



Dale Blasi (dblasi@ksu.edu; 785-532-5427)

Extension Specialist – Beef Cattle Nutrition and Management

Dale A. Blasi received his B.S. in Animal Sciences at Colorado State in 1984. In 1986, he received his M.S. in Beef Systems Management at Colorado State. After earning his Ph.D. degree in 1989 from the University of Nebraska, he accepted an appointment as a Livestock Specialist in South Central Kansas at Hutchinson for KSU. In 1997, he transitioned to the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry as a State Beef Specialist where he currently has a 10% teaching, 20% research and 70% extension appointment. His responsibilities include providing statewide Extension educational leadership in stocker cattle nutrition and management and utilization of grazed and harvested forages by beef cattle and other livestock. He is manager and director of the KSU Beef Stocker Unit and Animal Identification Knowledge Laboratory.



Emma Briggs (eabriggs@ksu.edu; 785-625-3425)

Beef Systems Extension Specialist – Hayes

Emma Briggs was hired as an Assistant Professor and Beef Systems Specialist at Kansas State University's Western Kansas Agricultural Research Center in Hays, Kansas, with a 70% research and 30% extension appointment. Emma is originally from Petaluma, California, where she grew up on a commercial Angus cow/calf operation. She earned her B.S. in Animal Science from California State University, Fresno, and an M.S. in Animal Science with a focus on Livestock Breeding and Genetics from Colorado State University. Emma completed her Ph.D. in Animal Science, specializing in Ruminant Nutrition, at Oklahoma State University in 2024 before beginning her position at Kansas State University. Her research focuses on enhancing beef cattle efficiency and adaptability to address critical challenges in the livestock industry.



Jaymelynn Farney (jki@ksu.edu; 620-820-6125)

Beef Systems Extension Specialist, Southeast Area

Jaymelynn Farney was hired as the Beef Systems Specialist at Kansas State University's Southeast Area and works at the Southeast Agricultural Research Center in Parsons. Farney grew up in Fort Sumner, New Mexico where her family had a cow-calf operation. Jaymelynn was a member of the livestock judging team at Butler Community College. She completed her A.S. in Agriculture degree and then continued her education at Kansas State University in Animal Science. Jaymelynn then went to Oklahoma State University to complete her M.S. in Ruminant Nutrition with an emphasis on receiving calf management. She then returned to Kansas State University to complete her PhD in Ruminant Nutrition, using the dairy cow as the model for how inflammation impacts production.



Sandy Johnson (sandyj@ksu.edu; 785-462-6281)

Extension Specialist, Northwest Area

Livestock Production, Reproduction Physiology

Sandy Johnson received a B.S. degree in Animal Science from the University of Nebraska in 1982 and a M.S. degree in Reproductive Physiology from the University of Missouri in 1984. Sandy received a Ph.D. degree from West Virginia University in Reproductive Physiology in 1991 and continued there as a post doctoral fellow until 1993. She held a teaching position at Fort Hays State University before beginning her current position in October of 1998 as Extension Livestock Specialist at the Northwest Research and Extension Center in Colby.



Logan Thompson (thom94@k-state.edu; 785-532-2840)

Extension Specialist – Sustainable Livestock Feeding

Logan Thompson started his bachelor's degree at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX prior to completing his degree at Texas Tech University in 2015. Following this he received his M.S. in beef sustainability at Oklahoma State University in 2017 and a PhD in ruminant nutrition at Michigan State University in 2021. Prior to joining Kansas State University in August of 2022, he served as a post-doctoral fellow at Colorado State University. In 2022 he joined the department of Animal Science and Industry at KSU in a teaching position before beginning his current role in 2024 with a 50% extension, 50% research appointment. Logan's main area of interest is in measuring greenhouse gas emissions in grazing systems and how grazing management impacts ecosystem function.



Justin Waggoner (jwaggon@ksu.edu; 620-275-9164)

Beef Systems Extension Specialist, Southwest Area

Justin Waggoner was hired as the Beef Systems Specialist at Kansas State University's Southwest Area Extension Office in Garden City. Waggoner was raised on his family's farm in central, Kansas and obtained his Bachelor's (2000) and Master's (2001) degrees in Animal Science from Kansas State University. He completed his Doctorate in Ruminant Nutrition at New Mexico State University in 2007 where his work evaluated the impacts of morbidity on performance and profitability in feedlot cattle and nutrient utilization in stressed cattle.



Jason Warner (jasonwarner@ksu.edu; 785-532-1460)

Extension Specialist – Cow-Calf Production Management

Jason M. Warner earned his B.S. in Animal Science and Grazing Livestock Systems at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. While at UNL, Jason was a member of the livestock judging and meat animal evaluation teams, Jason continued training at UNL and subsequently earned both master's and doctorate degrees in Animal Science. Jason joined the faculty in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry at Kansas State University in 2022 as an Assistant Professor and Extension Cow-Calf Specialist. His objective is to help support the mission of the land-grant system by serving people through extension and research as part of the K-State beef extension team. Jason's specific focus is to help provide leadership for state extension beef programming efforts, disseminate information to the industry, collaborate with allied industry personnel and stakeholders, conduct applied cow-calf systems research, and serve as a point of resource for area specialists and county extension agents.



Rebecca McDermott (rmcdermott@ksu.edu; 573-823-7880)

Extension Specialist – Feedlot Nutrition and Management

Rebecca McDermott, originally from central Missouri, received her B.S. in Animal Sciences from the University of Missouri in 2019. She went on to earn her M.S. in 2022 and Ph.D in 2026 in Animal Science, specializing in Ruminant Nutrition, from the University of Nebraska. Rebecca currently serves as the Feedlot Extension Specialist, with a 70% extension, 20% teaching, and 10% research appointment. She is dedicated to serving producers, industry partners, extension agents, and students in the feedlot industry in Kansas and beyond through applied feedlot research and educational leadership in feedlot nutrition and management.



A.J. Tarpoff (tarpoff@k-state.edu; 785-532-1255)

Assistant Professor/Extension Beef Veterinarian

A.J. Tarpoff was born and raised in Edwardsville, Illinois. His family owned and operated a beef processing plant and a steakhouse. He received his bachelor's in animal science at K-State in 2010. In 2012, he received his DVM and Master's in biomedical science at K-State. After earning his DVM, he accepted an associate feedlot veterinarian position at Alberta Beef Health Solutions in Southern Alberta, Canada. His focus in practice was herd based cattle production medicine, research field trials, hands on feedlot employee training, disease surveillance and mitigation and federal import/export duties. At K-State, Tarpoff's appointment is 70% extension, 20% research and 10% teaching. He will work closely with the state's extension team to develop an extension program to help improve the health of cow-calf, stocker and feedlot cattle for beef producers throughout the state.



Erin Beyer (erbeyer@ksu.edu; 832-276-3350)

Extension Specialist – Fresh Meat Quality and Cooked Meat Color

Erin Beyer, originally from Texas, received her B.S. in Food Science and M.S. in Animal Science with a focus on Meat Science from Texas Tech University. Upon graduation, she began working for H-E-B Food Retailers in product development before joining Kansas State University for a Ph.D. in Animal Science with a focus on Meat Science. After earning her Ph.D., she served as an Assistant Professor of Meat Science at North Dakota State University. She returned to K-State in 2024 as an Assistant Professor in Sustainable Fresh Meat Industry with a 60% extension and 40% research position. Erin aims to provide meat science extension support and resources to extension agents, small meat processors, youth, producers, and industry leaders. Erin's research primarily focuses on the factors impacting freezing quality and cooked meat color.



Elizabeth Boyle (lboyle@ksu.edu; 785-532-1247)

Extension Specialist – Meat Safety and Quality, HACCP

Dr. Liz Boyle joined the Animal Science faculty in 1992 and currently has a 60% Extension and 40% teaching appointment. She received her B.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Minnesota in 1980. She earned her M.S. (Food Science and Nutrition) and Ph.D. (Food Science, Meats emphasis) degrees from Colorado State University in 1987 and 1991, respectively, followed by post-doctorate work at the University of Kentucky and the University of Minnesota. Dr. Boyle's focus is to provide scientific and technical assistance to meat processors and trade associations and researching quality and safety of meat products. She is a Lead Instructor with the International HACCP Alliance and the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance. Dr. Boyle teaches Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) workshops nationally and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in meat processing, HACCP and Preventive Controls, and Advanced HACCP. In 2016, Dr. Boyle was named a Fellow by the American Meat Science Association.



Kelsey Bentley (kbentley@ksu.edu; 919-502-9293)

Extension Specialist – Small Ruminant Immunology and Parasitology

Dr. Kelsey Bentley, originally from Micro, North Carolina, completed her Bachelor's degree in Animal Science at North Carolina State University, where she was actively involved in the livestock judging team and served as a flock technician for the NC State Small Ruminant Unit. She completed her MS degree in Animal Physiology at West Virginia University and coached the livestock judging team. She then earned her Ph.D. from West Virginia University in 2024. Kelsey is currently the Small Ruminant Extension Specialist, with responsibilities divided into 60% extension, 25% research, and 15% teaching. She is dedicated to improving the sheep industry and supporting youth involvement in this sector. Her research now centers on animal health and well-being.

KSU DAIRY EXTENSION SPECIALISTS



Mike Brouk (mbrouk@ksu.edu; 785-532-1207)

Extension Specialist-Dairy Management and Nutrition

Micheal Brouk attended the University of Missouri-Columbia majoring in agronomy and dairy science and received the Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture in May 1985. Mike worked at the University of Missouri-Columbia as a Research Specialist and then began a M.S. degree program there. Mike accepted a position with Cenex/Land O'Lakes as a Livestock Production Specialist. After two years with LOL, he entered a PhD program at SDSU. Following completion of the Ph.D. in 1994 in Animal Sciences, he joined the teaching and research staff of South Dakota State University. Mike returned to the University of Missouri-Columbia in August of 1996 as an Extension Specialist with Commercial Agriculture Program. He joined the faculty of Kansas State University in December of 1998 as a State Dairy Extension Specialist where he holds a 30% teaching and 70% research appointment.



Victor Gomez-Leon (vgomezleon@ksu.edu; 785-532-2652)

Extension Specialist-Dairy Management and Nutrition

Victor earned his bachelor's degree (2011) in Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science in Colombia. He got a master's (2014) and a Ph.D. (2018) in Veterinary Medicine in Brazil. Victor joined (2017) Dr. Milo Wiltbank and Dr. Oliver Ginther laboratories at University of Wisconsin-Madison to perform his Ph.D. research, and work as a post-doctorate researcher. Victor's position at K-State as Assistant Professor/Extension Specialist-Dairy matches his main career goal of integrating research into a collaborative extension program that meets the dairy producers' needs. With his expertise and passion for research, he aims to develop a program informed and driven by data obtained from studies with animal models. This will be mostly focused on reproduction and its interaction with other areas such as health, nutrition, and management of dairy cattle.

KSU POULTRY SPECIALIST



Scott Beyer (sbeyer@ksu.edu; 785-532-1201)

Extension Specialist-Poultry Nutrition and Management

Originally from Galveston County, Texas, Dr. Scott Beyer attended Texas A&M University, the University of Georgia, and Harvard University earning degrees in biochemistry and animal nutrition. He joined the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry in 1993 as State Poultry Extension Specialist, where he currently has an appointment of 60% teaching, 25% research and 15% extension. Dr. Beyer is involved with many teaching activities and is coach for the KSU Collegiate Poultry Judging Team. He also supervises the operations of the KSU Poultry and Gamebird Research Unit. Dr. Beyer's research focuses primarily on nutrition and feed manufacturing for small animals including poultry, gamebirds, and companion animals. His graduate assistants conduct research on the availability of feed nutrients as affected by feed processing conditions, enzyme additives and least cost feed formulation. Dr. Beyer also works with FFA and 4H youth programs at many county and state programs.



Joel DeRouchey (jderouch@ksu.edu; 785-532-2280)

Extension State Leader

Extension Specialist – Swine Nutrition, Environmental Management

Dr. Joel DeRouchey graduated with his B.S. Animal Science from South Dakota State University in 1997. He then obtained his M.S. (1999) and Ph.D. (2001) in Swine Nutrition at Kansas State University. In 2001 he was hired as the K-State Northeast Livestock Extension Specialist as an Assistant Professor. In 2004, Joel made a transition into the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry as an Environmental Management and Livestock Nutrition Specialist and currently is a full Professor with a 50% Extension and 50% Research appointment. Joel was named Extension State Leader in 2016. A brief listing of Joel's Extension and Research interests involve: 1) Mentor and train swine nutrition graduate students; 2) Conduct applied swine nutrition and management research; 3) Provide environmental information to livestock producers for regulatory and manure management compliance and 4) Coordinate youth swine activities to increase swine industry knowledge and awareness of career opportunities in swine production.



Josh Flohr (flohr@ksu.edu; 785-532-2280)

Extension Specialist – Swine Nutrition & Management

Dr. Josh Flohr graduated from Texas Tech University with his B.S. in Animal Science in 2010. He then obtained his M.S. (2012) and Ph.D. (2015) in Swine Nutrition from Kansas State University. In 2015, Josh was hired as a nutritional consultant with NutriQuest based out of Mason City, IA, working with pork producers from Indiana to South Dakota. In 2016, Josh transitioned to Seaboard Foods to oversee nutrition and research efforts as part of the live operations team. Over his time at Seaboard, he was tasked with leading health services, biosecurity, genetic supply, nutrition and feed milling teams to focus on strategic efforts and execute annual operating plans all while developing team members. In 2026, Josh rejoined the Applied Swine Nutrition team as an Assistant Professor with 50% teaching and 50% extension appointment. A brief listing of Josh's Extension interests involve: 1) mentoring and training graduate and undergraduate students; 2) Conducting applied management and nutrition research focused on operational efficiencies; 3) working with producers to train and develop their work force and align strategic efforts to achieve their goals; 4) Continue to innovate and improve operational execution of biosecurity and disease prevention efforts.



Lexie Hayes (adhayes@k-state.edu; 785-532-1264)

Youth Livestock Coordinator

Lexie Hayes completed a B.S. in Animal Sciences & Industry at Kansas State University in 2007, before earning a M.S. in Animal Science at Texas A&M University in 2009. After completing her Master's degree, Lexie served as the 4-H Youth Development Educator with the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service in Comanche County. As a Kansas native and former 4-H and FFA member, Lexie was excited to return to Kansas State in 2015 as the K-State Youth Livestock Coordinator. In this role, her current responsibilities include managing the state youth livestock nomination process, coordinating the state 4-H livestock and sweepstakes contest, developing the junior specie day events, coordinating the youth livestock educational programs associated with the department, serving as a liaison with the Kansas State Fair and KJLS, and partnering with other departments to enhance opportunities available to Kansas youth.