



A Note from the Desk of Allen Featherstone

Welcome to the spring E-Newsletter. In this edition you'll see an update from the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center, and the METSS team. In addition, our new graduate programs director, Dr. Jason Bergtold, shares a few thoughts on his new appointment. Finally, we recognize the achievements of our students and faculty over the past semester.

Our achievements are directly related to the continued support of our alumni and sponsorships. This support helps us provide our students and outreach programs the proper foundation to continue our tradition of excellence. We appreciate the dedication and engagement of our alumni and outside supporters. Thank you to our generous donors who give back to the Department.

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 or Thomas Reust, our communications coordinator, at tomreust@ksu.edu with information you would like to share with your fellow alumni.

Dr. Allen Featherstone

Department Head, Professor, Master of Agribusiness Program Director



METSS UPDATE

The agricultural economics USDA METSS project is currently working on several surveys for Ghana. Two projects included in that group are the Demand Power Project and the Agricultural Production Survey Part II.

“You can imagine, most African countries do not have access to power,” says Cesar Guvele, adjunct assistant professor. “Ghana is very lucky that up to maybe 57 percent of the population actually has access to some sort of power.”



Guvele says access to a reliable power source will help Ghana further its industrial development. The power project measures the willingness of the power users to pay for the electricity, and the supplier's ability to provide that power for an affordable price, to help the people of Ghana improve their quality of life.

“Ghana has set up a strategy to have all households hooked up to an electrical system in the country by 2020,” says Guvele. “Our project is tasked with determining the feasibility of that goal.”

If the prospect of 100 percent access to power is feasible, the question then becomes how can we make this a situation for all parties involved to thrive? The government, suppliers and end users need to compromise to have a system which benefits the country.

The second part of the project is a continuation of the agricultural production survey. Researchers are currently collecting data in the field covering the entire cropping cycle in Ghana. The survey focuses on maize, rice and soya production for the 2015-2016 production year.

“The survey is looking at yield, gross margins and the benefits of working with some of the implementing partners,” says Kara Ross, a research assistant professor. “Since we did the APS 1, we have a base to compare and see if there has been any improvement over the last couple of years, in terms of yield, production and profitability.”



ACCC UPDATE

Cooperative Education in Full Swing and Cooperative History Captured

When cooperative leaders gather, there is a great synergy of passion, determination and a willingness to learn new ways to help their cooperatives move forward to meet the future needs of their customers. The winter months are the prime meeting time for cooperative leaders. Not only did Arthur Capper Cooperative Center (ACCC) Director, Dr. Brian Briggeman and ACCC Managing Director, Seleise Barrett, host a successful conference for cooperative CEOs and board chairs, but each attended several cooperative conferences, including the CHS Cooperative Leadership Conference (Dr. Briggeman was a panelist on the program), National Council of Farmer Cooperatives Annual Meeting, KCC and KFSA Annual Meetings and the CoBank Western Plains Customer Meeting. For both, spending time with cooperative CEOs, directors and leadership teams, brought experiences rich with insight, a chance to hear great speakers and the opportunity to network within the cooperative community.



In addition to cooperative meetings, many local cooperatives hold board retreats and strategic management team retreats during the winter months. Dr. Briggeman made presentations at several retreats. The economic outlook and the map project were the most requested topics.

A google map project was launched by the ACCC to show the upright grain storage locations in Kansas. Both cooperative and non-cooperative storage sites were located and defined. The map is updated as mergers occur and includes cooperatives headquartered out-

of-state but with storage facilities in state. To learn more and to see the latest maps, visit <http://accck.k-state.edu/map.html>.

The ACCC is part of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University. With the addition of new office space for the growing department, the ACCC staff and cooperative library were moved and are now all housed in 305 Waters Hall with the ACCC Director.

The ACCC was pleased to have received a donation of cooperative history materials from Rod Simpson and John Minor to add to the Far-Mar-Co and Farmland Industries collections in the K-State Archives. In addition, a video featuring two cooperative leaders captured their work history as well as the early history of cooperatives in Kansas to add to the collection and to use in the online class on cooperatives.

In March, the cooperative scholarship committee awarded 17 cooperative scholarships (over \$50,000) awarded on behalf of the cooperative community for the 2017-2018 academic year. To date,



ACCC / Lusk

\$672,856 has been awarded to outstanding students at K-State since 1985.

The ACCC continues to strive to offer relevant programs to help the cooperative community. Upcoming programs include an inaugural CFO conference in May, Emerging Leaders: Building a Cooperative Finance Foundation on July 18-19 and the K-State Symposium on August 15th followed by the KCC Leadership Roundtable. <http://accc.k-state.edu/meetings/index.html>

For more information about the ACCC, visit our website: <http://accc.k-state.edu/> or our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/KStateACCC/>



Alumni Jayson Lusk recently won the 2017 Borlaug CAST Communication Award. Lusk The award is given to celebrate outstanding communicators in the agricultural field.

Lusk will soon become the department head of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University. Lusk is an honored member of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association. He received his Ph.D in agricultural economics here at Kansas State University.

Bergtold



A new Director of Graduate Programs for the Department of Agricultural Economics was recently appointed. Dr. Jason Bergtold has assumed the position, and is looking forward to leading the department forward into the new semester. Bergtold joined the agricultural economics faculty in 2007 where he conducts research on production economics, bioenergy, land use, land cover changes and applied econometrics.

“I am hoping to further strengthen our on campus M.S. and Ph.D. programs,” says Bergtold. “I want to bring in strong students, and keep our program nationally ranked in terms of being a place where students want to further their education.”

Bergtold says he takes a student’s-first approach to the graduate program. At the graduate level, he believes students have a real thirst for knowledge and learning, which he hopes embolden their steps to realize their own career paths.

“Dr. Bergtold has been supportive throughout my graduate career,” says Ana Claudia Sant’Anna, a Ph.D. candidate. “He has shared his experience and knowledge with me, increasing my confidence in my research and teaching skills. His doors are always open to me and he makes me feel part of the team by valuing my opinions.”

Bergtold’s is fully dedicated to making the program the best it can be for our students. He says he will continue his open door policy with his students and tries to help them succeed in any way he can.

“As a department, I want to approach the graduate program like we are building our program and building professionals,” says Bergtold. “As graduate director, I want to help the graduate students succeed.”

Upcoming Events

Risk and Profit Conference

August 17th - 18th

Manhattan, Ks

Women in Agriculture

June 2nd - 3rd

Garden City, Ks

Farm and Ranch Income Tax/Estate Planning Webinar

July 13th-14th

Harnessing the Power of Excel Workshop

July 25th

Great Bend, Ks

For more information please visit AgManager.info