

A close-up photograph of a brown horse's coat. A white blaze runs down the center of the horse's face, partially visible at the top. A large, gold-colored letter 'K' is painted on the brown fur. The texture of the horse's coat is clearly visible.

K

*family and friends*

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

ANIMAL SCIENCES & INDUSTRY

2020



K





# TOGETHER

*While a global pandemic halted plans for the sixth annual K-State ASI Family & Friends Reunion, celebrations were still in order. An evening spent with those near and dear to us was replaced with a virtual event to honor Kelly and Marcie Lechtenberg and family as the 2020 Don L. Good Impact Award winners. The annual event is hosted by the Livestock and Meat Industry Council, Inc in cooperation with the ASI department and, despite not being able to hold the reunion in the traditional style, their efforts were not diminished and do not go unnoticed.*

*“Together” looks different this year, but we are grateful for the opportunities we have to be with one another. We invite you to enjoy this publication that showcases the hands-on learning our department provides, the resilience of our faculty and students, and additional highlights of ASI family and friends.*

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SINCERELY,  
FAMILY & FRIENDS PUBLICATION EDITORS

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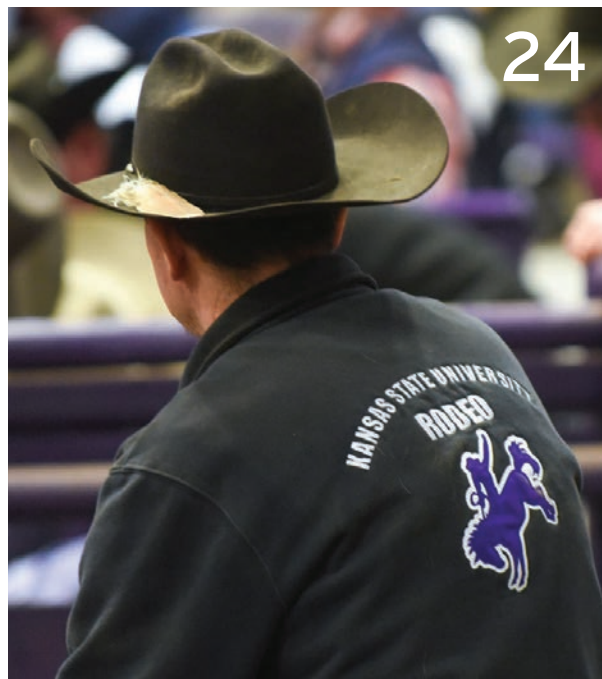
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*K-State Animal Sciences and Industry is fortunate to have 13 livestock-related units and labs conveniently located within a three-mile radius of Weber Hall. These units house a variety of species and allow a multitude of hands-on learning opportunities for students. In this publication, you will find photo stories highlighting most of these units and facilities. Be looking for features on the Beef Stocker Unit, Cow-Calf Unit and KABSU, as well as other ASI labs in next year's publication.*



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# THE LECHTENBERG FAMILY

*Dedication to KSU and animal agriculture leads family to receive Don L. Good Impact Award*

STORY BY **SIERRA DAY**





**H**igh school sweethearts native to Nebraska, Kelly and Marcie Lechtenberg found their place that they love full well in Manhattan, Kansas, after completing their bachelor's degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

## FINDING THEIR HOME

One may wonder how two Big Red fans ended up being among many others that call K-State home.

"As a Nebraska undergraduate student at the time, Nebraska had relationships with five different colleges of veterinary medicine that were reciprocity agreements. I had offers to attend any of the five," Kelly says. "Iowa State and K-State were the closest and first on our list. The fact that Riley County High School called and offered Marcie a job before her offer from Iowa came through ultimately landed us in Manhattan, Kansas, instead of Ames, Iowa."

Simply, the opportunities presented to the couple following their undergraduate work were only the beginning to their lives centered around K-State.

"When I was a senior in undergrad, I was thinking about vet school. My oldest brother, Vic, who at that time was the dean of agriculture at Purdue University, was really trying to encourage me to pursue a career routed through a Ph.D. program," Kelly explains. "I was fortunate enough to find mentorship at K-State that allowed me to do both, instead of one or the other."

Thus began Kelly's development and engagement as a veterinary professional. As a result, the couple has taken "Every Man a Wildcat" to a whole new meaning. The 18, soon to be 19, K-State degrees of the Lechtenberg family truly exemplify their dedication and passion for purple. This total includes Kelly and Marcie's three daughters Jana, Brooke and Paige, and their spouses.

"We plan our schedules and work around K-State football games, basketball games and other purple events," explains Marcie. "This is home."

The family's enthusiasm for K-State is evident to those around them.

"Kelly bleeds purple even though he's from Nebraska. This guy loves this place and he will do anything to come here and interact with people, students, faculty and staff," says M.M. Chengappa, K-State College of Veterinary Medicine distinguished professor. "He's a through and through purple guy. Not only Kelly, but Marcie and the whole family."

## DEDICATED TO MENTORSHIP

The Lechtenberg family understands that no one gets to success alone. Kelly credits his support team gained through his time as a student for showing him the true meaning of mentorship and selflessness.

"A lot of what I learned about giving back and mentorship was recognition for the fact that those folks

helped a student with a dream do something that didn't exactly fit in the box, but was very advantageous for me," Kelly adds.

This example set forth by Kelly's mentors during graduate school serves as one reason why he chooses to serve as a K-State adjunct professor.

"When I had the opportunity to help with some graduate student guidance as an adjunct professor, first in the College of Veterinary Medicine and then later also in the College of Agriculture, I really jumped at that," Kelly explains. "That's been a very rewarding experience for me, and I choose to take the time to do that because it was modeled for me."

However, Kelly is not the only Lechtenberg who believes in being a mentor for others.

"I had completed a master's here at K-State while Kelly was in vet school, and I worked as an English teacher and then a school counselor for 13 years. I really started wanting to work with families at a deeper level, and so I started working at a cancer clinic as a therapist and I worked there for eight years," says Marcie, who serves as the clinic director for the Couple and Family Therapy Program and the K-State Family Center. "In the back of my mind, I always knew that I wanted to do a Ph.D., I wanted to teach at a college level, and I enjoy research as well. So, I wanted to do that, but where Kelly works with animals, I wanted to do that work with people."





Another example of Kelly and Marcie's devotion to others is their involvement with the K-State ASI Family and Friends Reunion. The event is another aspect of K-State that they have grown to love.

"The event shines light back on the Livestock and Meat Industry Council, Inc (LMIC). What a tremendous tradition and example of selfless giving," Kelly adds. "If you take time and learn a little bit about the Livestock and Meat Industry Council, how it came to be and why it came to be, that little group within a group epitomizes what production agriculture and the commitment of K-State alums, and even non-alums that love K-State, are all about."

Marcie agrees with Kelly. "It's just one of the most amazing events. Our whole family comes. Our kids love it from playing with the trucks and tractors in the corn piles to high-fiving Willie and listening to the marching band and Call Hall Ice Cream and a glass of wine with dear friends and family. From start to finish, it is exactly what K-State is about and we love it."

Beyond their participation in various boards and foundations, together the couple has mentored many individuals, including their own daughters, who have found their own ways of making an impact.

Their oldest daughter, Jana, currently serves as a school counselor at the ninth-grade center at Manhattan High. The couple's middle daughter, Brooke, serves as a vice



president at Midwest Veterinary Services in Oakland, Nebraska. Paige, the youngest of the Lechtenberg sisters, is living the dream of owning and operating a vet clinic with her dad at TimberCreek Veterinary Hospital on the outskirts of Manhattan.

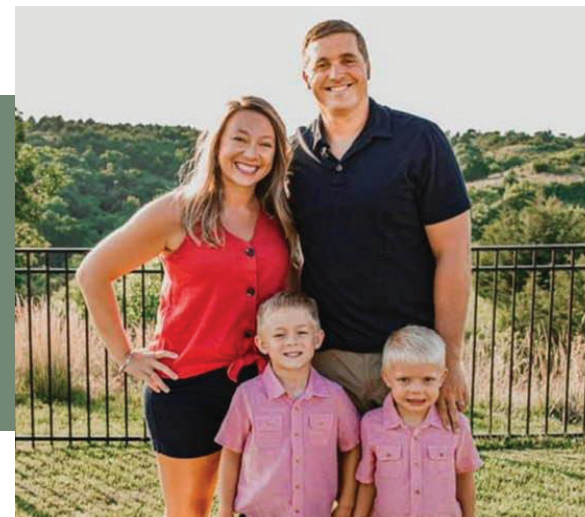
The family has a willingness to guide and mentor others that compliments their dedication to K-State.

"Kelly, Marcie and their children, really, truly are individuals that believe in animal agriculture, but they also believe in making an impact in people's lives," says Ron Tessman, DVM, Elanco Animal Health principle research scientist, clinical operations. "I've been positively impacted by Kelly, his wife and his family through the friendship and mentorship that they've given me, and I see that throughout their family, as well as the entire organization that Kelly has developed."

## RECOGNIZED FOR PASSION

Their passion for the institution and building up others are some of the reasons why Kelly and Marcie Lechtenberg, along with their family, are being honored with the 2020 Don L. Good Impact Award.

The award, presented annually by LMIC, is named in honor of Good, who is a former head of the K-State ASI department, and recognizes positive impact on the livestock and meat industry or agriculture.



"I'm very humbled that our family has been recognized," Kelly says. "But it means a lot to me because Don Good was instrumental in helping establish my dual degree program at a time when either the department head of animal sciences or the dean of vet med could have said that doesn't fit the box."

This recognition represents the priorities that the Lechtenberg family has.

"It's a lovely award and it means a great deal to our family," Marcie adds. "We've always said there's four things that we are about in life, and it's family, friends, our faith and K-State."

Many individuals in the industry verify the mark that the family has made on the industry and their qualifications for this award.

"I can't think of a better couple to receive the Don L. Good impact award. Don was an optimist. He was a visionary. He was a hard worker. He believed the best in others," says Ralph Richardson, former dean of the K-State College of Vet Med. "Those are the earmarks that epitomize Kelly and Marcie, as they are optimists. They're visionaries. They're hard workers. They care about others. Don would be proud to have known that Kelly and Marcie received this award in his honor." **K**



# Don L. Good

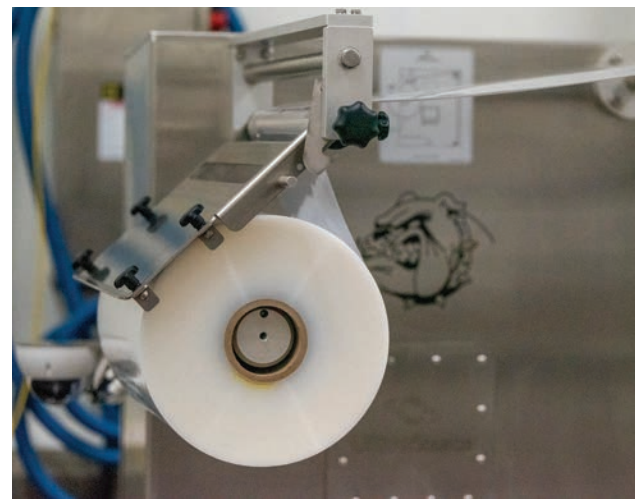
## IMPACT AWARD



"KELLY, MARCIE AND THEIR CHILDREN REALLY, TRULY ARE INDIVIDUALS THAT BELIEVE IN ANIMAL AGRICULTURE, BUT THEY ALSO BELIEVE IN MAKING AN IMPACT IN PEOPLE'S LIVES."

— Ron Tessman









# sustaining COMMUNITY

*Despite the Kansas State University campus being shut down in March due to a global pandemic, the Meat Lab maintained its essential operations and hosted weekly sales of meat and dairy products. While the sale room had to close, curbside deliveries allowed orders to still be fulfilled. These sales allowed community members a way to continue having K-State products in their homes, while also being able to support the ASI department. Weekly curbside sales continued through 2020.*





# supporting students

In 1966, a devastating tornado ripped through the town of Manhattan, causing damage across campus and largely impacting the Kansas State University Animal Sciences and Industry Department. Serving his first year as department head, Don Good worked with producers across the state to raise funds to rebuild and due to his efforts, the Livestock and Meat Industry Council, Inc (LMIC) was formed.

The 1966 tornado destroyed the vast majority of the ASI buildings, including the beef barn, the beef teaching and research center, the swine teaching and research center, the horse center, the sheep center, the feed mill, the poultry center and the dairy centers. As the university started to rebuild, the funding for new construction started to become scarce. Good decided to reach out to

industry stakeholders in the agricultural industry across the state for financial assistance to help rebuild.

“LMIC started as a group of grass-root industry people that were very supportive and passionate about making Kansas State Animal Science successful,” says Craig Good, former LMIC president and Don Good’s son. “They helped build and structure the organization to what it is today.”

Although LMIC started out as a small group of individuals, it now operates as a non-profit organization and consists of a board of directors. The mission is to support animal agriculture research, teaching and education through primary cooperation with K-State. It is dedicated to facilitating interdisciplinary education and research that improves the global competitiveness

and efficiency of animal and food production. Its purpose consists of several aspects, including the promotion of developing and growing all segments of the livestock and meat industry, developing and maintaining positive industry relationships with the K-State ASI department, facilitating contributions to include money, land, livestock, equipment and other bequests in support of approval priorities of the LMIC board of directors, and providing recommendations for the allocations of LMIC funds in cooperation with the KSU College of Agriculture and the KSU Foundation.

LMIC has made many significant contributions to the ASI department. During the last 10 years, it contributed more than \$1.4 million. LMIC has provided a wide range of contributions, including student scholarships, research

## JOIN THE FAMILY

In December 2020, the LMIC board voted to enhance the LMIC organization by implementing a K-State LMIC Family Network. The goal of the LMIC Family is to cultivate relationships with individuals involved or interested in the livestock and meat industry and with a passion for the K-State Animal Sciences and Industry Department.

“With this group we hope to create, promote and grow an extended network of individuals who believe in the purpose of the Livestock & Meat Industry Council,” says Rich Porter, LMIC president.

“We will strive to keep this network of individuals up to date on current LMIC projects and needs of the department. Just as Dr. Good’s vision, our hope is to rally our KSU ASI stakeholders and enhance the function of the LMIC board and support the ASI department.”

Membership is free and open to anyone. Members will receive three email newsletters a year. The e-newsletters will include department highlights, LMIC projects and other industry news.

To join the K-State LMIC Family Network, individuals can fill out the form at [KSULMICFamily.org](https://KSULMICFamily.org). 



## *Livestock and Meat Industry Council supports ASI department for more than 50 years*

STORY BY WYATT MINIHAN

assistance, capital improvement, land, buildings and equipment to support not only students, but faculty and the industry of animal agriculture as well.

“Along with financial contributions, the LMIC Board has other important functions such as mentoring with our KSU ASI students and service as an advisory board for the department,” says Dr. Mike Day, K-State ASI department head. “The importance of being able to meet at least three times a year to network with leaders in animal agriculture from across Kansas and beyond, that are dedicated supporters of ASI and its mission, is invaluable to this department.”

The annual K-State Animal Science Leadership Academy and judging teams are a couple of the continuing projects that LMIC supports for current and

potential students. LMIC also continues to fund the annual Stockmen’s Dinner, which is hosted the night before Cattlemen’s Day. The dinner’s purpose is to honor an individual, couple or family for their significant contribution to the livestock and meat industry.

“Some key projects LMIC recently helped the department with are the Swine Unit renovations and purchase of cattle working equipment that allows collection of research data on properties that lack adequate facilities,” Day explains. “Because of LMIC and its contributors, we are able to keep our units, equipment and facilities up to date and provide our students with real-life livestock management opportunities.”

On top of donating funds for new equipment, buildings and renovations, LMIC has contributed to department

projects such as building student housing at the livestock units, renovations at the dairy plant and funding the class that helps plan and execute the annual K-State ASI Family & Friends Reunion.

“LMIC is more than just finances. It’s a direct link between the department and keeping them connected with the ag industry in Kansas,” Good says. “It’s a group of people who want the ASI department at Kansas State University to be at the top of the heap in terms of all of the other animal science departments in the nation, and our goal is to help them become that.” **K**

## LMIC FUNDS

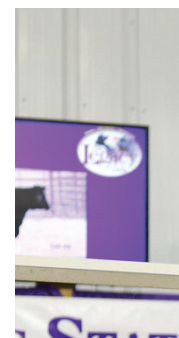
Are you interested in supporting a LMIC project or fund? There are more than 30 established fund accounts created to support LMIC and the ASI department. Here’s a few options to consider:

- Poultry Facilities Support Fund — *Provide support for maintenance, daily care and student employees of the Tom Avery Poultry Research Farm.*
- LMIC Equine Education Center Building Fund — *Provide support for the LMIC Equine Education Center Building.*
- KSU Meat Science Association Excellence Fund — *Provide financial assistance to the KSU Meat Science Association.*
- LMIC Stockmen’s Dinner — *Support the annual Stockmen’s Dinner.*
- Stanley Stout Center Fund — *Support the KSU Livestock Marketing Center in memory of Stanley E. Stout.*

- Beef Cattle Research Center Fund — *Support repair and upkeep of feedyard and facilities, labor work experience, and new facilities.*
- Walter M. and Frances A. Lewis Endowment for Animal Research and Education — *Support K-State ASI animal research and education.*
- Livestock & Meat Industry Council Fund — *Support LMIC projects.*
- Don L. Good Excellence in Animal Ag — *Support ASI faculty and students through research assistance, scholarships and LMIC operations.*
- Kiracofe Lecture Series — *Support Kiracofe physiology lectures.*
- Amos J. Kahrs Student Enrichment Fund — *Provide financial assistance to ASI judging teams.*

For a complete list of funds and for information about how to donate visit [KSULMIC.org](http://KSULMIC.org). **K**



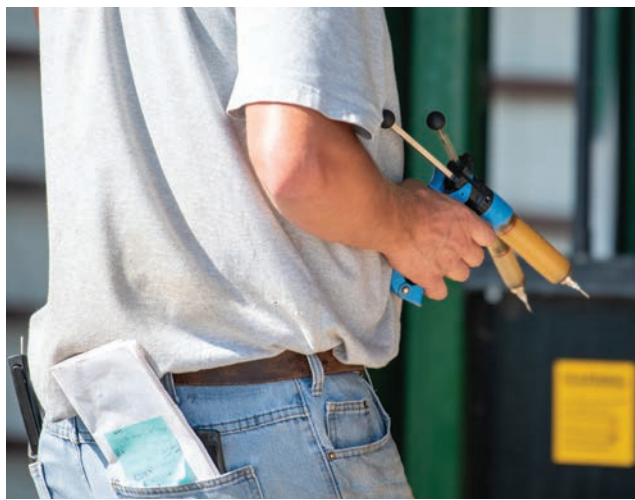


# BRED FOR *excellence*

*Kansas State University's Purebred Beef Unit annually manages nearly 300 breeding-age purebred Angus, Hereford and Simmental cows on 4,000 acres of native bluestem grass. Its mission is to provide undergraduate students with practical experience in breeding, feeding, management and marketing of purebred seedstock as well as give livestock selection and general animal science courses the opportunity to evaluate quality cattle. On the first Friday of March, the unit hosts an annual bull and female sale that is planned and managed by ASI students.*









# THREE PILLARS, ONE DEPARTMENT

*A global pandemic causes mass changes throughout three branches of ASI department*

STORY BY MADISON ANDRADE

**O**n March 11, 2020, the Kansas State University livestock judging team headed to Houston for a national contest. The team had been working out for a couple of days, then, just two days later, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo was canceled due to coronavirus. They turned the van around and headed home as more events were canceled across the United States. Only a few days later, an email from K-State announced that spring break was going to be extended by a week. The shock continued when the week-long extension turned into completing the spring semester virtually.

Students were absent from the halls of K-State from mid-March through August. Events were canceled left and right — the Little American Royal, Sheep Producer Day and even graduation. The day students look forward to for years was suddenly moved, prohibiting many graduating seniors from being able to return to campus and participate in the celebration.

Virtual alternatives replaced in-person events for the fall semester. Like many other events, the Animal Sciences and Industry Family & Friends Reunion transitioned to an online event to recognize the 2020 Don L. Good Impact Award winner.

With the world in a whirlwind, those were moments no one was prepared for. Yet, with such misfortune, comes great opportunities.

Dr. Mike Day, K-State ASI department head, says some of the department's most important laboratories for teaching, research and extension house animals and their products. These facilities, such as the Purebred Beef Unit, Sheep and Meat Goat Center, Horse Unit and Meat Lab

(and many others), are the heart of the animal and food sciences majors at K-State.

"Many students come here with interests in animal ag," Day says. "Unlike many other K-State departments, we have living labs to sustain. Animals need to be fed and cared for, as do their products in our meat and dairy products laboratories."

The ASI department has taken the best measures possible in order to continue face-to-face classes whenever possible. Faculty and students have worked hard to continue with this option and to stay safe. Having the option to attend in-person classes, that are also available in various formats online, has been the most beneficial for learning and teaching, and has also worked well to keep COVID-19 in check.

There have been some indirect benefits of the current situation. "One of these is that faculty have put more emphasis on writing grants and developing more research projects," Day says. "For extension, the coronavirus has forced us to put together virtual programs, and although they are not a replacement for face-to-face, I think our comfort level on the extension agent/specialist side, the producer side and the allied industry side has gone up. This will give us new opportunities for outreach and education moving forward."

Skyler Scotten, ASI senior from Nevada, Missouri, says he enjoyed being home and spending time with his family, while also being able to make and save money by judging livestock shows and working on the farm. Some of the challenges he faced with school transitioning online was staying on top of his schoolwork and not letting himself fall behind on assignments, despite the many distractions that come with being at home.

Scotten explains he has handled COVID-19 stress by distancing himself from negativity, whether it be television, conversations, news articles or social media. In doing so, he has gained life lessons, including the value of spending time with family. He also learned the true importance of agriculture when stores were starting to have food shortages.

Likewise, Daniel Dobbs, ASI senior from Carnesville, Georgia, says he found being able to spend time at home to be his biggest opportunity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Living several states away, Dobbs previously was unable to visit home often, so he enjoyed the extra time with his family.

"The decrease in hands-on learning," has been a challenge according to Dobbs. "It is harder to grasp concepts of certain classes when not able to see what professors are trying to teach in-person. Yet, an upside to online learning is the flexibility it brings to the table with being able to go home and complete schoolwork on my own schedule."

Through the pandemic, Dobbs has learned to never take anything for granted. There are so many things being canceled or moved online, and he thinks back often to a time where people could go anywhere without a mask and see smiling faces and give hugs and handshakes.

With so much at stake, ASI faculty, staff and students have been making the most out of a situation that has impacted the world so negatively. The department will get through the unknown circumstances of the pandemic together, coming out of it more knowledgeable and with new life lessons. **K**



# TEACHING

STORY BY **HALEY GORDON**

**S**uddenly uprooted, the Kansas State University Animal Sciences and Industry Department faculty and students were forced to transition to online classes for the second half of the spring 2020 semester, and the fall 2020 semester led to more online and hybrid classes, with reduced in-person classes.

Tim Carson, K-State ASI computer systems specialist and Microcomputer Applications instructor, describes the department's transition due to COVID-19 as "interesting," especially because the fall semester was filled with so much uncertainty surrounding teaching and class curriculum. Carson explains a committee of ASI faculty reviewed all classroom sizes, class student numbers and teaching options for ASI classes. The department researched options for hybrid classes using both in-person and online learning options. Through these reviews, the department was able to create a couple of additional classrooms to accommodate the university limit of 50 individuals per room, holding classes in Weber Arena and the Stanley Stout Center. "It's very important to the department to get those students some in-person class time," Carson explains. The department also added cameras and microphones to each classroom to allow students to participate in class discussions via Zoom when necessary.

Dr. Karol Fike serves many roles as KSU ASI teaching associate professor, internship coordinator and academic advisor. Fike teaches Farm Animal Reproduction and Animal Sciences Career Preparations during the fall semester, along with Animal Sciences Internship during the fall and spring semesters.

Fike explains she changed her fall classes to a hybrid model, having half of her students attend class in-person and the other half via Zoom. She maintains engagement with her students via Zoom through the chat feature or the Poll Everywhere application, giving students a space to provide responses to questions, or ask questions themselves.

With COVID-19 restrictions, advising meetings needed to change as well. Fike explains she has meetings either via Zoom or in-person, depending on the student's preference and needs.

"During these trying times, our staff and faculty have worked hard to adapt to these challenges to continue to provide students with the education and services they may need during these difficult times," Fike says.

"Our students have shown us grace during these difficult challenges. Everyone is consistently finding ways to 'make it work' and continue to provide relevant services and education to our students." **K**







# EXTENSION

STORY BY JACKIE HEINRICH

The Kansas State University Animal Sciences and Industry extension team has discovered the best way to get through a global pandemic is to be flexible and open to new ways of educating. Joel DeRouchey, ASI professor and extension specialist, and Lexie Hayes, ASI youth livestock coordinator, explain moving events to virtual formats allowed the KSU ASI extension team to continue educational programs and youth contests when in-person events were not possible. Events such as the Dr. Bob Hines Swine Classic, Kansas 4-H Sweepstakes, KSU Beef Stocker Field Day and KSU Swine Day all transitioned from being traditionally in-person to a strictly online format.

“Transitioning several of our programs to an online platform forced us to think outside of the box, learn new skills and collaborate with others we might not typically have an interaction with,” Hayes says. “We quickly learned the capabilities of Zoom, Qualtrics and several file sharing platforms.”

DeRouchey explains there are benefits and challenges to virtual events.

“A major benefit has been being able to reach a larger audience who would not have normally attended the event in-person,” DeRouchey says.

“The most challenging part of using a virtual approach was balancing the integrity of the event or contest with being able to engage youth and their families and striving for a meaningful, positive experience for everyone,” Hayes adds.

Although most producers would prefer to attend events in-person, KSU ASI was still able to provide educational programming during a challenging year.

“There is one thing missing with the virtual format – ‘coffee break conversation,’” DeRouchey says. “This is an aspect of in-person events that a lot of attendees are missing.”

Hayes adds, “It was wonderful to see everyone be flexible, understanding and come together during a unique and difficult year. It also gave families an outlet to showcase and expand their livestock projects while they were cooped up at home and looking for engagement.”

With the new knowledge the extension team holds, the option to provide future events both in-person and virtually will be considered. The ability to utilize multiple platforms to host an event could allow extension events to reach more students, producers and stakeholders.

“According to a survey we distributed following one of the events, more than 75% of participants said they were interested in virtual opportunities in the future, which could expand the options available to us to reach Kansas families,” Hayes says.

The KSU ASI extension team is looking forward to hosting in-person events again as soon as university protocols allow. In the meantime, the ASI extension team continues to focus on delivering education and information to its stakeholders across the state of Kansas and beyond.

DeRouchey says, “Nothing replaces face-to-face, hands-on learning.” **K**



# RESEARCH

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STORY BY EMILY BERNARD

**C**OVID-19 not only left campus classrooms empty and Manhattan, Kansas, quiet, it also halted research and displaced graduate students.

In March, when the pandemic escalated, department research projects were essentially shut down. Peang Hammond, meat science graduate student, experienced this halt and displacement firsthand. Hammond started her research project in January, which was supposed to be a yearlong experiment. Her research focused on the effects of age on beef tenderness. This study involved taking eight cuts of beef from 10 different carcasses, ranging from two to 20 days of age. Once the coronavirus became prevalent in the United States, the KSU labs were forced shut down, halting her research.

When research labs were shut down, graduate students became concerned about how long the closure would last, when they would be able to resume their research and how they would be able to stay on track to get their degrees. During this time, graduate students refocused their time and energy. Multiple grad students started focusing on writing literature reviews or meta-analysis of data to help plan future research.

Madie Wensley was one of the graduate students who took this delay as a time to prepare for the future. Wensley was completing her master's degree and was aiming to start her doctorate research. She took this time to collaborate and write two literature reviews that will be published in peer-reviewed journals.

During the pandemic, technology has become vital for students and professors alike. For the first time in history, graduate students working toward their master's and doctorate degrees had to finish and defend their theses virtually and remotely. This was a strange, new process for students and their faculty advisors.

K-State ASI researchers conduct many different research projects in the field, posing many challenges to overcome. Because the sites were on lockdown, the only people allowed on site to collect data were local research staffs. Since data was still being collected, graduate students were able to keep monitoring and analyzing data throughout the spring and summer.

Once research projects were allowed to resume in June and July, some of the researchers decided to focus on the impact COVID-19 had on animal production. One example is master's student Zhong-Xing Rao, who studied the impacts of feeding strategies put into place to slow pig growth when packing plants were closed. This was vital to combat the effects of these makeshift diets and help understand the response pigs have from the shift in diet.

Although COVID-19 had a huge impact on K-State ASI research, students and faculty showed great perseverance through this difficult time. **K**





# bird's eye VIEW

*The Tom Avery Poultry Research Farm conducts teaching, research and extension related projects. Farm stock includes broilers, layers and turkeys. The farm processes eggs produced by the layer flock which are then sold at Call Hall Dairy Bar. Research projects focus on feed manufacturing for meat birds, heritage poultry and general nutrition. The farm supports ASI projects related to the nutrition of other species such as beef and swine.*













# class of CHAMPIONS

*In a year of obstacles, one team carries on the legacy built by many Wildcats before them*

STORY BY SIERRA DAY

As one scans the walls of Weber Hall, there is proof that K-State Animal Sciences and Industry students find ways to become involved in various clubs and teams. One team with a long history of success is the livestock judging team.

"K-State has fielded a competitive livestock judging team for well over 100 years, and our alumni include some of the greatest livestock minds in the history of animal agriculture," says Chris Mullinix, K-State livestock judging coach. "Those former team members serve as our biggest supporters and open their ranches to our team every year to help us develop our students' evaluation skills."

The dedication of current and past K-State team members continued to shine through as the team began to face the uncertainty of a 2020 livestock judging season.

"Like every other activity, we were forced to jump through a number of hoops to make the season happen," Mullinix says. "It was an interesting year, but these students have only one year of contest eligibility, so they were willing to do whatever was deemed necessary to make it happen."

Regardless of the trials and tribulations due to COVID-19, the 2020 K-State livestock judging team was among a long line of dedicated Wildcats with aspirations of bringing hardware back to Manhattan.

"Our outlook on finishing our judging career after Houston got canceled was kind of like a roller coaster. We didn't know if we were going to get the chance to finish our career," says Chisum Grund, 2020 K-State livestock judging team member from Sharon Springs, Kansas. "But once we got to our first contest, we knew it was go-time and that indeed contests were going to happen, so we took

advantage of the opportunity in front of us and it made us all work that much harder towards our ultimate goal."

Despite cancellations and social distancing requirements, the team still had the opportunity to compete in several contests throughout the season. During the 2020 season, K-State earned championship honors at the last five contests of their judging careers and won their last four contests by more than 400 points. While each win is important to the team, the most prestigious title of the season was being named the National Champion Team at the 2020 North American International Livestock Exposition Judging Contest in Louisville, Kentucky.

K-State landed four individuals in the top eight overall en route to the team win. Skyler Scotten from Nevada, Missouri, and Daniel Dobbs of Carnesville, Georgia, placed second and third, respectively. Grund and Austin Vieselmeyer, Amherst, Colorado, were sixth and eighth.

Team members Cagney Effling, Highmore, South Dakota; Justin Slabaugh, Goshen, Indiana; and Vieselmeyer were named All Americans, and Mullinix was named the national Coach of the Year.

"It means so much to me after committing myself to four years of livestock judging to not only achieve some individual success at my last contest, but even more importantly, being on such a tightly knit team and to accomplish a goal of ours," Grund says.

Concluding the 2020 season on a high note displays the perseverance that continues to be a part of the K-State livestock judging program.

"Winning the bronze bull is something every single one of us on the team talked about since day one," Grund says. "It was our ultimate goal and to bring it back to K-State

for the first time since some of us were born makes the experience even more memorable."

This national championship represents the community that continues to develop among individuals that have been a K-State livestock judging team member.

The win also broke a string of four consecutive runner-up finishes, or Reserve National Champions, by K-State.

In addition to being the overall national championship team, K-State won first place in the categories of reasons, beef, beef reasons and performance beef. The squad placed second in sheep and goats and third in swine.

For Mullinix, the win was extra special. He was a member of K-State's 1995 national championship squad and was named high individual that year.

He becomes the third person ever to win a team national championship as a student, finish as high individual and coach his alma mater to a national championship. The other two were his former coach, Scott Schaake; and Scott Greiner, who is currently the superintendent of the national contest.

"I can't express the pride I had as a student being part of a national champion team, and now coaching a group of students to that same honor," he said. "My coach, Dr. Scott Schaake, is one [who has achieved the same] and now I'm incredibly honored to join him."

Other members of the 2020 team include Madison Andrade, San Juan Bautista, California; Lane Egger, Columbus, Nebraska; Sam Gleason, Maple Hill, Kansas; and Trace Mulligan, Scott City, Kansas. Graduate student Payton Dahmer was an assistant coach.

"This is a huge team effort and I hope all of our stakeholders take pride in the bronze bull coming home to Manhattan," Mullinix says. "It belongs to us all." **K**









# part of the HERD

*A number of educational opportunities are provided at the Sheep and Meat Goat Center in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry. Undergraduate courses are offered that expand the students' knowledge of sheep and meat goat production. Students gain hands-on experience via laboratories and student worker positions at the center. The facility continues to be used as a teaching unit for students as well as a place for extension-based producer education programs to be hosted.*





# BOOTS *on the* GROUND

*From preparation to performance, student involvement is key to K-State Rodeo success*

STORY BY KATELYN HARBERT





“When it comes to the K-State Rodeo, nearly everything that happens is because of students,” says Alan Hinds, agricultural economics junior and past K-State Rodeo treasurer. “Beginning months in advance, students work to gather sponsors, fundraise, form various contracts, prepare Weber Arena and perform countless other tasks to prepare for the annual rodeo.”

Each February for the past 64 years, Weber Arena has been home to the K-State Rodeo, one of the largest-attended student-ran events on campus. The rodeo generates funds that are used for rodeo facilities and scholarships and was voted Rodeo of the Year for the Central Plains National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association region in 2020.

As treasurer, Hinds was responsible for all of the financial aspects of the 2020 rodeo and played a key role in the event.

“From making sure we have money for gate bags and managing entry money to writing payout and labor checks, I oversaw it all,” Hinds says. “The weeks before the rodeo, we have a lot of fundraising events, such as the Ranch Rodeo. Between managing the finances for these

events and preparing for the rodeo, the weeks before and immediately after are a very busy time for the treasurer.”

Beyond the officer team, students were involved in the rodeo through being members of the rodeo team and club, or through participating in a class focused on executing the event.

“It is a true team effort, with everyone playing a part,” Hinds says. “Without our members, the rodeo would not go on.”

Jamie Nemechek, animal sciences and industry junior, Rodeo Club member and 2019 Miss Rodeo K-State, echoed the importance of the student help. As Miss Rodeo K-State, Nemechek was part of the executive council and helped lead the force in planning the rodeo.

“Our rodeo club and team work for months planning and preparing for the rodeo. The team and club work extremely hard to make our events possible,” Nemechek says. “While the team members compete during the rodeo, our club members help to ensure everything runs smoothly. Without our club members, our events wouldn’t be possible, and we appreciate all their hard work and dedication.”

Through managing these responsibilities, Hinds, Nemechek and the rest of the students were exposed to

real-world learning opportunities.

“Preparing for the K-State Rodeo allows students to gain valuable life skills and experiences,” Hinds says. “Whether learning how to negotiate contracts or work with sponsors, students learn many skills that will benefit them in the job market. During the rodeo, members help with almost everything, from taking care of stock to making sure the rodeo runs smoothly, often while trying to compete themselves.”

Current and past generations of K-Staters experience the benefits of the K-State Rodeo.

“The rodeo’s impact is tremendous for the Rodeo Club/Team along with being a gathering event each year for alumni, family, friends and students,” Casy Winn, rodeo coach, says.

Although the work can often be challenging and stressful, the process is worthwhile and results in an event for the whole community to enjoy.

“My favorite part of serving on the K-State Rodeo executive team is seeing all of our members’ hard work pan out in a successful rodeo,” Hinds says. “Thanks to a supportive community, we had a very successful rodeo this year and we are very appreciative of this support. Years like this make everything worthwhile.” K

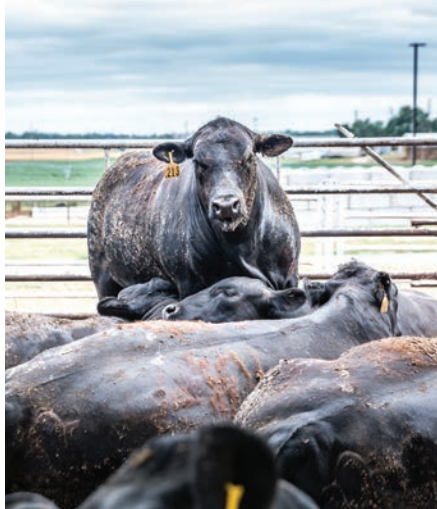




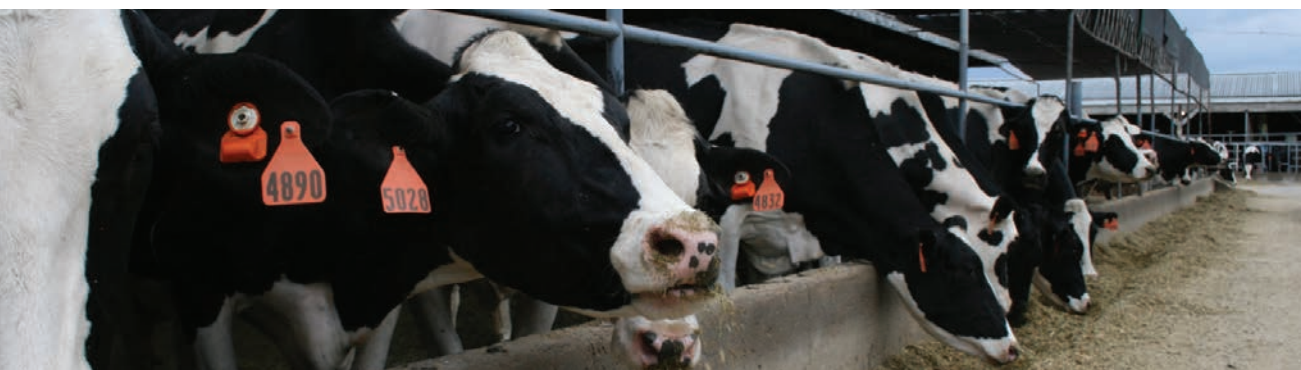
# FEEDING *greatness*

*The Beef Cattle Research Center was built in the early 1900s to conduct experiments in beef cattle nutrition, and moved to its present site following the devastation caused by the 1966 tornado. The department uses the facilities to conduct research in a number of areas such as energy requirements, vitamin needs, protein levels, mineral utilization, management techniques and other concerns associated with beef production.*













# from cow TO CONE

*The dairy sector of K-State ASI stretches from cow to cone. Call Hall Dairy Bar utilizes the campus Dairy Unit, Dairy Plant and Dairy Bar facilities to produce milk, cheese, ice cream and other goods. The Dairy Processing Plant plays a large role in the final products that Call Hall sells. The department uses about 15-20% of the K-State dairy farm's milk for fluid milk, ice cream mix and cheese. They need around 120 gallons a week of milk in order to produce 400 gallons of ice cream, separated into four different flavors. The plant also provides students an opportunity to take classes and take part in hands-on experiences through working at the unit.*





# rooted in WEBER HALL

*Three College of Agriculture leaders have stemmed from the K-State ASI family*

STORY BY SIERRA DAY

**T**he Animal Sciences and Industry department has been home to several College of Agriculture faculty members. The people, the focus on students and the devotion to the livestock industry are what raises the university's ASI department above other similar programs in the country.

"We have great faculty, staff and students that are committed to all areas of the land grant mission," says Dr. Ernie Minton, College of Agriculture dean and K-State Research and Extension director. "As a result, we have very, very dedicated and supportive alumni and stakeholders that we continue to serve and interact with."

The diversity of faculty, staff, alumni and stakeholders allows K-State ASI to have an emphasis on students.

"As I look at the animal sciences team, there's quality people across all disciplines and functions — teaching, research and extension," says Dr. Dan Moser, associate dean for academic programs. "There's not another program in my mind that is as comprehensive with the same level of excellence in all aspects of animal science."

As a department compiled of dedicated people with the desire to teach students to fill their shoes one day, K-State ASI takes the approach of having an impact in the livestock industry.

"Most K-State animal sciences faculty are unique in that they have the ability to bridge the gap between the basic sciences and the application of those sciences to solve real world problems," says Dr. Don Boggs, retired associate dean for academic programs. "Because of this, many of the faculty are leaders in both their scientific discipline as well as the industry."

Minton, Moser and Boggs all share a common enthusiasm for the family atmosphere and dedication to the land grant mission. In turn, they have used the experiences that the department has provided to give back to K-State ASI and the College of Ag.

## ERNIE MINTON

Minton is no stranger to the animal science industry. Minton earned a bachelor's degree at Western Kentucky University before furthering his education in the discipline of animal sciences at Oklahoma State University, where he earned his master's degree in animal science and doctorate in animal reproduction.

In 1983, Minton joined the K-State faculty and became an ASI professor in 1995. Through this time, he began to understand what sets K-State ASI apart from other animal science programs.

"The experience here is really second to none," Minton says. "The support and dedication from alumni and stakeholders run deep, and that is what distinguishes K-State Animal Sciences and Industry."

From 2008-2009, Minton served the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station as the interim associate director of research and technology transfer. In 2009, he became the associate director of research and technology transfer for the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station, which he continued until 2016. After his time with the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station, Minton began as the College of Agriculture's associate dean of research and graduate programs and associate director of research for

K-State Research and Extension, which he continued until he began his job as interim College of Agriculture dean and KSRE director.

Beginning in July 2018, Minton's time as interim college dean and KSRE director was successful. By early 2019, the college was able to reach its \$120 million goal for the Innovation & Inspiration Campaign under his direction. This progress prepared Minton to transition into the role of College of Ag dean and KSRE director. Minton has led other improvements to college facilities, but he knows that there is more work to be done.

"As I have been visiting with academic departments, one of the highest priorities I convey is that we have a very large task of updating our infrastructure ahead of us," Minton explains. "Many of our buildings are aging out and must be updated. That will be a daunting task because the total need is substantial across the entire college."

Minton understands that not only the facilities, but also the people of the college bring prosperity for the program.

"While we have been successful in hiring Dr. Jeanette Thurston and Dr. Mike Day, we still have a number of leadership positions to fill," Minton says. "Hiring high-quality leadership will help us continue to move forward in a positive way."

## DAN MOSER

Moser spent his childhood being raised on a small seedstock cattle operation near Effingham, Kansas. A background rooted in the livestock industry guided Moser to earn his bachelor's degree in ASI from K-State,





ERNIE MINTON

followed by obtaining his master's and doctorate degrees in beef cattle genetics from the University of Georgia.

After pursuing his educational goals, Moser served in positions that allowed him to give back to animal science students. He spent 20 years in positions as a faculty member at the University of Georgia, University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Kansas State University. Most of this time was dedicated to K-State.

For 15 years, Moser taught genetics and animal breeding, conducted applied research and advised undergraduate and graduate students at K-State. During this time, he also served as faculty advisor of the purebred beef unit. Moser dedicated his research to improving cow-calf profitability through the development and usage of genetic production tools.

Being drawn to making an impact in the livestock industry, Moser served the American Angus Association as the president of Angus Genetics Inc. and director of performance programs from 2014 until April 2020. At the AAA, Moser led educational efforts for the organization and aided in a 300% increase in genomic testing.

Although enjoying his time working in industry, Moser returned to K-State in April 2020 to serve as the College of Agriculture's associate dean for academic programs.

"I really enjoyed my time at Angus, but the interaction with students and folks who care about students is what was missing in my last role," Moser says, reflecting on the transition. "As I have been interacting with students, it has truly reminded me why I am back at K-State."



DAN MOSER

Moser is looking forward to finding new ways to reach his goals for the college, including growing enrollment.

"Across the nation, we're not graduating enough students to fill the needs for agriculture in years to come," explains Moser. "We need to recruit more top students so that they can serve the needs of society."

However, Moser understands that in order to increase enrollment, actions need to be taken to continue to provide an environment for students to better their skills in respect to their career goals.

"To give our students the best experience and provide the best preparation for their careers, they need to be working in state-of-the-art facilities," Moser says. "I want to help drive the updating of our current teaching facilities on and off campus."

## DON BOGGS

Boggs, a native from Central Illinois, was raised on a diversified grain and livestock operation. Boggs' background and life experiences paved the way for his educational path. He received his bachelor's in science from the University of Illinois, master's in science from K-State and a doctorate from Michigan State University.

After the completion of his doctorate degree, Boggs served on the research and teaching faculty at the University of Georgia for six years.

In 1988, he moved to Brookings, South Dakota, to become the extension beef specialist at South Dakota State University. After 10 years with SDSU, he transitioned



DON BOGGS

into the position of head of the Animal and Range Sciences Department.

Although Boggs obtained degrees from three different universities and held positions with two other institutions, he is an example of K-State's reputation of, "once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat."

Boggs says, "The K-State ASI department has some of the most loyal and supportive alumni in the country."

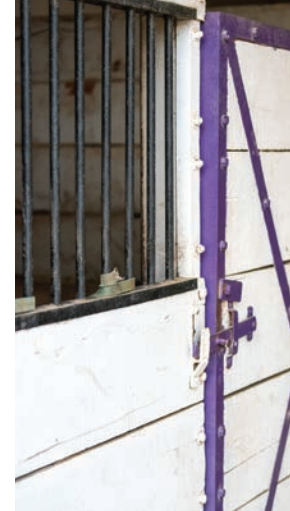
In 2005, Boggs proved this statement as he returned to K-State to serve as the associate dean of academic programs in the College of Agriculture. In his 15 years, he oversaw all activities related to teaching programs.

Boggs formerly served as chair of the executive board of AG\*IDEA, a national distance education alliance for agriculture. In addition to this, he has served as chair of the academic committee on policy and the agricultural academic programs section of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities.

Boggs has returned to K-State ASI in a half-time role as an academic advisor during his phased retirement.

"We have tremendous diversity of production systems ranging from small family farms to large integrated commercial operations. These strong production systems have paved the way for a vibrant processing industry and strong allied industries in feed manufacturing and animal health," Boggs says. "K-State animal sciences has stayed dedicated to the land grant mission of serving the industries in our state through strong teaching, research and extension programs." **K**









# hold your HORSES

*The KSU Horse Teaching and Research Unit maintains a breeding herd consisting of several stallions, 15 broodmares and an additional 5-10 mares for research and teaching purposes. Approximately 15-25 weanlings, yearlings and 2-year-olds are also located at the unit, which are utilized in training classes and then sold. The breeding program primarily focuses on performance Quarter Horses, with cutting, roping and reining-bred mares making up the majority of the broodmare herd. The unit typically offers three to five horses on the first Friday of March during the department's annual bull sale and other catalog horse sales and private treaty.*



# a hog's LIFE

*The Swine Teaching and Research Center provides a facility for teaching and research for department faculty and students. The unit maintains approximately 160 commercial-line sows that are bred artificially. Offspring are utilized in research projects or for teaching and then marketed as slaughter hogs. Structures at the unit included a gestation barn, farrowing house, nurseries and finishing facilities.*









# — DEPARTMENT —

*award winners*



**Dr. Karol Fike**  
*College of Agriculture Mugler  
Outstanding Teacher Award*



**Dr. Bob Goodband**  
*2020 Masters of the Pork Industry*



**Dr. David Grieger**  
*Mark and Eva Gardiner Innovation  
and Excellence Faculty Award*



**Dr. Sandy Johnson**  
*KSRE 2020 Outstanding Regional or  
State Extension Professional Award*



**Dr. Travis O'Quinn**  
*American Meat Science Association  
Distinguished Achievement Award*



**Dr. Evan Titgemeyer**  
*Gamma Sigma Delta Distinguished  
Faculty Award*



**Dr. Mike Tokach**  
*American Society of Animal Science  
Fellow Award for Research*



**Dr. Valentina Trinetta**  
*Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding  
Advising Award*



**Dr. Jason Woodworth**  
*American Society of Animal Science  
Animal Industry Service Award*



**Dr. Sterling Buist**  
*2020 President's Award of Excellence  
for Unclassified Professionals*



**Kiah Gourley**  
*Larry R. Corah Outstanding  
PhD Student*



**Madison Wensley**  
*Larry R. Corah Outstanding  
Masters Student*



**Cole Liggett**  
*K-State ASI Outstanding Senior*



# — THANK YOU —

*Students*



**MADISON ANDRADE**



**EMILY BERNARD**



**HALEY GORDON**



**JACKIE HEINRICH**



**KATELYN HARBERT**  
*managing editor*



**WYATT MINIHAN**  
*photo editor*

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# K

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

Kansas State University



Animal Sciences and Industry

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