

December 2013 Update

- The following awards were presented at the Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) and American Society of Agronomy (ASA) international annual meeting Nov. 3–6 in Tampa, Fla.:
 - Guihua Bai, professor of agronomy, and Daniel Sweeney, professor of soil and water management CSSA Fellows. Sweeney is one of a few scientists to be named a Fellow in crop science, soil science, and agronomy societies. James Shroyer, professor of agronomy CSSA Crop Science Teaching Award.
 - Nathan Nelson, associate professor of agronomy ASA Agronomic Resident Education Award. The team of Kraig Roozeboom and Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, both associate professors of agronomy; Curtis Thompson, professor of agronomy; Doug Jardine, professor of plant pathology; Jeff Whitworth, associate professor of entomology; and Mark Stadtlander, editor ASA Extension Excellence Award for *Diagnosing Corn Production Problems in Kansas*.
 - Graduate student awards: Sruthi Narayanan, CSSA Gerald O. Mott Scholarship for Meritorious Graduate Students in Crop Science; Pavithra Arachchige, second place for a poster and third place in oral presentation, Soil Chemistry Division; Ray Asebedo, third place in oral presentation, Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition Division, SSA graduate student competition; Sarah Battenfield, third place, poster Division C-1, Plant Breeding and Genetics; Bryson Haverkamp, third in poster presentation, Division C-3, Crop Ecology, Management and Quality; and Kyle Shroyer, honorable mention for poster presentation, CSSA Division C-2 Crop Physiology and Metabolism; and Dilooshi Weerasooriya, third place, ACS528 Diversity Student Poster.
- The National Institute of Food and Agriculture announced 2013 Partnership Awards for exemplary work and outstanding contributions in support of the USDA mission and for positive impacts on agriculture. The award for multistate efforts went to the Beef Reproduction Task Force Iowa State University, Kansas State University, South Dakota State University, University of Florida, University of Idaho, University of Missouri, and University of Nebraska for providing leadership and consistency in reproductive programming to the U.S. beef industry through Cooperative Extension System efforts.
- More than 400 people from 15 states attended presentations and visited exhibits Nov. 21 at Swine Day. The
 "Chew on This" traveling educational center drew 525 students. Participants also toured the O.H. Kruse Feed
 Technology Innovation Center.
- The Bikram S. Gill Chair in Wheat Genetics was established through gifts from private industries, friends, and colleagues. Gill, university distinguished professor of plant pathology and director of K-State's Wheat Genetics Resource Center, will hold this chair for the next five years during phased retirement, and then it will be used to recruit his successor. "I have spent 33 years building up the WGRC, and this endowment will ensure that legacy," Gill said. "This is a step forward in the continued development of wheat genetics."
- Karen Garrett, professor of plant pathology, was invited by Nature Climate Change to provide commentary on evidence for the global movement of agricultural pathogens and insect pests under climate change.
- In November, the K-State Research and Extension and Kansas Operation Military Kids staff trained foster grandparents on ways to more effectively reach out to military children. The Foster Grandparents program allows people age 55 and older to work in public schools to tutor and mentor at-risk children who might come from a single-parent family, or have a parent who serves in the military or who is incarcerated.