

A photograph showing two men in a field of yellow flowers. One man, wearing a blue polo shirt and a cap, is pointing at a solar-powered robot. The robot is purple and has two solar panels mounted on top. A black battery pack is attached to the back of the robot. The other man, wearing a black jacket, is looking at the robot. The background is a vast field of yellow flowers under a clear sky.

PREPARING THE WAY

FOR A MORE PROSPEROUS KANSAS



BUILDING A STATE OF POSSIBILITY

In 2021, Kansas State University laid the groundwork to bring greater prosperity and a better quality of life to people living in Kansas.

The year before, the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) asked all state-supported colleges and universities to submit proposals to identify how they can do more to increase economic activity in the state. KBOR selected K-State's Economic Prosperity Plan, which identified four focus areas where we have existing, differentiating strengths, and the work coming from those areas have the potential to spark economic growth.

Focus area one:



Food & Agriculture Systems Innovation

Kansas has been a leader in the production of food and feed crops, beef and dairy products for more than a century. K-State's prosperity plan will capitalize on this to attract more ag manufacturing in Kansas. For example, rather than sending our unique wheat and sorghum varieties out of state as commodities, we keep more in state to make snack bars, consumption alcohol or other products here in Kansas. We can keep more of the beef processing and packaging in Kansas and use milk to produce cheese and yogurt within the state.



K-State partners with producers to create new products, which will lead to new jobs and increased economic activity.

Focus area two:



Digital Agriculture & Advanced Analytics

This focus area will develop and use new technologies to mine and analyze vast amounts of data to help farmers know precisely when and where to apply water, fertilizer, pesticides and other inputs. This innovation will take the complexity out of making these critical decisions by offering farmers a simple, precise and automated system that will provide the information they need to increase their food production while decreasing their natural resources footprint.



Data generation and digital solutions are the answer for greater yields and efficiencies.

Focus area three:



Biosecurity & Biodefense

K-State is the only university in the world with access to a full continuum of biosecurity laboratories located on or adjacent to campus. K-State will bring corporate partners to Kansas to take advantage of these unique facilities to develop diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive countermeasures for a broad range of emerging zoonotic diseases. The College of Agriculture will also provide plant disease diagnostics, research, surveillance and training in disease vector biology. The laboratories will offer emergency rapid testing and manufacturing to protect the nation's animal health and food supply during a crisis.



The National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (left) is located within the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor. *NBAF campus photo courtesy of USDA NBAF Communications*

Focus area four:



K-State 105

K-State 105 maximizes K-State Research and Extension's presence in all 105 counties to drive economic prosperity in the state. Through this initiative, businesses and communities will have greater access to K-State innovation, talent and training through local agents and coordinated resources. Extension's research centers, experiment fields and highly skilled scientists and staff, combined with the climate and soil variability across the state, provide unique opportunities for agricultural research and corporate and private partnerships.



K-State Research and Extension has consistently worked to improve lives, livelihoods and communities. With this plan, we can further streamline methods for businesses and communities across Kansas to access our innovation, talent and training.

Sustainable agriculture – a priority that cuts across all focus areas

Agricultural sustainability is based on the principle that we must meet the needs of the present without compromising the health and well-being of future generations. Long-term prosperity requires long-term stewardship of natural resources and ensures social and economic equity for all.

In addition, this cross-cutting theme will focus on resiliency and adaptation to develop solutions and implement action to respond to the impacts of climate change that are already happening and prepare for future impacts.



Each focus area will support a healthy environment, economic profitability, and social and economic equity.



Preparing the path for greater economic prosperity

The Economic Prosperity Plan focuses heavily on the strengths of the College of Agriculture and K-State Research and Extension. Our success in providing the best education, research and outreach has laid the groundwork for a new and stronger economy for Kansas.

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Preparing tomorrow's agricultural workforce, leaders and entrepreneurs



The College of Ag ranks

NO. 7

*among the nation's
top 144 ag schools*

Niche.com, 2022

1. Cornell University
2. Texas A&M University
3. University of Georgia
4. University of Florida
5. University of California – Davis
6. North Carolina State University
- 7. Kansas State University**
8. Oklahoma State University
9. Clemson University
10. University of Wisconsin
11. The Ohio State University

K-State

RANKS 1ST

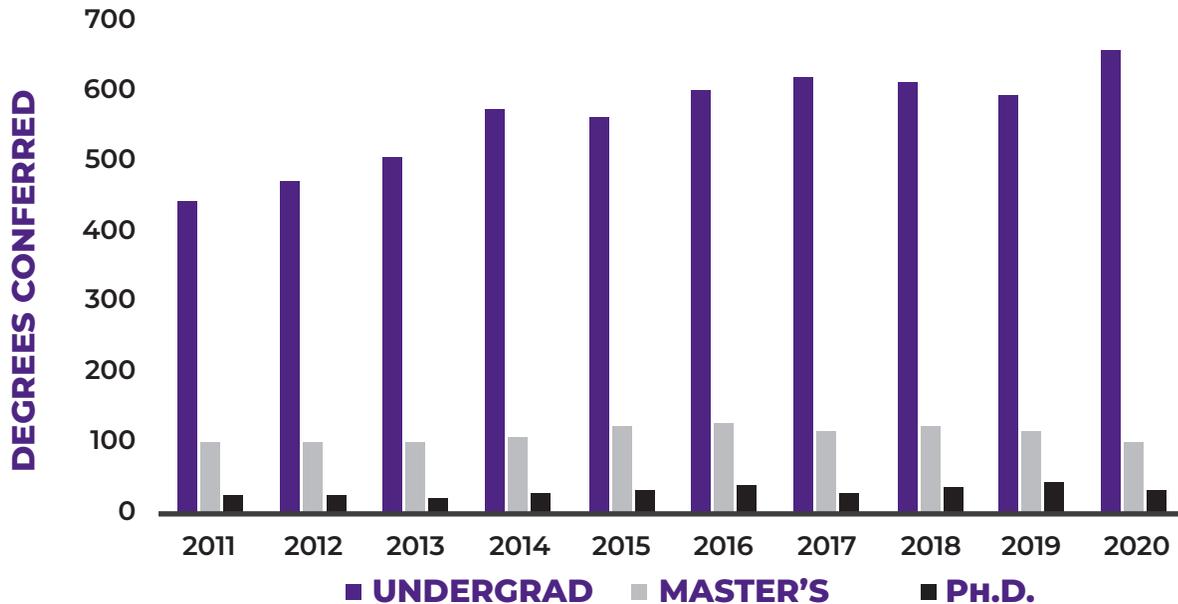
*in six of seven
categories Niche
compares:*

- *Professors put a lot of effort into teaching.*
- *Professors care about their students' success.*
- *Professors are engaging and easy to understand.*
- *Professors are approachable and helpful when needed.*
- *Students find it's easy to get into the classes they want.*
- *Students say their workload is easy to manage.*

K-State ranks in the top 10 despite our size. Our number of undergraduates is approximately half the average number of undergraduates attending the other 10 schools.

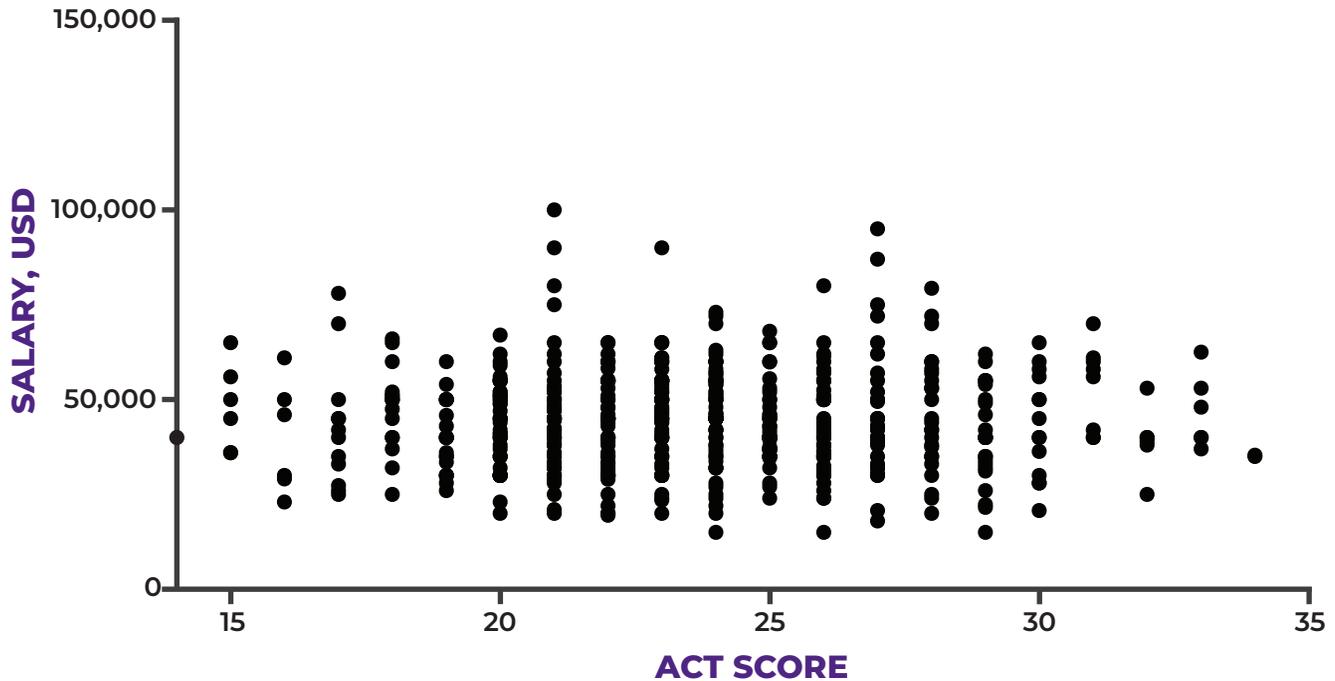
College of Agriculture graduates are in demand

A College of Agriculture degree from K-State is valued. More than **96%** of our new graduates are employed or furthering their education.



From access to success

Nowhere is the College of Agriculture's focus on student success more apparent than when comparing salaries of new graduates by their ACT scores. After earning an ag degree at K-State, there is no statistical difference in the salary of new agricultural graduates based on test scores.



Each dot represents a student, and its placement represents his or her ACT score and starting salary.

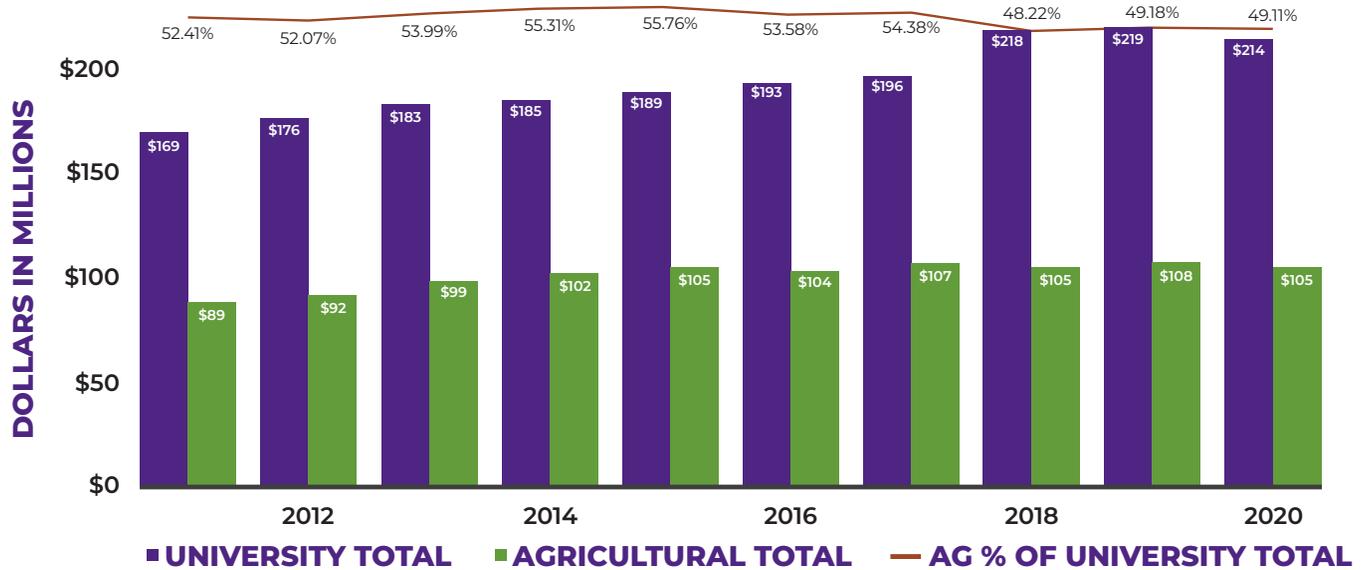
EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Research awards have more than doubled between 2011 and 2021. The return on investment for research spending has been tremendous. Every \$1 spent on research at the college and K-State Research and Extension returns \$17 to the state's economy.



Research expenditures

The College of Agriculture and K-State Research and Extension have had annual research expenditures of more than \$100 million since 2014. Research expenditures are the funds spent to conduct research and are the most frequently cited numbers for comparing research levels among colleges and universities.



EXCELLENCE IN EXTENSION

2021 educational contacts

K-State Research and Extension records the number of direct and indirect educational contacts made through extension programming efforts across the state. A direct educational contact is defined as a face-to-face or one-on-one interaction. An indirect educational contact is recorded when a programming effort or resource is distributed through radio, social media, email, etc.

Direct educational contacts reported:

708,792

Indirect educational contacts reported:

1,672,440

Direct educational contacts by Grand Challenge



Global Food Systems – 114,639



Health – 108,645



Water and Natural Resources – 53,847



Developing Tomorrow's Leaders – 180,911



Community Vitality – 97,454

153,296

volunteer educational contacts were made

Volunteer contacts are not asked to specify a Grand Challenge

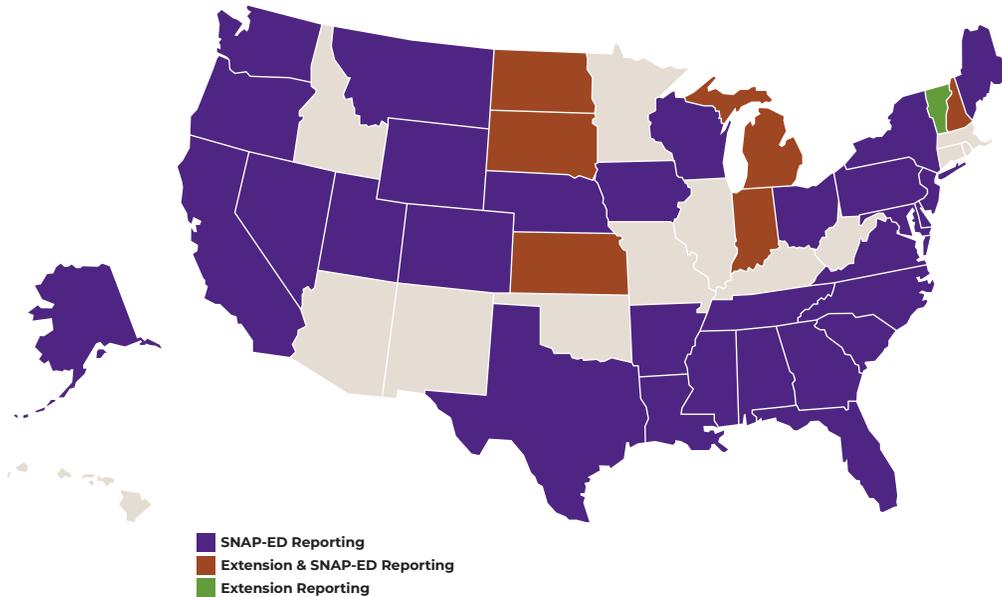


University-developed software selected as national reporting system for SNAP-Ed

Recognizing a need for more stringent evaluation efforts, K-State Research and Extension partnered with the Office of Educational Innovation and Evaluation to develop the Program Evaluation and Reporting System, or PEARS, a web-based system that would provide a better way to track extension programming performance.

Today, PEARS is used for national data collection for USDA's SNAP-Ed program and state-level extension reporting.

States using PEARS data management



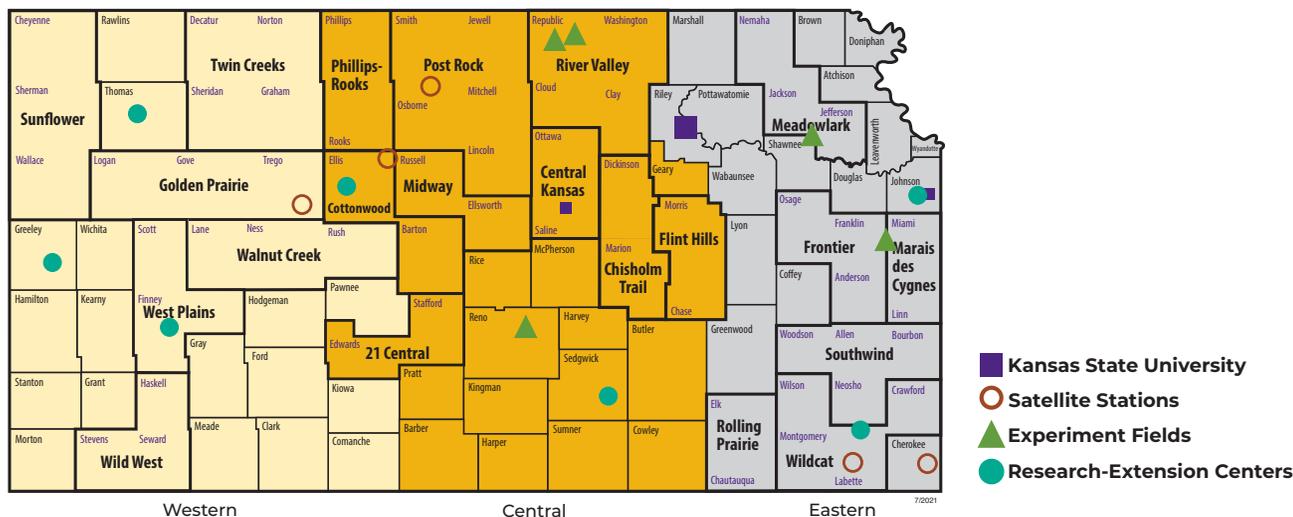
Restructuring to provide better service to the state

To provide better service and more specialized leadership for research centers and county offices across the state, K-State Research and Extension underwent a regional restructuring that led to more effective management of local units and regional research center issues.

From a local unit management perspective, the restructuring split the state into three regions - western, central and eastern. Mary Sullivan, Aliesa Woods and Carla Nemecek were named regional directors for the western, central and

eastern regions, respectively. From serving as extension agents to local unit extension directors, they are more prepared to handle and understand local unit issues in their regions.

In terms of extension research center management, Dan Devlin, Ph.D., was promoted to oversee western research and extension centers, and Bob Weaver, Ph.D., was promoted to manage eastern centers. Their extension, research and leadership experience has prepared them to lead cutting-edge research at regional centers.



Structure of the Regional Administration of Local Units in 2021

Preparing students for graduate school

In 2021, nine students participated in the K-State Research and Extension Summer Research Fellowship, an eight-week paid program designed to prepare undergraduate students representing underrepresented groups for graduate school in agricultural-related fields of study by:

- Introducing students to the high-standard work level of graduate school.
- Helping students develop research, writing and presentation skills.
- Providing opportunities to develop leadership skills.
- Encouraging multi-cultural students to pursue graduate degrees.

Since the program began at K-State:

- 80 students have participated.
- 50% have gone on to attend graduate school.
- 11 attended K-State for graduate studies.
- 16 (of 19) 1890 Universities have participated.

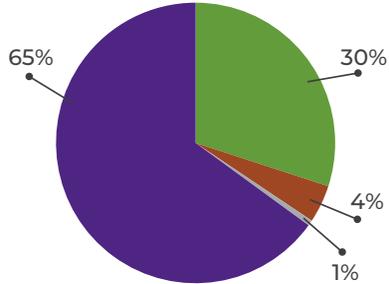


1890 Universities that have participated in the program.

OUR FUNDING SOURCES

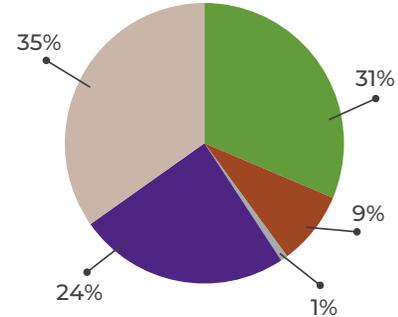
Fiscal Year 2022

Agricultural Experiment Station



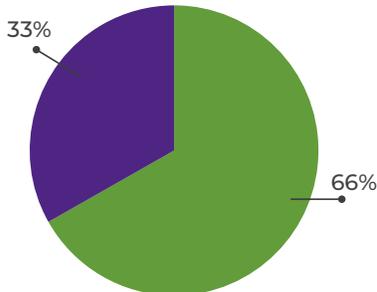
- Grants, Contracts, Other Funds
\$67,248,341
- State Appropriation
\$31,029,885
- Federal Appropriation
\$4,500,000
- Main Campus Allocation
\$666,000

Cooperative Extension



- County/District Appropriation
\$22,000,000
- State Appropriation
\$19,835,636
- Grants, Contracts, Other Funds
\$15,477,456
- Federal Appropriation
\$5,400,000
- Main Campus Allocation
\$525,298

College of Agriculture



- State Appropriations and Tuition
\$12,232,100
- Grants, Contracts, Other Funds
\$6,075,461

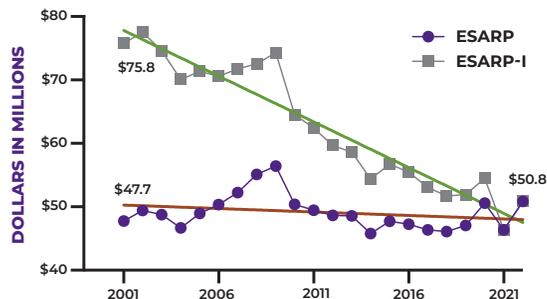
Shared commitment is key to our success

The Economic Prosperity Plan has the potential to profoundly impact the economy across Kansas through 21st century innovation, education and outreach. K-State has the talent, capability and commitment to put this plan into action to spark a new economic revolution for our state.

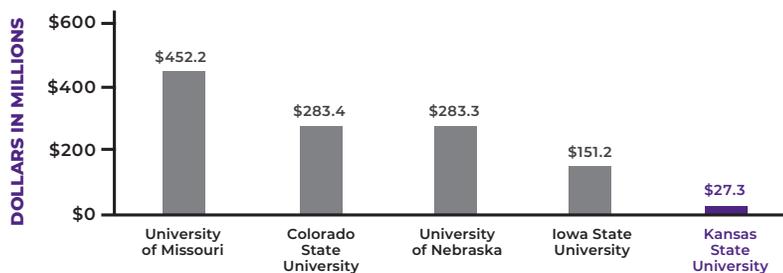
A plan, like this, requires financial stability and a full restoration of our base budget and support for outdated research facilities. For 20 years, we have faced budget reductions or flat-line funding to our Extension Systems and Agricultural Research Programs (ESARP) account that when adjusted for inflation has resulted in a \$25 million loss in buying power. Recent studies of past performance have found that every dollar spent on research and education at the college and K-State Research and Extension returns \$17. The \$25 million loss in real dollars may then reflect a loss of \$425 million in economic impact for the state.

We are excited by the Economic Prosperity Plan and all it promises, and we look forward to partnering with state lawmakers and members of KBOR on this shared vision for Kansas. Your commitment and investment will be essential.

History of budget reductions and flat-line funding



Investment in new construction for science and engineering facilities (2006 - 2019)



KANSAS STATE
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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

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director of K-State Research and Extension, Kansas State University, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts.