



## From the desk of Allen Featherstone



As we blaze through the summer term and a fresh set of graduates enter the “real world”, we reflect on the achievements the new alumni made during their time at Kansas State University and are looking forward to the students that will move into their footsteps behind them.

On May 15 and 16, we welcomed nearly 100 graduates into our alumni family from our degree candidates of the agribusiness and agricultural economics undergraduates, Master of Science, Master of Agribusiness, and the Ph.D. program.

Alumnus John Niemann, agribusiness graduate of '93 and president of food distribution for Cargill in Wichita, was the keynote speaker for the undergraduate ceremony and provided a charge and motivation for our recent graduates.

Our department takes pride in knowing that our graduates are going into industries with great alumni support in their networks across the country. We trust that you will welcome them if you get a chance to work with our new alumni.

In September, we will honor a new distinguished alumni member at our annual scholarship and awards banquet. We hope you will join us for the scholarship banquet Friday, September 18 and at the tailgate event in Cat Town before the Football game September 19 against Louisiana Tech.

Highlights for this e-newsletter include numerous student honors to wrap up the spring semester, faculty honors, and updates from our department programs, events, and more.

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

*Go Cats!*

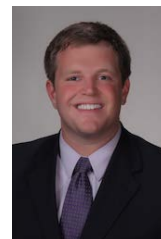
**Dr. Allen Featherstone**, Department Head,  
Professor, Master of Agribusiness Program Director

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# Undergraduate News

## Agricultural economics selects three Outstanding Undergraduate Seniors

Reagan Kays, Logan Britton and Nicholas Wineinger are the department's three outstanding undergraduate seniors for 2015. They were recognized at the 51st College of Agriculture Awards Assembly April 12 for their significant dedication to the department. Faculty members nominated and voted on the selection.

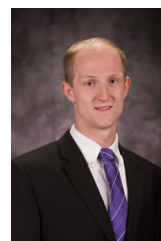


Reagan  
Kays

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## Faculty names Rundel as recipient of WAEA Outstanding Senior Award

Department faculty selected Brady Rundel as the recipient of the Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA) Outstanding Senior Award, that recognizes outstanding undergraduate seniors who have achieved academic excellence at their institution. One senior student is selected by each WAEA institution in the 19 western states of the United States, with each department determining its own institution winner. Award winners receive a complementary one-year WAEA membership, recognition in the WAEA awards program, and on the WAEA website. Rundel is pursuing his master's degree in agricultural economics at K-State.



Logan  
Britton

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## Logan Britton earns College of Agriculture Student of the year

Logan Britton, who earned November Student of the Month, also received the College of Agriculture Student of the Year at the College of Agriculture Awards Assembly held April 12. Logan was selected from a pool of all of the Student of the Month nominees. Applications are judged by students on the Student and Faculty Awards Committee within the Ag Council.

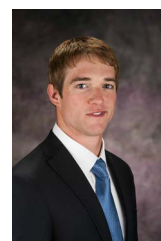


Nick  
Wineinger

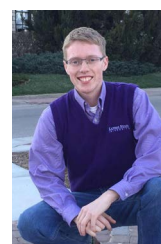
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## Two COA Ambassador of the Year represent Agricultural Economics

Both recipients of the College of Agriculture Ambassador of the Year awards were earned by agricultural economics seniors. Logan Britton and Ben Brown received the recognition April 12 at the Ag Ambassador Banquet that proceeded the college's awards assembly. The honor is awarded by the College of Agriculture Ambassadors, who nominate ambassadors of the month through the Ag Council's Student of the Month program. Brown was nominated by Ag Ambassadors for Student of the Month in September while Britton was nominated in November and both won in their respective months. Ambassador of the Year is voted on by the ambassador organization prior to the banquet.



Brady  
Rundel



Ben  
Brown

## K-State Global Campus: Reagan Kays earns Friend of Global Campus Award



Kansas State University Global Campus presented five awards to K-State faculty, staff and students at the 2015 K-State Global Campus Honors and Awards Reception April 30.

Reagan Kays (pictured left) was awarded the first-ever Friend of K-State Global Campus Award. Kays recently received his bachelors of science in agribusiness and served as 2014-2015 K-State student body president. He is a strong advocate for extending services to all students through the use of technology and developing resources to provide online tutoring to distance students.

The Friend of K-State Global Campus Award recognizes an individual who has significantly contributed to the advancement of K-State Global Campus programs or services.

“The mission of K-State Global Campus is to provide a quality education to students regardless of their location,” said K-State Global Campus dean Sue Maes. “That mission would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff and students. We are pleased to be able to recognize those individuals who go above and beyond for distance education.”

[Read more about the faculty, staff and students honored at K-State Global Campus Honors and Awards Reception.](#)

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## K-State Alumni Association honors two agricultural economics students



International Affairs Director. Winners of this award not only demonstrate strong leadership but also excellence in academic achievements.

Justine Floyd (pictured above), Wichita, received the Multicultural Leadership Award. Floyd was one of four graduates to receive this award for outstanding achievement and leadership during her time here at K-State. Floyd served as the Head Delegate for the Black Student Union, and as a member of the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Science.

The Alumni Association honored a total of eight K-State graduates for excellence in leadership and achievement within multicultural and international organizations and communities during their time as a student.

[Read more about the K-State Alumni Association Multicultural and International awards.](#)

Students who demonstrate strong leadership were nominated by professors to be honored at the International Graduation Celebration on May 1 for outstanding international leadership, and on May 5 at the Multicultural Graduation Celebration for excellence in multicultural leadership.

Youwei Yang (pictured below), Baiyin City, China, earned the inaugural International Leadership Award. Yang was one of four students to receive this award at the International Graduate Celebration. During his time at K-State, Yang has been a student ambassador for K-State Libraries, as well as the Student Governing Association





# Undergraduate News

## Agricultural economics students honored by K-State Alumni Association

Eight graduating Kansas State University students, three of which are agricultural economics students, have been recognized by the K-State Alumni Association for outstanding achievements during their college careers. Amy Button Renz, president and CEO of the Alumni Association, presented the students with plaques during an awards luncheon on April 29 at the K-State Alumni Center.

The three agricultural economics recipients of awards from the Alumni Association are:

Nicholaus Herrmann, agricultural economics, Holcomb, Kansas, earned the Tony Jurich Community Commitment and Leadership Award. Herrmann worked in Nyeri, Kenya, at the Children and Youth Empowerment Centre and interned for U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran. He is a member of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity and served as an ambassador for the College of Agriculture. The award was established in honor of the late K-State professor Tony Jurich, who taught in the College of Human Ecology for more than 39 years before his death in 2010. It recognizes both graduate and undergraduate students who have demonstrated a commitment to community leadership and service through Jurich's core leadership tenets.

Reagan Kays, agribusiness, Weir, Kansas, earned the Anderson Senior Award for Outstanding Leadership. Kays served as the 2014-2015 student body president. During his

presidency, funding was secured for campus-wide tutoring, the Lifeline 911 campus-wide policy was passed, and he has been instrumental in getting the Kansas Legislature to review this policy for statewide legislation. Kays also is a member of Blue Key Senior Honor Society and the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. The Anderson Senior Awards recognizes graduating seniors for academics, leadership, inspiration and service. The award was established in 1998.

Brady Rundel, agricultural economics, Colby, Kansas, earned the Anderson Award for Outstanding Academics. Rundel has served on the College of Agriculture Student Council Executive Committee and has been a member of the Kansas State National Agri-Marketing Association chapters. In addition, he was a Student Fellow for the Center for Risk Management Education and Research.

Faculty and peers nominate students for the awards and committees consisting of members of the Alumni Association board of directors and K-State students to select the recipients.

"It is an honor to recognize these exceptional students for their achievements at K-State," said Michelle Elkins, associate director of awards and special events for the Alumni Association. "These award winners were selected from a group of remarkable candidates."



*Pictured at left: Nicholaus Herrman, bachelor's candidate in agricultural economics, Holcomb, Kansas; Brady Rundel, bachelor's candidate in agricultural economics, Colby, Kansas; and Reagan Kays, bachelor's candidate in agribusiness, Weir, Kansas, hold awards presented to them by the K-State Alumni Association April 29.*

[Read more about these honors.](#)

Article contribution by Tim Schrag,  
K-State Alumni Association



Elizabeth  
Harner



Garrett  
Kays



Jeffery  
Hadachek



Youwei  
Yang



Jason  
Troendle

## Harner and Kays selected for Blue Key leadership

The Kansas State University chapter of Blue Key, a senior honorary, selected new members and appointed new positions Tuesday, May 26, 2015.

Elizabeth Harner, senior in agribusiness from St. George, is the new director of banquet and recognition. Garrett Kays, senior in agricultural economics from Weir, is the new President of K-State's Blue Key chapter.

Blue Key honors students for excellence in service, scholarship and leadership. Two agricultural economics students were elected for new officer positions.

Students elected for officer positions within Blue Key are expected to hold two leadership positions in an organization. Organizations can be either student-run or community involvement opportunities. In addition to leadership experience, students are required to maintain a 3.0 grade point average to be eligible for membership.

[Read more about Blue Key's leadership.](#)

## Blue Key awards scholarship to two agricultural economics students

The Kansas State University chapter of Blue Key, a senior honors society, recognized students for excellence in leadership, scholarship, and service. Two agricultural economics students displayed this great potential in their university and community contributions.

Jeffery Hadachek, sophomore in agricultural economics, received the Robert Lewis Sophomore Leadership Award. Hadachek was one of three students to receive an award for outstanding leadership. Winners of this award display great potential for future leadership roles and service to the university.

Youwei Yang, senior in agricultural economics, received the Chester E. Peters Student Development Award. The winners of the Chester E Peters scholarship have demonstrated high quality of leadership, service and moral integrity, as well as encouraged and supported fellow students at the university.

K-State's chapter awards more than \$20,000 in scholarships each year to honor student excellence in service, scholarship and leadership.

[Read more about the Blue Key scholarships winners.](#)

## Blue Key recognizes Jason Troendle for leadership and service

On April 12, Blue Key, K-State's senior honor society, recognized outgoing seniors for outstanding leadership.

Jason Troendle, agricultural economics, St. Charles, Minnesota, received the William L. Muir II and John T. Muir Alpha Tau Omega Blue Key Scholarship for excellence in scholarship, service, and leadership.

The Muir scholarship honors two past Blue Key members and brothers, John and William Muir. The selection committee is comprised of the dean of students, Blue Key advisers, a member of the Muir family, and an officer from K-State's Alpha Tau Omega Student's Aid Endowment Fund. Both Troendle and Jordan Marquess, senior in biology and pre-medicine, received plaques and a \$1,000 scholarship for their leadership roles both at K-State and off campus.

Troendle demonstrated strong service and leadership throughout his time at K-State. Troendle was the personal and professional development chair for Blue Key, a student fellow at the Center for Risk Management and Education and Research, as well as the public relations chair and the strengths advocate public relations chair for the All-University Open House.

Troendle interned for Cargill Feed and Nutrition and the Kansas Department of Agriculture. He also served as the national secretary of the National FFA Organization.

[Read more about Blue Key's outgoing scholarship winners.](#)

# Undergraduate News

## Agricultural economics sophomore joins Alpha Zeta

Alpha Zeta inducted four new members into the honorary in April including agricultural economics sophomore Bret Gum, Johnson, Kan. Gum joined the group following an application and interview process this spring. The inductees were selected based on a high level of scholarship, leadership, integrity and service in the College of Agriculture.

Other agricultural economics students in Alpha Zeta are Logan Britton, Caitlin Buelt, Lindsay Bulk, Dalton Hodgkinson, Gylee Martin, Emily Warriner, Morganne Wiltse and Youwei Yang.

Alpha Zeta, originated in 1897, is an honor fraternity for students in agriculture or natural resources that focuses on education and service.

[Read more about Alpha Zeta's new members.](#)

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## Abigail Friesen earns honorable mention for Kirmser Undergraduate Research Award

Abigail Friesen, freshman in agricultural economics, received honorable mention for her essay: "Informative report: Immigration and job opportunities" at the Kirmser Award ceremony on May 13. Friesen wrote the essay for her expository writing class, under the instruction of Erica Ruscio, Master's student in English.

The Kirmser Undergraduate Research Awards recognize the work of undergraduate student scholarship. The award is presented by K-State Libraries and possible through a gift made by Philip and Jeune Kirmser. Sandy Chastan, the Kirmser's daughter, made an appearance at the ceremony.

Kirmser Awards are divided into three categories and awarded to students engaging in academic research and inquiry. The three categories for research awards are: group work, individual freshman projects, and non-freshman individual projects.

Eighteen students won awards or received mention at the Kirmser Undergraduate Research Award Ceremony. [For more information about this award, read here.](#)



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## Silver Key accepts two agricultural economics students into honorary

Connor Eilert, Beloit, and Abigail Friesen, Colby, were selected as 2015-2016 members of the Silver Key sophomore leadership honorary.

To be eligible for Silver Key, students must have at least a 3.0 grade point average, be 2014 high school graduates and be in their freshman year at the university. Silver Key provides service to the campus and the surrounding Manhattan community. Members organize and participate in a variety of community service projects each semester. Past projects have included Sleep Out for the Homeless, food drives, highway cleanup efforts, and providing child care to Fort Riley families.

The Organization was founded in the 1920s under the name Sparks and in 1995 became unique to the K-State campus under the name Silver Key.

[Read more about new Silver Key members.](#)



## College of Agriculture Awards Assembly recognizes ag. economics students for involvement on campus



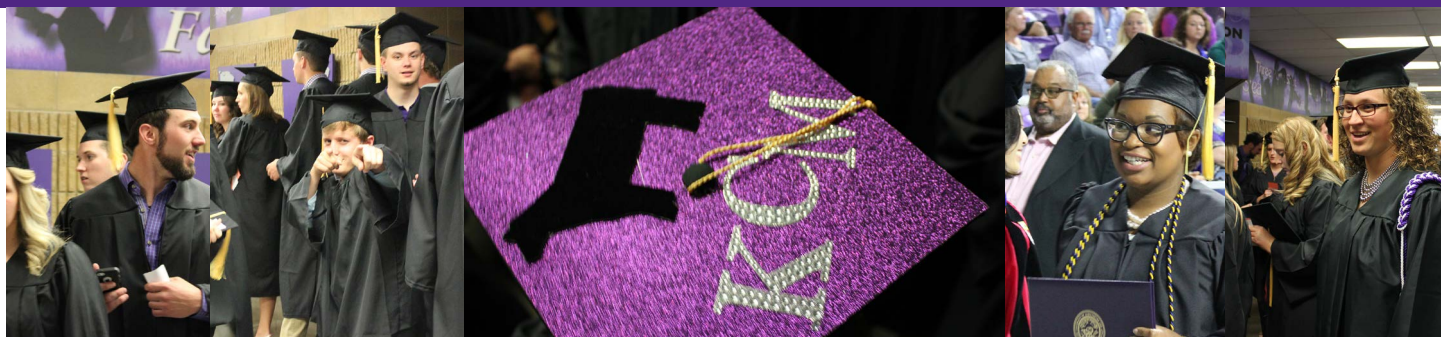
The College of Agriculture Awards Assembly, held April 12, recognized students for their awards, successes, and involvement on campus during the 2014 – 2015 school year. The assembly recognized agricultural economics students for many different facets of leadership, service, and action including judging teams, clubs, and academic triumphs. Agricultural economics senior and Ag Council President, Candice Wilson, served as the Master of Ceremonies. The recognitions from the assembly are:

- During the 2014-2015 school year, the Department of Agricultural Economics was represented by four College of Agriculture student senators in the Student Governing Association. These senators were: Logan Britton, Garrett Kays, Kurt Lockwood, and Wyatt Pracht. The 60 SGA student senators are the collective voice for their respective college. They serve a one year term and are eligible for re-election. <http://www.k-state.edu/sga/>
- Ben Brown served on the K-State Alumni Association Student Alumni Board for the academic year. The board coordinates events such as Wildcats Forever, Grad Bash, prospective student events, Distinguished Young Alumni, and others. [Read more about the Student Alumni Board.](#)
- The Student Foundation was also represented by students from the department. Reagan Kays and Garrett Kays served a term together during the academic year. The Student Foundation coordinates K-State Proud and other events. [Read more about the Student Foundation.](#)
- Blue Key Senior Honorary had several agricultural economics students for the 2014-2015 academic year. In addition to other honors listed in this e-newsletter, they are: Ben Brown, Kurt Lockwood, and Jason Troendle. Blue Key students are recognized for their dedication to scholarship, leadership and service. <http://www.k-state.edu/bluekey/>
- Anna Setter was involved in Quest, Freshman Honorary, during the year. Quest members receive a Blue Key mentor and participate in service and social activities in their first year at college. <http://www.k-state.edu/bluekey/activities/Quest.html>
- Garrett Kays is a 2014 American Royal Scholar. Students selected for the scholarship participate in the American Royal to receive media training, assist with tours and teaching sessions and other events during the American Royal. The winners also receive \$2,500. [Read more about the American Royal Scholars.](#)
- The Livestock Judging team had three students from the Department of Agricultural Economics. Kaden Roush, Bailey McClelland, and Reed Gleason traveled to many competitions around the country with the team. Out of many individual placings, each earned at least one high overall score at a competition during the year. Roush received fifth overall at the Sioux Empire Stock Show, McClelland received high individual overall at the Mid-America Classic, and Gleason earned second overall at the Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic. [Read more about the Livestock Judging team.](#)

**"Every year, our students make us proud, and this year was no exception. They represented our program brilliantly across and beyond campus. The graduating class of May 2015 was a particularly strong cohort with many students with distinctive college career. We cannot wait to see what great heights they will achieve in their post-K-State careers."**

*– Hikaru Peterson, Professor and Director of Undergraduate Programs*

# From the other side of the tassel



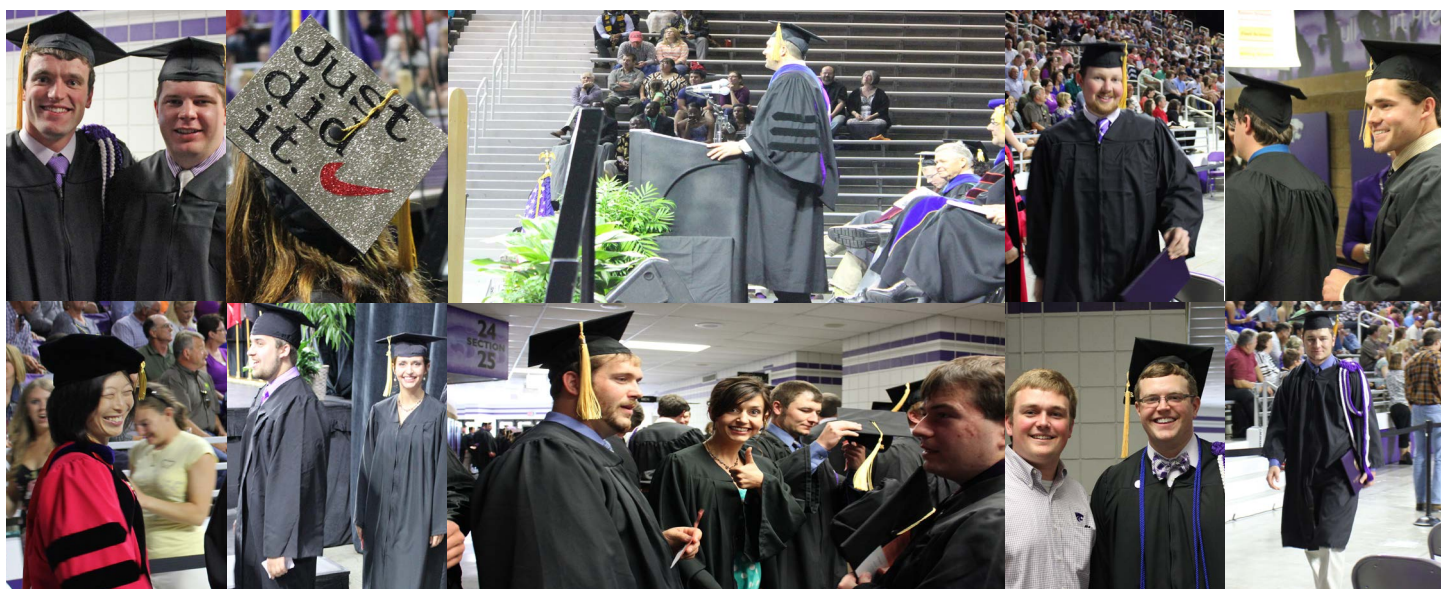
During their last few weeks as undergraduates, the new alumni of our department were asked to share their experiences via a survey and meeting with Allen Featherstone, department head. The following is a snapshot of their future plans and advice for future and current students.

## Post-Graduation Plans:

- “M.S. agricultural economics program at K-State”- Logan Britton
- “Family Farm”- Jackie Neville
- “Law school at Georgetown in Washington, D.C.”- Reagan Kays
- “Crop Consultant for Crop Quest”- Craig Busse

## Advice for Students:

- “Don’t be intimidated by the curriculum and challenge yourself and not take the easy route—you’re here to grow and learn!”- Logan Britton
- “Participate in class, sometimes you can get your professor talking and the “good” stories come out. Plus you learn more if you ask the question.”- Alex B. Rezac
- “To get as involved in the department as possible. I wish I would have spent more time in the department than the university just because in the last year I have made some great friends that were right in my major.”- Ben Brown
- “Take in all the info and help that the department, advisors, and professor can offer you.”- Mackenzie Mortimer
- “Make connections with the faculty and other students for these can be beneficial for the rest of your career.”- Blake Bergkamp
- “Go to class, pay attention, work hard, and get involved.”- Hayes Kelman
- “Go to all career fairs and do as many interviews as you can.”- Kooper O’Brien
- “Be more involved! Do stuff abroad! Don’t over-stress on things that don’t matter”- Craig Busse





## Melissa Lynes earns College of Agriculture Richard Elmore Brown Award

Melissa Lynes is the 2015 recipient of the Richard Elmore Brown College of Agriculture Graduate Student Teaching Award, which was awarded based on her teaching success as a graduate student.

"I was extremely honored and humbled from winning the award. I know there are a lot of excellent teaching assistants within the College of Agriculture, so it really was an honor to have won among these great students," Lynes said.

Lynes taught a section of AGECE 120, Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, which is the introductory course to topics in agricultural economics. She also taught a two-week math review course to re-introduce master's and doctorate students to the math they will need to earn their degree. She had experience as a teaching assistant with associate professor Jason Bergtold's AGECE 120 class and professor Orlen Grunewald's AGECE 115, Decision Tools for Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness.

In AGECE 120 and AGECE 115, Lynes aims to make economics tangible to the students, especially for incoming students. She exemplifies how economics are used in consumers' daily lives and how economics impact business decisions through in-class simulations. In these scenarios, the students act as consumers or producers and buy or sell in the market based on different real-world market criteria, which makes the students think more critically while making business decisions.

The Richard Elmore Brown Award goes to a graduate student with a minimum of one year of graduate work with strong teaching experiences, philosophy, goals and style. Nominees submit educational and work experiences, leadership and involvement in organizations and evaluations. The award is based on testimonials of others, as both faculty and students are able to write letters to express the

candidate's effectiveness in the classroom. Jeff Peterson, professor; and Allen Featherstone, department head and professor nominated Lynes for the Richard Elmore Brown Award.

"What helped me succeed in even being nominated for these awards, was the amazing support of the faculty within the department," Lynes said. "Whether it was from people who had taught the courses before or just other people who have been teaching for a number of years, just knowing that I could go up to any of them and ask questions and get really good advice and good feedback is amazing. It really helped me feel like I was not alone teaching, I always knew I had the support of the faculty in the department."

Lynes' recognition as a graduate teaching assistant stretches beyond the College of Agriculture. She received honorable mention for the Golden Key Award, which is an all-university award to honor outstanding graduate teaching assistants and graduate research assistants. Featherstone nominated her for this award.

Her major professor is Jeff Williams. Lynes earned her bachelor's degree in sport management at High Point University in North Carolina in 2007. She grew up in Kissimmee, Florida. She recently began working with the Department of Energy in Washington, D.C. as Industry Economist for the Energy Information Administration.



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## Foundation Facts

**How can you give back to the department?** Our department has a variety of gifting opportunities, including from those that directly benefit undergraduates, graduate students and Kansas farmers via our outreach programs. [Read more about ways to give here.](#)

**Who can you contact for more information?** For information about the opportunity to give to the department, please contact Allen Featherstone at [afeather@ksu.edu](mailto:afeather@ksu.edu) or 785-532-4441. [Click here to give to the department, online.](#)

# Faculty News

## Bryan Schurle earns College of Agriculture Mugler Outstanding Teaching Award

For 38 years, Bryan Schurle has been challenging K-State undergraduate and graduate students to see the real-world applications of agricultural economics.

“No class challenged me or made me think deeper about a subject and its real-world applications than Dr. Schurle’s Ag Econ 120 course,” said Candice Wilson, agricultural economics student and teaching assistant. “He is more than a professor. He is a mentor, friend, and a true representation of what it means to go above and beyond the call of duty and to care for others and their success.”

As a teacher, mentor, advisor, and colleague he goes above and beyond to show that he cares and to help his students be successful.

A student commented, “In a course of 200 students, for his teaching to feel so personalized is a true testament to his abilities as both a teacher and a mentor.” Schurle has received teaching and advising awards from the college and university as well as recognition from the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture, the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, and the National Association of State Universities and Land-grant Colleges.



In 1999, the K-State University College of Agriculture Alumni Board of Directors established an annual award, the David Mugler Teaching Award, to recognize Dr. Mugler’s many years of dedicated service to students in the K-State College of Agriculture. The individual nominated should emulate the personal and professional qualities demonstrated by Dave. He was an excellent teacher and advisor who modeled the statement, “They don’t care what you know until they know you care.”

*Pictured above: Kelsey Olson, President of the K-State Ag Alumni Board, presents Bryan Schurle with the Mugler Outstanding Teaching Award.*



### Facebook

Department: [facebook.com/kstateagecon](https://facebook.com/kstateagecon)

Master of Agribusiness Program: [facebook.com/KstateMAB](https://facebook.com/KstateMAB)

AgManager.info: [facebook.com/AgManager.info](https://facebook.com/AgManager.info)

Arthur Capper Cooperative Center: [facebook.com/KStateACCC](https://facebook.com/KStateACCC)

### Twitter

Department: [@kstateagecon](https://twitter.com/kstateagecon)

Master of Agribusiness Program: [@ksumab](https://twitter.com/ksumab)

AgManager.info: [@AgManagerInfo](https://twitter.com/AgManagerInfo)

Arthur Capper Cooperative Center: [@ksuaccc](https://twitter.com/ksuaccc)

Dan O'Brien Grain Markets: [@KSUGrains](https://twitter.com/KSUGrains)

### Blog sites

Department: [kstateagecon.wordpress.com](https://kstateagecon.wordpress.com)

Master of Agribusiness Program: [ksumabblog.blogspot.com](https://ksumabblog.blogspot.com)

Dan O'Brien's "Focused on Grains": [ksugrains.wordpress.com](https://ksugrains.wordpress.com)

Center for Risk Management Education and Research: [crmerstudents.wordpress.com](https://crmerstudents.wordpress.com)

Study Abroad: [ageconstudyabroad.wordpress.com](https://ageconstudyabroad.wordpress.com)

### YouTube

Department: [youtube.com/kstateagecon](https://youtube.com/kstateagecon)

AgManager.info: [youtube.com/user/agmanagerinfo](https://youtube.com/user/agmanagerinfo)

Master of Agribusiness Program

## Let's get social!

# Christine Wilson recognized as the College of Agriculture Faculty of the Semester

Christine Wilson was announced as the Spring 2015 recipient of the College of Agriculture Faculty of the Semester. Wilson received her bachelor's in agribusiness and both her master's and doctorate in agricultural economics from Kansas State University. In August of 2008, Wilson joined the K-State family as a professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics. Wilson has also served as the Assistant Dean of Academic Programs.

Wilson was one of two faculty members nominated by Ag Council club. After nomination, each nominee must complete an award application. Wilson, her fellow Spring 2015 winner, and winners of the Fall 2014 COA Faculty of the Semester awardees were recognized at the College of Agriculture Awards Assemble.

Wilson works to provide continuing student services in the areas of degree progress, policies/procedures, curriculum issues, honors programs, freshman orientation, and scholarships. She is also the advisor of the Ag Council and Ag Competition teams.

As one of her students said with pride, "Dr. Wilson has proven herself as an amazing resource and mentor and constantly works to improve the standard of education each student receives. She also works extremely hard to represent College of Ag students to the university board of academic services to ensure that the best interests of our students are heard."



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## Upcoming Events

### July

21-22 – ACCC Emerging Leaders: Building A Cooperative Finance Foundation, Bluemont Hotel, Manhattan

### August

19 – ACCC Symposium, K-State Alumni Center

20-21 – Risk and Profit Conference, K-State Alumni Center

### September

17-19 – MAB Risky Business Professional Development Session, Risky Business; and Alumni Reunion

18 – Department Scholarship and Awards Banquet, Bluemont Hotel, 6:00 p.m.

19 – Department Alumni Tailgate at Cat Town

24 – Registration deadline for Agricultural Lenders Conference, online

29 – Agricultural Lenders Conference, South West Extension Center, Garden City

30 – Agricultural Lenders Conference, IGP Center, Manhattan

### October

28-29 – Kansas Income Tax Institutes, Marriot Wichita, Wichita (others to follow in November and December in Garden City, Colby, Hays, Kansas City, Topeka, Salina and Pittsburg)

### November

12 – 2015 Crop Insurance Workshop, Ambassador Hotel, Salina (others in Nebraska, Oklahoma and Colorado)

For a full list of our events and more information, please visit [www.ageconomics.k-state.edu/events/index.html](http://www.ageconomics.k-state.edu/events/index.html)



## John Niemann receives the College of Agriculture Outstanding Young Alumnus Award



John Niemann, '93 agribusiness graduate, was named the College of Agriculture Outstanding Young Alumnus. As of July 2015, Niemann is the president of Cargill Turkey at Cargill Meat Solutions Corp. Prior to stepping up as president of Cargill Turkey, Niemann as the president of Cargill Food Distribution since 2013 in Wichita. As the president of Cargill Food Distribution, Niemann broke records as he revitalized the 30-year-old division of the company.

The College of Agriculture Ag Alumni Board of Directors established the annual Outstanding Young Alumnus Award to honor living alumni who personify the College's tradition of excellence. To be eligible for the award, alumni must have an outstanding career accomplish and not just a single event or achievement.

Niemann is a great example of an alumnus who has worked hard in his or her chosen career path. He started his career in sales and marketing in 1994 at Elanco Animal Health, where he worked to expand training programs and boost marketing offers. Niemann's attention turned to Cargill as he joined the team in 2001.

As he moved up the ladder at Cargill, Niemann served as the Sterling Silver Brand Manager (2001), Excel Brand and Business Manager (2005), Assistant Vice President and Beef Pricing/Business Manager (2006), Vice President of North America Sales and Marketing (2007), and Vice President and General Manager of Cargill Beef at the West Coast Regional Facility in Fresno (2010).

While working for Cargill, Niemann has encouraged his co-workers to volunteer. Cargill earned awards and recognition for participating in the community through Habitat for Humanity, United Way, Ronald McDonald House and Earth Day projects.

As president of Cargill, Niemann is very busy, but he still finds time to serve his community and help K-State grow. Niemann currently chairs the College of Agriculture/K-State Research and Extension Advisory Council and represents Cargill on the National FFA Foundation's Sponsors Board. Niemann came back to his alma mater for the spring 2015 College of Agriculture commencement as the featured speaker to inspire and motivate the recent graduating class.

*Photo: This spring, John spoke at the first Alpha Gamma Rho Agricultural Symposium along with other alumni of our department and Allen Featherstone*



# 2015 Risk and Profit Conference Topics

The annual Risk and Profit Conference is scheduled for Aug. 20-21, 2015, at the K-State Alumni Center. The focus of the conference will be drought and water. The following are topics for the agenda.

## **Weather and Water**

- Krystal Drysdale and Nathan Hendricks – The Effect of Local Water Policy on Kansas Farmer's Crop Choices, Irrigation Technology and Crop Yield
- Elwynn Taylor, Iowa State University– Extreme Weather for Crops: Too Dry, Too Wet, and Even Ideal
- Gary Brester, Montana State University – Whither the Cattle Cycle? -- Drought or Something Else?
- Terry Griffin – 2015 Kansas Weather Compared to Long Term Trends for Fieldwork Probabilities
- Nathan Hendricks – What is needed for a successful LEMA? (Local Enhanced Management Area - A voluntary local water management plan by farmers in an area.)
- Bill Golden – Update on the Economic Impact of the Sheridan #6 LEMA

## **Global**

- Anna Claudia Sant'Anna – Ethanol expansion in Brazil
- Maxime Salin-Maradeix, Jacob A. Zereyesus, Aleksan Shanoyan, Kara Ross, and Vincent Amanor-Boadu – The Use Of Fertilizer And Its Impact On Productivity In Northern Ghana
- Elizabeth Gutierrez, Kara Ross, Jacob A. Zereyesus, Aleksan Shanoyan, and Vincent Amanor-Boadu – Productivity Of Smallholder Producers In Northern Ghana: A Gender Comparison
- Agness Mzyece, Aleksan Shanoyan, Jacob A. Zereyesus, Kara Ross, and Vincent Amanor-Boadu – Transaction Costs and Market Participation: Recent Evidence from Northern Ghana
- Adam Hancock, Aleksan Shanoyan, Jacob Zereyesus, Kara Ross, Vincent Amanor-Boadu – The Effect of Credit Access on Storage and Infrastructure in Northern Ghana

## **Taxes and Costs**

- Mark Dikeman – Tax Planning Strategies
- Allen Featherstone – Do Kansas Farmers Pay Taxes?

## **Policy**

- Art Barnaby – Will Policymakers Reduce the Farm Safety Net?
- Melissa McKendree – Consumer Voting Behavior

## **Data and Technology**

- Dan O'Brien – Looking to the Future for the Kansas Grain Industry: Elevators, Railroads and Services
  - Terry Griffin – Making the Most of Precision Ag Technology and Big Data
  - Leah Tsoodle – Bluestem and Pasture Leasing Tentative Survey Results
- Rich Llewelyn – Creating and Using Excel Spreadsheets

## **Market Outlook**

- Dan O'Brien – 2015-2016 Grain Market Outlook
- Glynn Tonsor – Beef and Cattle Market Outlook for 2015-2016

## **Strategic Planning**

- Elizabeth Yeager – Managing Risk in Today's Environment
- Mykel Taylor – Kansas Ag Land Values Update
- Andrew Barkley – Chipotle
- Claire Newman and Brian Briggeman – Economic Value of Trust
- Gregg Ibendahl and Terry Griffin – An Examination Of Machinery Costs And Machinery Investment In Kansas

For conference details and registration information, visit the [AgManager.info](http://AgManager.info) website. Rich Llewelyn is also available to contact at 785-532-1504 or [rwl@ksu.edu](mailto:rwl@ksu.edu). View previous [Risk and Profit Conference Featured Producers](#) online at our [YouTube Channel](#).



# Department News

## Master of Agribusiness Professional Development Event: Risky Business!

The Master of Agribusiness (MAB) program is pleased to announce the dates for its 7th Professional Development and Alumni Reunion Event. The event, “Risky Business: Managing Risk,” will be Sept. 17-19, 2015 in Manhattan, Kan. The event will include sessions on multiple issues in managing risk and possible tours of the K-State campus, Biosecurity Research Institute (BRI), the Kansas Wheat Innovation Center, and O. H. Kruse Feed Technology Innovation Center, as well as the opportunity to network with classmates and industry partners. It will also include a pre-game tailgate before the K-State vs. Louisiana Tech football game on Saturday, Sept. 19.

Not just for MAB students and alumni, the event is open to all interested individuals in the food, animal health and agribusiness industry.

Be watching for more information about speakers, sessions and registration on MAB social media channels and the website ([www.mab.ksu.edu](http://www.mab.ksu.edu)).

Registration materials will be available on the website in late July/early August. Room reservations must be made through the Holiday Inn near campus by Friday, Aug. 28. For rooms call 785-539-7531 use group code AGR.



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## Arthur Capper Cooperative Center Update

Innovative cooperative education is part of the teaching and outreach mission of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center (ACCC). A new online cooperatives class focused on the business structure of cooperatives is being developed by ACCC Director, Brian Briggeman. It should be available through K-State's Global Campus in Fall 2016.

Cooperatives have a unique business and financial structure. In July, the Emerging Leaders program, Building a Cooperative Finance Foundation, brings industry and university experts together to educate cooperative employees on key financial drivers facing cooperatives. Brian Briggeman and Christine Wilson, KSU Agricultural Economics professors, Tobias Carson, CoBank Relationship Manager, and Marsha Whetham, Midwest Farmers Co-op CFO, are the team members providing basic education on cooperative finance. Learn more about the program at <http://acc.k-state.edu/finance.html>.

“Creating Member Value” is a key to success for cooperatives and is the theme for the 2015 K-State Symposium on Cooperative Issues in August. As we move into a period of tighter margins, deploying capital and positioning, the cooperative will be even more imperative for driving value back to membership. Anyone interested in cooperative issues is welcome to attend. Registration and program information, are available online at <http://acc.k-state.edu/meetings/symposium.html>.

The ACCC continues to enhance research and education for people interested in cooperatives. More information about the ACCC is available on its website, Facebook, and Twitter pages.



*Pictured at left: The ACCC Advisory Council met on May 20, 2015. Council members reviewed the activities of the previous year and discussed the educational opportunities coming to college students, CoBank Fellows and coop employees in the coming year.*



# Office of Local Government Update

The Office of Local Government (OLG) recently released the 16th annual Kansas County Fiscal Conditions and Trends reports. The reports are designed to aid county commissioners as they complete the budget planning process as it will help local officials understand revenue and expenditure trends in their county.

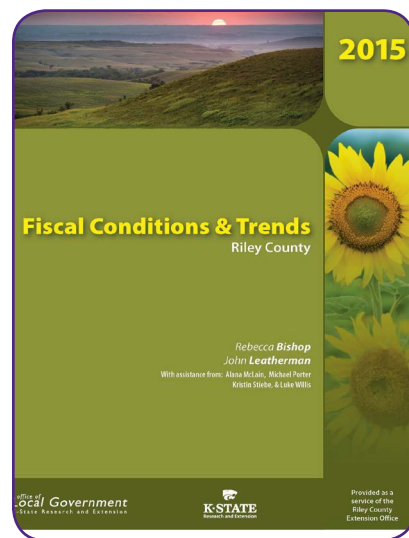
Local fiscal conditions are influenced by demographic, economic, and social trends; state and federal mandates; and local needs and preferences. This can make it difficult for county officials and others to find reliable data to evaluate county fiscal conditions and performance, however, this report provides a starting point. It uses information from the Kansas Fiscal Database to examine expenditure and revenue trends from 2005 to 2013, with the Kansas county average as a benchmark.

OLG developed the Kansas Fiscal Database that contains detailed financial information from 1989 to 2013 for 104 Kansas counties. The OLG fiscal database is the only source of uniform, detailed budget information for local governments in Kansas. This information was gathered by analyzing county budget documents on file with the Kansas Department of Administration's Municipal Services Team.

The report begins with a presentation of population, income, and assessed valuation trends as these characteristics influence the responsibilities and capacity of county governments and establish a context for understanding fiscal trends. Total and per capita revenues and expenditures are then presented. Per capita values represent revenues or expenditures per person in the county. They can be compared to state averages and are a useful indicator of performance, especially when the county's population has changed significantly over time.

Copies of the report were distributed to each county's extension office, commissioners, and clerk or administrator. Reports are also available for download at [www.ksu-olg.info](http://www.ksu-olg.info).

For additional information, contact OLG at 785-532-2643, John Leatherman at [jleather@ksu.edu](mailto:jleather@ksu.edu), or Rebecca Bishop at [rbishop@ksu.edu](mailto:rbishop@ksu.edu).



## Save the Date!

2015 Scholarship and Awards Banquet, September 18  
& Alumni Tailgate at Cat Town, September 19

### Scholarship and Awards Banquet

When: Friday, September 18, 2015  
Where: Bluemont Hotel

### Alumni Tailgate

When: Saturday, September 19, 2015  
Where: Cat Town

More information will be announced this summer.  
If you have questions, please contact Judy Maberry  
at [judym@ksu.edu](mailto:judym@ksu.edu) or 785-532-4493.  
[ageconomics.k-state.edu/alumniresources/banquet/index.html](http://ageconomics.k-state.edu/alumniresources/banquet/index.html)

### September 2015

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# Department News

## Research Spotlight: An Update on COOL policy from Glynn Tonsor

Recently, agricultural economists, Glynn Tonsor and Ted Schroeder of Kansas State University and Joe Parcell of the University of Missouri, conducted research on the economic impacts of Country-Of-Origin-Labeling (COOL) on the U.S. beef and pork industry.

The study was requested by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a result of the 2014 Farm Bill. Tonsor, Schroeder and Parcell reviewed the economic impact of both the implementation of COOL in 2009 and its revision in 2013.

The researchers reviewed various studies about COOL regarding both demand impacts and compliance cost impacts. Using economic tools examining a ten-year period, the research shows that there is a significant loss in our economy.

"We estimated the beef industry's 2009 impact was an economic loss of \$8.07 billion over 10 years," Tonsor said. "For the pork industry, it's a \$1.31 billion loss."

Based on the 10 year projection model using the higher retail prices and lower volume of meat products, the study showed that consumers experience a loss of \$5.98 billion for beef and \$1.70 billion for pork.

While the beef and pork industry suffered from both the 2009 and 2013 COOL requirements, the poultry industry benefited.



"The main reason is (the poultry sector) doesn't have the same cost of compliance, so at the retail level there is some shift away from more expensive beef and pork prices over to poultry products," Tonsor said. "That serves as a pull for more production on the poultry side, and the poultry industry benefits."

While one course of action is to repeal the COOL requirements, another method may be to make COOL voluntary, Tonsor said.

"Our report and the literature synthesis in it points to a voluntary approach being better," he said. "Watching this situation, I agree that voluntary labeling would be an improvement from where we are now. It's hard for me to say if politically that is where we will be a year from now or three years from now."

The full report is available at [AgManager.info](http://AgManager.info).

[Watch video update from Research and Extension about COOL research.](#)

Original article written by Katie Allen, K-State Research and Extension.



For more information about the Department or this e-newsletter, please contact Amanda Erichsen at 785.532.6994 or [aerichsen@ksu.edu](mailto:aerichsen@ksu.edu).

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