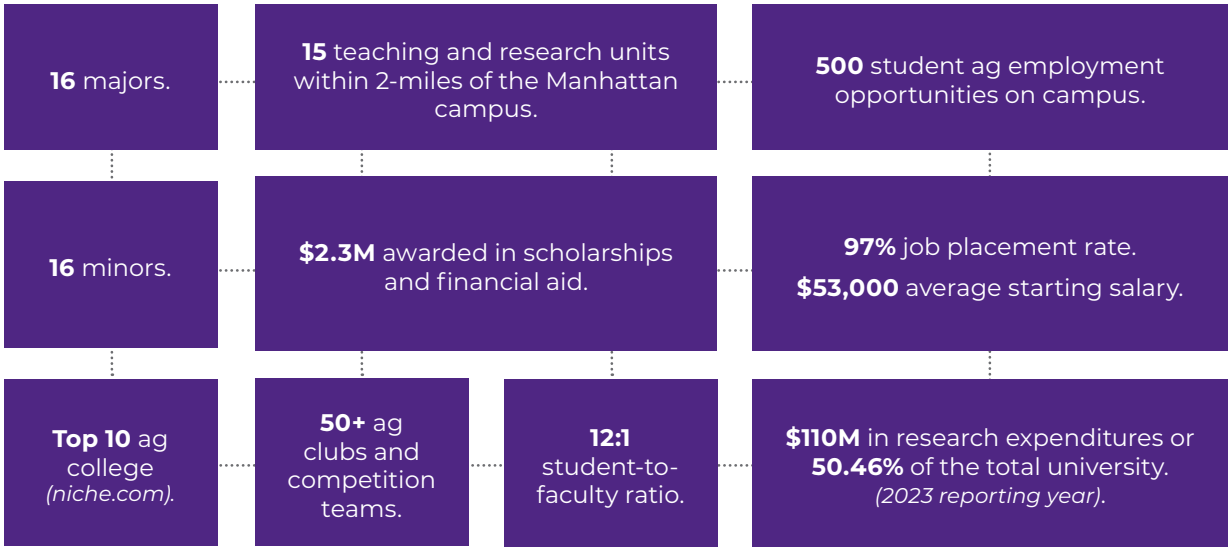
The next generation of agriculture

The College of Agriculture serves Kansas and the world by providing top-level agricultural, food, and natural resources research, instruction, and outreach to inform decisions and ensure safe, affordable, abundant, and nutritious food for all.

We are grounded in the industries that drive Kansas' economic growth and believe strongly in our mission to develop learners that meet their needs. Creating tomorrow's workforce includes building a foundation in critical thinking, communication, inquiry and technical skills to develop citizens who will lead and support our industries and communities.

The College of Agriculture has a long history of applied and basic research that meets the needs of our Kansas communities and pushes the boundaries of knowledge, which leads to positive future impacts. Our diverse faculty, staff, and students touch all aspects of the food, agriculture, and natural resources sector.

College of Agriculture by the numbers:



K-State's feed safety research forms protective wall against infectious disease

For nearly two decades, K-State researchers have been at the forefront of work to keep devastating livestock diseases from crossing the country's borders, especially efforts that have kept African Swine Fever virus and Foot and Mouth disease away.

"If either of those pathogens were to enter into the United States," said Cassie Jones, a professor in K-State's Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, "our world would change very quickly."

In such a case, the transportation and trade of pigs would be shut down immediately, forcing producers to euthanize animals and causing price instability. There would be long-term repercussions felt across all agriculture commodities and by consumers at the grocery store.

"Most pathogen research focuses on preventing animal-to-animal disease transmission," Jones said. "But our risk as a country free of these diseases is different. We are trying to prevent pathogens from entering the United States by limiting the risk from imported ingredients. That's where our team comes in."

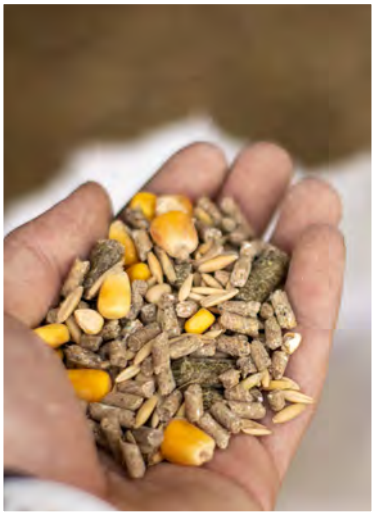
This is no small task. As the world's fourth largest importer of ingredients for animal feed, the United States relies on ingredients imported from countries with foreign animal disease. Yet, as of 2024, the United States remains free of the disease, partly due to research at K-State.

"Nearly 15 years ago, we started this research at K-State and learned that some of these viruses could actually survive in feed," said Chad Paulk, an associate professor of feed science and management in K-State's Department of Grain

Science and Industry. “Since then, research has expanded to understand how we can clean a feed mill if it does get infected, and the likelihood of the animal getting sick from contaminated feed.”

The team recently published results of a study that looked at surfaces that may potentially carry African Swine Fever virus, such as containers or bags used to move ingredients between countries with the pathogen, and U.S. farms.

K-State veterinarian Jordan Gebhardt said the study used simple methods to sample for contamination, including a cotton gauze and dry sweep cloths. Facilities like the O.H. Kruse Feed Technology Innovation Center, Cargill Feed Safety Center, and Biosecurity Research Institute are critical to this research.



Jones called K-State a “unique” place to conduct feed safety research because the university pairs grain scientists, animal scientists and veterinarians with access to on-campus facilities that are cleared for high-level, biosecurity research.

“Our research studies how foreign animal diseases are transmitted outside the country, and uses our unique facilities to create controlled conditions so we have science-based, practical recommendations to prevent the entry of those diseases into our country,” she said. “Also, if necessary, we have provided recommendations on how to flip a switch and enable our industry to reach continuity of business faster if the disease were to enter our borders.”

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KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | College of Agriculture

K-State focuses beef research on animal health, environmental safety

In 2024, the Kansas Livestock Association reported that the beef cattle industry had a direct output of about $11.6 billion and employed nearly 19,881 Kansans.

Also, Kansas ranks third nationally with 6.15 million cattle on ranches and in feedyards – more than double the state's human population.

K-State has a long history of supporting this industry, having studied best practices for feeding, grazing and other areas. University researchers say it's important to stay aware of current trends in order to build the future.

At the university's Beef Stocker Unit, extension beef cattle nutrition and management specialist Dale Blasi says researchers are improving ranchers' knowledge of limit feeding, an approach that improves the efficiency of the inputs required to produce beef.

Limit feeding reduces the amount of roughage (such as hay or grass) fed to cattle from 45% to 13% and increases the use of such co-products as wet corn gluten feed, Sweet Bran and wet distillers' grains (a by-product of ethanol production).

In doing so, Blasi said, "we're able to dramatically improve the performance of animals, reduce manure from these same calves,

$11.6 Billion

Beef cattle industry's economic output to the Kansas economy, which includes 19,881 Kansans employed in 2024.

Source: Kansas Livestock Association

and reduce their water consumption by 1.35 gallons per head per day."

Translation: Healthier animals, safer food and less stress on the environment.

Blasi said other important research includes understanding how the diet relates to liver abscesses developing in feedlot animals, studying the impact of shade on cattle comfort, and establishing the best time of year to burn grazing lands in order to control the noxious weed, *sericea lespedeza*.

At K-State's Southeast Agriculture Research Center in Parsons, beef systems specialist Jaymelynn Farney is testing the reliability of GPS-capable ear tags to monitor the daily activities of cattle.

Not only will GPS devices monitor and restrict the movement of cattle in real time – potentially making physical fences unnecessary – but the ear tags can also collect information related to reproduction, such as knowing more precisely when the animal becomes impregnated or begins to give birth.

"For anyone who's ever calved-out a bunch of heifers, knowing who you need to focus on – such as which animals are in early season and which are in late season – would reduce the calving headache," Farney said. "It can help us in managing the operation's labor, which some reports indicate is one of our top issues in agriculture."

Eye on Water

Faculty at the Western Kansas Agricultural Research Center believe that water security is food security, so they're involved in several projects to grow crops and raise livestock in water-limited environments.

K-State has led an effort to help Kansas farmers optimize their water use with KanSched, an irrigation scheduling tool. Data indicates that KanSched has improved farmers' efficiency by up to 15%, reducing water use, energy costs and environmental losses.

In 2024, K-State launched a water conservation competition called TAPS – Testing Ag Performance Solutions – which challenged western Kansas farmers to reduce their water use while testing new technology to grow the year's crops. Researchers report that 65% of participants improved their understanding of crop water needs, 47% enhanced their ability to interpret sensor data, and 68% are more confident in using newer irrigation technology.

Researchers are examining the use of nitrogen in sorghum, a low water use crop, which will provide critical data to improve nitrogen management, efficiency and climate-smart practices. They're now helping producers take advantage of findings that indicate a 2% improvement in nitrogen use efficiency increases profits by $17.50 per acre – or about $21,000 for a 1,200 acre farm.

K-State's grazing research is key to state's profitability, prairie health

By percentage, the 2,900-plus acres of land known as Rannells Prairie Reserve south of Manhattan is but a fraction of the 17 million acres of productive grazing land in Kansas. It's less than 1 percent, actually.

But, says Logan Thompson, a sustainable beef production specialist in K-State's Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, "I like to think of it as a 2,900- acre property that has an outsized influence on cattle production in the Flint Hills, in terms of how we manage cattle and how we think about the economics of the business."

In Kansas, research at the Rannells Prairie Reserve has improved ranchers' ability to use their land to the benefit of food production, in turn improving their own profitability and that of their communities.

The land was donated to K-State in 1985 by the family of Hilas Bay and Emma Browing Rannells to support range research, with a focus on beef production in the Flint Hills region.

"Since the 1980s, research on that land has focused on production methods for stocker cattle, such as comparing seasonality and rates between, say, an intensive early stocking system and a season-long stocking system," Thompson said.

Sophie Westbrook, a research assistant professor in K-State's Department of Agronomy who specializes in studying rangeland ecology, notes that research has studied invasive species, prescribed fire methods, and effects of climate change on grazing land.

Those efforts, say Thompson and Westbrook, have helped to define ways that Kansas ranchers can boost their profits, while improving the land and ecosystem for future generations.

"The Rannells Ranch is a native, diverse, high-quality tallgrass prairie," Westbrook said. "So, it makes a great environment in which to look for possible win-wins between having productive, profitable livestock enterprises and healthy, functional ecosystems that provide an array of (benefits) for a wide variety of stakeholders."

Thompson says that research on prescribed fire and stocking rates, which relates to the number of cattle placed in a portion of grazing land at any given time, highlights the importance of the Rannells property.

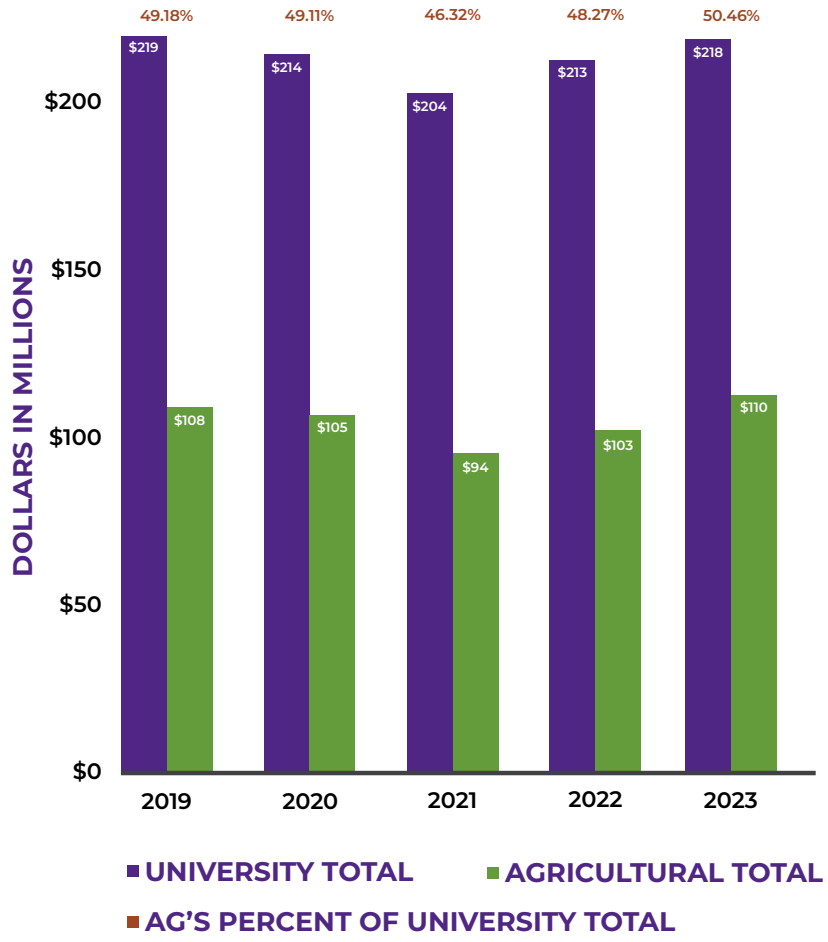
"Over the years, economic data has been collected to back up the research that was done at the Rannells," Thompson said. "The work on stocking rates was important in giving Kansas farmers flexibility from a transportation standpoint." He added that by getting trucks in at the right time of year, producers could improve or increase the economic returns of their landscape.

Westbrook adds: "Historically, research at the Rannells has done a really good job aligning itself with the needs of local land managers in the moment. I think we can continue to be responsive to new questions and keep the research at the Rannells flexible and responsive to the needs of Kansas ranchers."

Excellence in Research

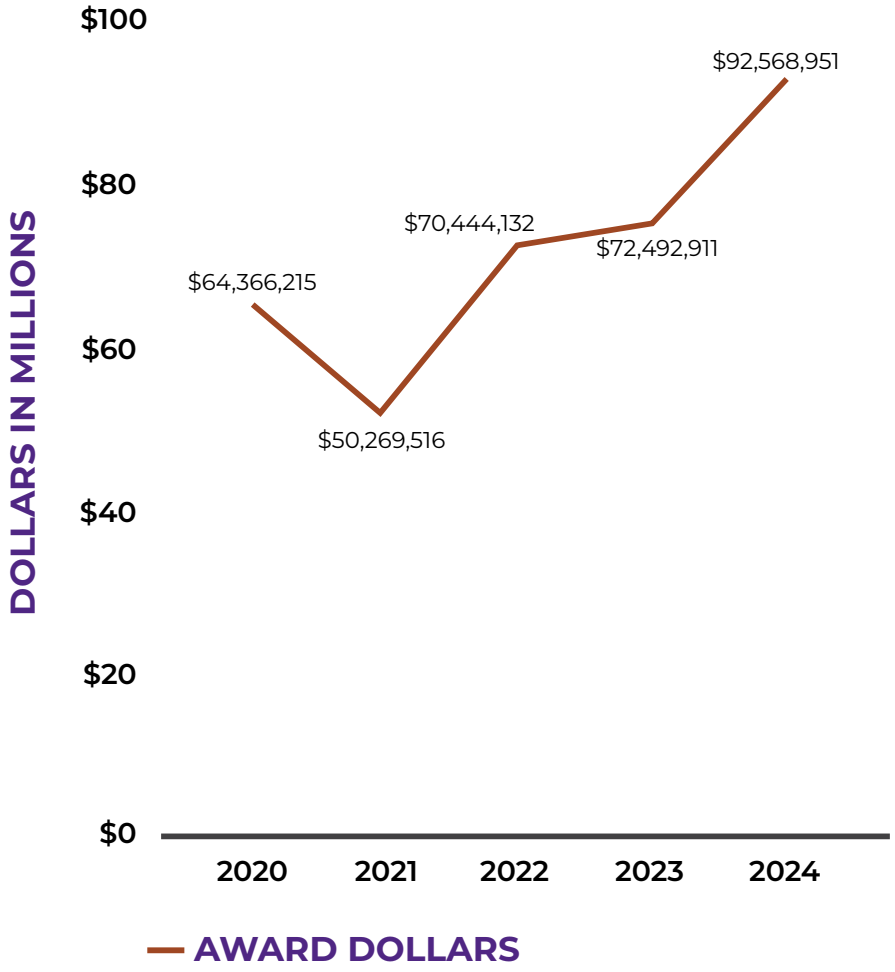
Research Expenditures

Research expenditures are the funds spent to conduct research. The term refers to the nationally accepted method to measure research activities, since it showcases the amount of work that is accomplished and the impact to the economy when research funds are spent during a specific time period. In 2023, the College of Ag represented more than half of the universities total research expenditures with $110 million.



Extramural awards

Extramural funding is the money that is awarded from outside the University and used to support a program or project. It typically comes from federal, state or local governments; businesses; private foundations; or individuals. In 2024, our extramural awards grew by $20 million dollars.

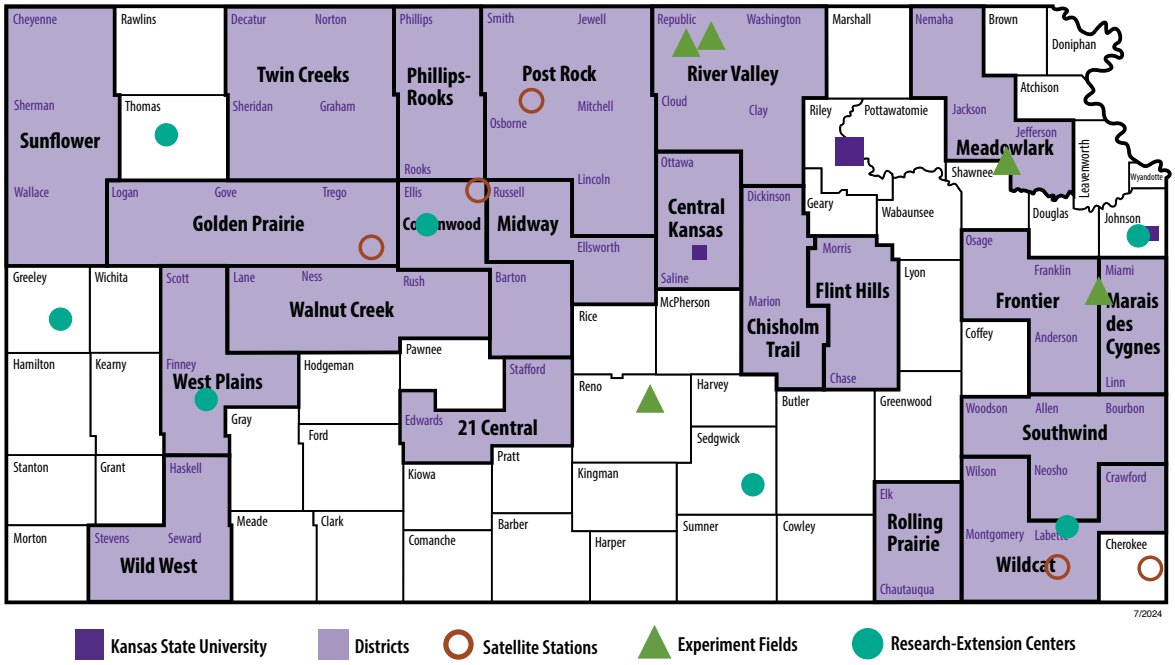



Delivering
ON THE PROMISE
K·STATE
Research and Extension

Our promise to Kansas

K-State Research and Extension connects people across the state with the knowledge and science of Kansas State University by offering practical, research-based education.

K-State Research and Extension improves Kansans' lives, livelihoods and communities through education, research, engagement and leadership. With scientists, educators and volunteers in each of the state's 105 counties, K-State Research and Extension professionals strive to make the university's scientific improvements and discoveries accessible and relevant to every household. What they do, though, is not contained within state borders. Their work with regional, national and international organizations creates positive impacts around the world.



By the numbers:

1 state.

3 physical campuses.

Presence in all **105** counties.

160+ years of impact.

8 research-extension centers across Kansas.

5 experiment fields.

8 focus areas.

2 horticulture centers.

15,095,115 educational contacts.

K-State ramps up effort to deliver on the land-grant promise

It's a promise that goes back more than 160 years.

The U.S. land-grant network got its start in 1862 when President Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Act, in which the government granted land to the states for the purpose of providing equal access to higher education for working-class Americans, with a focus on agriculture and the mechanical arts.

It's a promise that K-State Research and Extension has always taken seriously.

"For many years, we have been delivering on the promise to people in Kansas in such areas as agriculture, community development, family and consumer sciences, 4-H youth development and more," said Gregg Hadley, K-State's director of extension and Kansas State University assistant vice president. "And we've had tremendous success; last year, we had more than 15 million educational contacts."

The university is now embarking on a heightened awareness initiative known – appropriately – as *Delivering on the Promise*. Hadley said the move is part of K-State President Richard Linton's goal to position K-State as a next-generation land-grant university.

"What we're doing now is opening the entire university and the entire Kansas State University system to being involved in engagement to determine what our total impact could be across the state," Hadley said.

In 2024, K-State Research and Extension's trained facilitators led a series of approximately 80 meetings with Kansas residents – some who currently use extension's services, and others who never have – to find out how the university can help communities thrive. More than 700 Kansans took part in those discussions.

Hadley said eight areas emerged and now form a plan for the university's engagement work. They include:

- **Broadband.**
- **Housing.**
- **Rural health.**
- **Leadership development.**
- **Access to education.**
- **Childcare.**
- **Water.**
- **Hunger free Kansas.**

Hadley said "there is a lot of excitement on campus" and in the statewide extension network to support work in these areas. Numerous partners have stepped up to join the effort, including the University of Kansas Health Systems, the Kansas Health Foundation and more. Hadley said the momentum is just getting started.

Deborah Kohl, a K-State Research and Extension specialist in community vitality, led the effort to train community facilitators, most of whom are Kansas extension agents. As of the Fall 2024, more than 50 people received training and are prepared to help facilitate community-level conversations related to Delivering on the Promise.

"As a result of the investment in training, our facilitators are already helping local communities and groups to make progress, and will lead the way going forward," Kohl said. "That's a powerful statement; not only has K-State helped to identify needs for the people of our state, but will continue to be actively involved in helping Kansans build community success stories well into the future."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PLANTS Need
PLANTS


With Diabetes
Dining

Improving health care access

Extension agents, volunteers work to improve access to health care information and services

More than a dozen counties in northeast and southeast Kansas are capitalizing on the reach of the state's extension system to address their residents' challenges related to rural health care access.

Susie Latta, a family and consumer sciences agent in K-State Research and Extension's Marshall County office, said extension agents are key to helping local residents find the help they need – and when they need it – as part of what's known as the Rural Ag Health Community Health Worker project.

K-State Research and Extension is the first extension system to employ community health workers in local units to assist with rural health care education.

The project has been spurred in Kansas by financial support from the K-State 105 program, which was established to support economic growth and advancement in the state.

The Rural Ag Health Community Worker project focuses on sustaining the health and safety of rural Kansans and the agricultural workforce. Organizers say the project is establishing resource and service hubs staffed by community health workers who are supervised by local K-State Research and Extension units and health care partners.

It is currently being implemented in 16 counties, including Allen, Bourbon, Clay, Cloud, Crawford, Jackson, Jefferson, Labette, Marshall, Montgomery, Nemaha, Neosho, Republic, Washington, Wilson and Woodson.

Elaine Johannes, the Kansas Health Foundation's distinguished professor of community health at Kansas State University, said Kansas is among 12 states that certify community health workers. The program is administered through the Kansas Division of Public Health.

"K-State Research and Extension is the first extension system to employ community health workers in local units to assist with rural health care education, identify service gaps and connect clients to health care providers for care and local health care access," she said.

Johannes adds: "When we think about rural communities, there just aren't enough full-time providers. Community health workers are an important link for rural areas."

Latta said that while the program is just getting started in eastern counties, the program can be implemented through any extension office in Kansas.

"As a local extension agent, I'm a trusted person," she said. "In small, rural communities, nobody wants people to know that they may be struggling or they need some kind of help. I get to know them well, so they feel more comfortable talking about their health needs and financial concerns."

She adds: "Extension agents and community health workers are a resource and a confidant that local residents can trust to get them the information or services they need."

Implemented in 16 counties

Allen, Bourbon, Clay, Cloud, Crawford, Jackson, Jefferson, Labette, Marshall, Montgomery, Nemaha, Neosho, Republic, Washington, Wilson and Woodson.

Certified community health workers

Administered through the Kansas Division of Public Health, Kansas is among 12 states that certify community health workers.

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College of Agriculture

K-STATE Research and Extension

Water competition aims to address challenges caused by declining Ogallala Aquifer

As declines of the Ogallala Aquifer continue to pose a significant threat to Kansas agriculture, K-State has launched a program that university officials say offers a potential solution for the state's multi-billion dollar industry.

In 2024, K-State launched the program, Testing Ag Performance Solutions, an innovative initiative to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability through real-world farm management competitions. In its first year, TAPS drew 38 teams, including 98 individuals from eight states.

The program emphasizes practical, hands-on learning, allowing competitors to make decisions on seed varieties, plant population, planting date, irrigation, nitrogen management, insurance, and marketing, which are then implemented on replicated test plots under precision irrigation systems.

Our goal is to foster a culture that supports innovation, teamwork and the pursuit of excellence in research and extension missions.

— Brian Olson

Daran Rudnick, the director of sustainable irrigation at K-State, plays a pivotal role in the TAPS program. With a background in agricultural and biological systems engineering, Rudnick focuses on full and deficit irrigation management, soil water monitoring technologies, and the interactions between water and nitrogen fertilizers.

TAPS, he said, is a unique platform where farmers, industry leaders, scientists, and students come together to test and refine agricultural practices.

"TAPS brings all of these people together," Rudnick said. "Producers are exposed to new technology, so instead of a 30-minute highlight, they actually get to use it, make decisions, and see how it plays out" in a real-world scenario.

Participants compete in various categories, including

- Most profitable.
- Most input-use efficient.
- Most profitable at or below Q-Stable, which relates to annual rates of pumping water.
- Highest grain yield.

Susan Metzger, director of the Kansas Water Institute and the Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment, emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration.

“Addressing the water resource challenges of our state and nation will require a collective effort, as well as enhanced collaborations across research and education institutions,” Metzger said.

Brian Olson, head of the Western Kansas Research-Extension Center, oversees the integration of research and extension activities within the TAPS program.

“Our goal is to foster a culture that supports innovation, teamwork and the pursuit of excellence in research and extension missions,” Olson said.

K-State’s inaugural TAPS competition took place at the Northwest Research and Extension Center near Colby during the 2024 corn growing season. TAPS events featured technology demonstrations, networking opportunities and educational sessions, emphasizing sustainable agriculture.

Field day attendees toured the plots, exchanging insights with experts, peers, and industry leaders in a collaborative learning environment. The competition concluded with grain marketing decisions; the winning teams were celebrated at a banquet in Dodge City.

Reflecting on a successful first year, Rudnick said that through the TAPS program, K-State “is creating a collaborative ecosystem dedicated to advancing agricultural profitability and sustainability.”

TAPS drew 38 teams, including 98 individuals from eight states in its first year.

And, he adds, “by bringing together diverse stakeholders and leveraging cutting-edge technologies, TAPS is helping to shape the future of farming in Kansas and beyond.”

K-State extension programs report $8.8M boost due to volunteers

Pick a 4-H event just about anywhere in Sherman County, and you're highly likely to find Colleen Duell there.

Duell is known in local circles as a steady presence at Kansas 4-H events, volunteering her time for such programs as the project learning day, summer day camp, 4-H ambassador meetings, fall awards day and more. She also is an avid photographer, taking pictures at numerous events.

Our volunteers are passionate and extremely knowledgeable about the subject matter they volunteer in.

"For me," she says, "it's an investment in our youth and the future leaders of our community. Volunteering is a way to give back and to help others."

Last year, K-State Research and Extension reported that volunteers gave 309,345 hours of their time to programs carried out across the state.

Gregg Hadley, K-State's director of extension and assistant vice president, said the equivalent value of volunteer hours to the state is more than $8.8 million, "or about 136 full-time equivalent employees."

"Without volunteers, we could not educate and assist as many Kansans as we do," Hadley said, noting that the number of total educational contacts made by extension professionals and volunteers surpassed 15 million people in 2024.

An educational contact, he said, is an exchange of information – not a single person. “We reach people more than one time per year,” Hadley said. “We also reach people beyond Kansas via digital delivery.”

Some of the major programs that benefit from volunteers include 4-H, horticulture (including the state’s Master Gardener program), natural resources and food and nutrition programs, Hadley said.

“Our volunteers are passionate and extremely knowledgeable about the subject matter they volunteer in and are excited to provide assistance, service and education to the public on those topics,” Hadley said.

Duell, who often volunteers along with her husband and children, said it’s gratifying to see youth build confidence.

“I watched a youth who could barely speak to an adult or peers eventually be able to give a public talk, then become a club officer, volunteer and leader,” she said. “It always brings a smile to my face when someone sees success in their life, whether it be with an animal, cooking, running a meeting or even just catching a fish.”

Information on volunteering for K-State Research and Extension programs is available at local extension offices in Kansas or by visiting ksre-learn.com/volunteer-resources.

SCAN ME

Kansas Forest Service to aid communities in wildfire defense

Three grants totaling $340,200 from the U.S. Forest Service represent "a significant milestone in wildfire prevention efforts across Kansas," according to officials with the Kansas Forest Service.

The funds, available through the U.S. Forest Service Community Wildfire Defense Grants program, were awarded to Chase, Butler and Leavenworth counties. According to information from Kansas Forest Service, the funds "will be a big boost to helping build the state's defense against wildfires, particularly in urban areas of the state."

Wildlfire defense grants are available to forest service units across the country and part of the U.S. government's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

According to Kansas Forest Service, the allocation of these grants follows extensive work that raised awareness of the wildfire risk within Kansas communities over the past two years. Through collaboration with national partners, the Kansas Forest Service has successfully highlighted the urgent need for proactive measures to address wildfire risk in the state.

The agency will use the funds to work with the three counties in developing and implementing Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

"We hope this plan will be a steppingstone to moving forward with projects that can reduce our wildfire risk, especially for those communities in the urban wildfire interface in our county," said Keri Korthals, Butler County Emergency Director.

Learn more about the Community Wildfire Defense Grant program through the Kansas Forest Service at: ksre-learn.com/cwdg

SCAN ME

In 2023, the Kansas Forest Service – working with the Timmons Group – announced that it had built a free, online Wildfire Risk Assessment tool to help Kansans protect their life and property. The development of the tool is based on a decade of wildfire occurrence data in Kansas.

Officials say the Wildfire Risk Assessment tool can be used by anybody, from a single occupancy landowner to community leaders, fire chiefs, emergency managers and many others.

The Kansas Forest Service, an independent agency housed within K-State Research and Extension, has thus far worked with six Kansas counties to build Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

These plans, created by local fire departments, emergency managers and stakeholders, help communities prepare for wildfire. In the case of Chase, Butler and Leavenworth, the plans were a critical part of their application for Community Wildfire Defense Grant funds.

The U.S. Forest Service reports that it has provided $1 billion across the country in funding over five years through the Community Wildfire Defense Grant program. At-risk communities, local governments, tribal units, non-profits and state forestry agencies are eligible to apply.

Learn more about the Kansas Forest Service Wildfire Risk Assessment tool by visiting ksre-learn.com/wildfire-risk.

SCAN ME

Our Funding Sources

Fiscal Year 2025

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION	
State Appropriation	$34,802,698
Federal Appropriation (Hatch, Multi-St., Mcint.-Stennis)	4,500,000
Main Campus Allocation	1,250,000
Grants, Contracts, Other Funds	56,149,315
Total Agricultural Experiment Station	**$96,702,013**
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE	
State Appropriation (includes K-State 105)	$27,405, 771
Federal Appropriation (3(b)and(c), Special Needs)	5,800,000
Grants, Contracts, Other Funds	17,366,320
County/District Appropriation	25,700,000
Total Cooperative Extension Service	**$76,272,091**
TOTAL K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION	**$172,974,104**
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE	
State Appropriation and Tuition	$11,419,020
Grants, Contracts, Other Funds	5,567,806
Total College of Agriculture	**$16,986,826**
TOTAL COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION	**$189,960,930**

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College of Agriculture

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K-STATE Research and Extension

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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