



**Dale Blasi** ([dblasi@ksu.edu](mailto: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.



**Jaymelynn Farney** ([ikj@ksu.edu](mailto:ikj@ksu.edu); 620-820-6125)

**Extension Beef Systems 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](mailto: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.



**Justin Waggoner** ([jwaggon@ksu.edu](mailto: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.



**A.J. Tarpoff ([tarpoff@k-state.edu](mailto: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.



**Mike Brouk ([mbrouk@ksu.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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.



**Scott Beyer ([sbeyer@ksu.edu](mailto: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.



**Alison Crane ([arcrane@k-state.edu](mailto:arcrane@k-state.edu); 785-532-1672)**

**Extension Specialist-Sheep and Meat Goat**

Dr. Alison Crane was raised in Warrior, Alabama, on a small horse farm, assisting her father in shoeing horses as well as barrel racing and team roping. Alison's interest in agriculture grew through her father's business, and also working for a Brangus ranch and large animal veterinarian in North Alabama. Alison attended high school at the Alabama School of Fine Arts where she was dance major. She graduated with her bachelor's in Animal Science (minor: chemistry and religion) from Berry College in 2012 and her M.S. (2014) and Ph.D. (2017) in Ruminant Nutrition and Reproductive Physiology from North Dakota State University. She was hired in 2017 as the State Sheep and Meat Goat Extension Specialist for Kansas State University with a 70% Extension and 30% Teaching appointment.





**Karen Blakeslee ([kblakesl@ksu.edu](mailto:kblakesl@ksu.edu); 785-532-1673)**  
**Extension Associate-Rapid Response Center Coordinator**

Karen Blakeslee received her B.S. in 1986 and her M.S. in 1997 from Kansas State University. She is coordinator for the KSU Rapid Response Center, which was formed in 1995 as a resource for Kansas State University Research & Extension Agents. The Rapid Response Center works closely with Food Science faculty as well as Food, Nutrition, Dietetics and Health faculty to answer Extension Agent and consumer questions about food. Most questions are related to food safety, home food preservation, and food preparation. Other responsibilities include being co-director of the Master Food Volunteer program; managing several websites; and teaching home food preservation to all age groups across Kansas. Karen has received the President's Award of Excellence for Unclassified Professionals, the K-State Research and Extension Builder Award, the Communicator of the Year award, and the Clover Award for K-State Research and Extension.



**Elizabeth Boyle ([lboyle@ksu.edu](mailto: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.



**Jessie Vipham ([jessiev@ksu.edu](mailto:jessiev@ksu.edu); 785-532-3486 )**  
**Extension Specialist-Meat Safety**

Dr. Jessie Vipham joined the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry in 2015 and acquired a 40% extension appointment in 2019. Jessie graduated from Kansas State University with a B.S. in Agricultural Business in 2009, and she received her M.S. (2011; Animal Science, Meat Science) and PhD (2015; Animal Science, Meat Safety) from Texas Tech University. Jessie is a food microbiologist by training and has a productive research program focused on meat safety, particularly for slaughter facilities. Jessie's previous work at KSU was in International Agriculture Development, and she has significant experience working on food safety strategies for small-scale slaughter operations and local meat markets in Central America, Africa, and South East Asia. Many of these strategies relate directly to small-scale systems in the U.S. Jessie is also a Lead Instructor with the International HACCP Alliance and BRC Third Party Audit Systems.



**Joel DeRouchey** ([jderouch@ksu.edu](mailto: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.



**Bob Goodband** ([bgoodban@ksu.edu](mailto:bgoodban@ksu.edu); 785-532-1228)

**Extension Specialist-Swine Nutrition and Management**

Dr. Bob Goodband was graduated from The Pennsylvania State University in 1984. He obtained his M.S. (1986) and Ph.D. (1989) in Swine Nutrition at Kansas State University, and then joined the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry. Currently, Bob has a split appointment with 40% extension, 40% teaching, and 20% research responsibilities. With his colleagues, Bob plays an important role in developing, evaluating, and disseminating the latest information to increase the profitability of pork producers. Bob also teaches Swine Science and Swine Nutrition classes and advises approximately 35 to 40 undergraduate students each year.



**Jim Nelssen** ([jnelssen@ksu.edu](mailto:jnelssen@ksu.edu); 785-532-1251)

**Extension Specialist-Swine Nutrition and Management**

Dr. Jim Nelssen is an extension specialist and swine nutritionist at Kansas State University. His current position is 41% Extension and 41% Research. Jim received his B.S. in Animal Science (1978) and his M.S. in swine reproductive physiology (1980) from Kansas State University. He received his Ph.D. in Swine Nutrition from the University of Nebraska in 1983. Later that year Jim started his career at Kansas State University as an Assistant Professor and Extension Swine Specialist.



**Mike Tokach** ([mtokach@ksu.edu](mailto:mtokach@ksu.edu); 785-532-2032)

**University Distinguished Professor**

**Extension Specialist-Swine Nutrition and Management**

Following completion of a bachelor degree in Animal Science at North Dakota State University in 1986, Mike earned a Masters degree in swine nutrition at Kansas State University in 1988. After completing his doctorate in swine nutrition at the University of Minnesota in March 1991, Mike joined K-State Research and Extension as a livestock specialist. Mike's current role is as Extension Swine Specialist for Animal Sciences and Industry. Mike's focus is transferring information to swine producers, educating graduate students and producers, and conducting practical nutrition research.



**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.