

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY ANIMAL SCIENCES AND INDUSTRY

FAMILY & FRIENDS

OCTOBER 18, 2025 | STANLEY STOUT CENTER | MANHATTAN, KS





Welcome



Alumni and friends of Kansas State University's Department of Animal Sciences and Industry gathered for an evening of conversation, connection and celebration at the 2025 K-State ASI Family & Friends Reunion. Hosted by the Livestock and Meat Industry Council Inc. (LMIC), in cooperation with the ASI department, the annual event continues to bring together the extended ASI family in support of the department's mission and future.

This publication highlights the 2025 Don L. Good Impact Award recipient, the K-State Applied Swine Nutrition Team, provides an update on the Animal Sciences and Industry department, and captures moments from the evening. Also included is a note of appreciation for the generous sponsors whose support made the event possible, along with a look ahead at what's to come for the ASI department in 2026.



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Don L. Good IMPACT AWARD



An Award Winning Legacy

Be the leading swine nutrition team by developing, evaluating, implementing and disseminating the latest technology to increase profitability of pork producers.

That is the mission pursued every day by the K-State Applied Swine Nutrition Team. For more than 30 years, the team has built upon a foundation of excellence, creating a monumental impact on the swine industry. Through various research publications, comprehensive nutrition resources and calculators, and their widely used nutrition guide – their outreach is extensive. But, their impact extends beyond the resources they provide. The K-State Applied Swine Nutrition Team builds connections, fosters relationships with producers and values the connections they build. Each year this team hosts the Swine Profitability Conference and KSU Swine Day, reaching hundreds of producers and translating research into practical applications that advance the industry. They are developing future industry leading professionals with 15 of the 20 largest swine production systems in the U.S. being led by graduates of the program. More than 130 students have graduated from the K-State Applied Swine Nutrition Team and are now carrying forward the legacy of excellence. But if you find yourself in Weber Hall and you ask someone about these brilliant individuals, you'll hear about more than just their research achievements. You will hear about the good-hearted, family-oriented people that make up this outstanding team. What an honor it is to have them represent Kansas State University in such a renowned industry.



**JOEL
DEROUCHEY**
Swine Nutrition & Management



**JASON
WOODWORTH**
Swine Nutrition & Management



**KATELYN
GAFFIELD**
Swine Nutrition & Management



**JORDAN
GEBHARDT**
Swine Production



**ROBERT
GOODBAND**
Swine Nutrition & Management



**MIKE
TOKACH**
Swine Nutrition



GOOD COMPANY.





ANIMAL SCIENCE

Department Update

2025 has been a year of change, growth, and excitement for the future of the department. Throughout the past year, we hosted more than 50 events across all specialty areas, reaching over 2,500 producers and industry partners. Many of our faculty have been recognized with prestigious awards for their contributions to the industry. Congratulations on your hard work throughout the year!

- Megan Rolf: Beef Improvement Federation Continuing Service Award
- Mike Tokach: John B. Swisher Leadership Award – United Animal Health
- Liz Boyle: Phi Tau Sigma Special Recognition Award
- Jessie Vipham: AMSA Achievement Award
- Cassie Jones: Presidential Engagement Inaugural Fellow

With change comes new faces within our department. We are excited to welcome these members to our Animal Sciences family:

- Dr. Ashley Hartman – Animal Health Instructor
- Dr. Alyssa Deters – Companion Animal Management Instructor
- Christi Braudrick – KSU Rodeo Team Coach
- Eli Sheppard – Farm Shop Manager
- Christian Magana – Purebred Unit Manager
- Jessica Means – Accounting Manager
- Madie Marshall – Communications and Marketing Specialist
- Crista McAllister – HR Specialist
- Tim Kessen – Research Assistant
- Ross Wahl – Research Assistant

We look forward to what the year ahead will bring for our department, our students, and our industry. Go Cats!





A02-1545

A02-1545

A02-1545

EXIT

EXIT

TOURING THE *Future*

On October 10, 2025, the Bilbrey Family Events Center officially opened to the public. The grand opening, featuring the KSU Rodeo Team, offered a preview of the future of livestock events in Manhattan, KS. Shortly after opening, the venue hosted the first of many noteworthy activities as the department was honored to host the World Hereford Conference Young Breeders Competition.

We welcomed 11 teams, each made up of four members, to campus. These teams hailed from seven countries, including Australia, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States. During their first leg of competition, participants took part in several contests, including a Hereford Practicum and a livestock judging contest, held in the Bilbrey Family Events Center.

Following the World Hereford Conference, we were delighted to add venue tours to the Family and Friends Reunion evening. We hope each of you enjoyed your time in the space while learning more about the center from our ASI Mentors.

If you did not have the opportunity to take a tour during the reunion, we hope you will join us soon at one of the many events hosted at the Bilbrey Family Events Center.





WILDCATS IN





THE MAKING



THANK YOU

Sponsors

PLATINUM SPONSOR

Drs. Kelly and Marcie Lechtenberg are proud supporters of K-State's missions.

The family's passion for K-State began when Kelly entered veterinary school in 1983 while Marcie was teaching at Riley County High School. Marcie earned her Master's while Kelly completed his DVM degree in the College of Veterinary Medicine and PhD program in the College of Agriculture. After several years as a genetic cancer risk counselor, Marcie came back to school and completed her doctorate in 2014. She continued with K-State, where she served as Clinical Director in the Couple and Family Therapy Program in the College of Health and Human Sciences until her retirement in 2023. Marcie maintains a private counseling practice in Manhattan. Kelly's educational background was critical to founding companies in Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa that provide research services focused on the development and regulatory approval of safe, efficacious products for food-producing animals.

Kelly sold the three research companies to Argenta Global in 2023, but continues to serve as the MVS President and leads the research teams. Although they grew up in Nebraska, the Lechtenberg daughters and their husbands are all K-Staters. Dr. Jana Biery is a guidance counselor in the Manhattan High School system. Her husband, Drew, is the owner of The Barn Baseball Academy and a Special Education teacher at Junction City High School. Drs. Brooke and Charley Cull both serve the Argenta organization. Brooke is the MVS Executive Vice President, while Charley has been appointed as Argenta's global head of pharmaceutical development services and also leads all US clinical operations. Youngest daughter, Dr. Paige Andersen, manages the TimberCreek Veterinary Hospital on the east side of Manhattan. Paige's husband, Max, owns Andersen Farrier Service as a Journeyman Farrier and cattle rancher. The Lechtenberg family holds 18 K-State degrees. More will likely follow, as five grandsons (Jackson, Carter, Cannon, Mason and Brooks) and two granddaughters (Madeline and Emily) can all be seen wearing a lot of purple. The Lechtenbergs are members of the KSU Foundation Board of Trustees and Kelly served for nine years as a member of the KSU Foundation Board of Directors. Kelly is also a LMIC Royal Board member. The Lechtenberg family is a founding and continuous supporter of the Family & Friends Reunion to honor the K-State experience, which can help foster lifelong relationships through the power of mentorship, education and friendship that makes all of us part of the K-State family. The Lechtenberg family was recognized as the 2020 Don L. Good Impact Award winner for their dedication to K-State and animal agriculture.



**KELLY & MARCIE
LECHTENBERG & FAMILY**

Gold Sponsors



DAN & BETH BIRD

Dan and Beth Bird are no strangers to Kansas State University, and their legacy of philanthropic support, leadership and service in so many different colleges and programs is impressive. Dan received his degree in animal husbandry from K-State in 1962. Beth earned her degree in business administration from K-State in 1961. The couple resides in Manhattan, Kansas. Dan is a part owner in Pratt Feeders, Ashland Feeders, Buffalo Feeders and Ford County Feeders. Beth is enjoying retirement. Dan is a past member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. Both are lifetime members of the Alumni Association and members of the Beach Museum Board of Visitors, of which Beth is past chair. They are members of the Manhattan Catbackers. Beth served on the board for Hale Library, and both Dan and Beth served on the College of Agriculture's Innovation and Inspiration Campaign steering committee. They are also supporters of K-State Athletics, the K-State Gardens and McCain Auditorium building projects, and the K-State ASI Family & Friends Reunion. Since Dan's first gift of \$10 in 1964, Dan and Beth have established five named funds and scholarships in the colleges of Agriculture and Business Administration, and across K-State. In 2018 the couple was awarded the K-State Medal of Excellence, which recognizes those who have advanced K-State through exceptional service, leadership and philanthropic contributions. The couple has two children and two grandchildren.



RICHARD PORTER

Richard Porter owns and operates a grazing and backgrounding operation located approximately 60 miles southeast of Manhattan, Kansas. He receives around 8,000 head of three-weight, high-risk calves annually and grows them out to eight-weights. For most of the year, the cattle are on native grass supplemented with distiller's grains. By mid-winter, the calves are in a drylot receiving corn silage. Known for being an independent thinker, Rich has two degrees from Kansas State University – Chemical Engineering and Master of Agribusiness (MAB). He also holds a law degree. Rich has participated in numerous cattle research trials with the Animal Sciences and Industry (ASI) department and is a proud member of the Livestock Meat Industry Council (LMIC) Board of Directors. Richard follows in the footsteps of his late father, Walter Porter, who was involved with LMIC from its founding, and also worked closely with the KSU College of Agriculture. A staunch supporter of the K-State ASI department, Rich generously served as the lead donor for the Stanley Stout Center. He donates to many other ASI projects. Rich has three children and five grandchildren.



KanEquip is a leader and trusted partner in providing quality products, support, and innovative solutions to agriculture producers in the Midwest. With 14 locations in Kansas and Nebraska, KanEquip represents major lines such as Case IH, New Holland, JCB and Kubota. Additional lines from Kansas companies include Landoll, Great Plains, Grasshopper and Land Pride. For more than 55 years KanEquip has operated on the values of integrity, financial strength, quality and teamwork. Craig Goff, Bryndon Meinhardt and Grant Meinhardt – all attended Kansas State University – lead the company which employs more than 300 people. KanEquip is a proud supporter of the Animal Sciences and Industry Department at K-State. Learn more about KanEquip Inc., at KanEquip.com.

Silver Sponsors

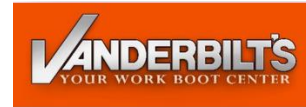


The Farm Credit Associations of Kansas are mission-driven, customer-owned financial cooperatives dedicated to serving rural America. As customer-owned cooperatives, each independent Farm Credit Association is governed by a board of directors elected from their stockholders. This structure ensures a customer-first approach that helps producers feed the world, strengthens the rural economy and provides jobs that help rural families thrive. In everything Farm Credit does, it strives to be agriculture's most valued financial partner. Farm Credit is proud of its mission to provide sound and dependable credit to America's farmers, ranchers, cooperatives, rural residents and agribusinesses.



Rawhide Portable Corral was established in 2002 in Abilene, Kansas, by owner/inventor John McDonald, and alongside his wife, Mary, they continue to run the business together. Both were K-State ASI students. Rawhide was the first hydraulic corral on the market and along with John's flexible pinning system, they revolutionized the portable corral market. In 2024 they introduced a patent pending Portable Windbreak using similar innovation as the portable corrals. These products are designed to make work easier and more efficient on the farm, ranch or livestock production business. For more information, visit RawhidePortableCorral.com.

Bronze Sponsors



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Media Sponsors





THANK YOU

For stopping by and visiting the photo booth this year! If you have not had the chance to download your photo, scan the QR code and find yours!



Grateful for our Wildcats

An event like this cannot be done without the help of our remarkable students. From set-up, tours, serving, clean up and more we are grateful for their commitment to this department!





FAMILY & FRIENDS PHOTOGRAPHERS

A special thank you to these talented students who captured the evening and helped to make this year's publication possible!

Pictured (L-R) are: Emma Sutherly, Ella Jordan, Avery Eckhoff and Rylie Meinhardt





**FOLLOW US
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MEDIA FOR
MORE
UPCOMING
EVENTS
@KSUASI**

March

March 5 – Stockmen’s Dinner

March 6 – Cattlemen’s Day & KSU Legacy Sale

March 7 – K-State Junior Beef Producer Day

March 28 – K-State Sheep Day

April

April 11 – K-State Junior Sheep Producer Day

April 18 – Judging Team Reunion

May

May 16 – College of Agriculture Commencement

July

July 10 & 11 – Dr. Bob Hines Kansas Swine Classic

Fall 2026

4-H Livestock Sweepstakes

Beef Stocker Field Day

Swine Day



K K-State Animal Sciences and Industry
Family & Friends
REUNION

Kansas State University



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Produced by Madie Marshall, ASI Communications and Marketing Specialist



**Livestock & Meat
Industry Council**