

The E-Newsletter of the Department of Agricultural Economics • May 2016



A Note from the Desk of Allen Featherstone

Welcome to the spring E-Newsletter. In this edition we'll be taking a look at some of our programs within the department that provide outreach to our surrounding communities and global partners. Finding a way to process data into useful analytical tools, which gives leaders a wider range of tools to accomplish their mission, remains one of our core functions within the department of agricultural economics.

In that light, we'll be taking a look at the office of local government (OLG). This unit is led by Dr. John Leatherman. Leatherman works with his staff of young professionals and student assistants to aggregate fiscal data on the fiscal fitness for local government. The team then presents the data to local community leaders, giving a deeper insight into the inner workings of their respective organizations.

Our center for risk management (CRMER) conducts research on the volatile global marketplace. It uses the research to educate clients on the market environment, and provides tools to mitigate their exposure to risk. Now more than ever, it is important to have the right content and appropriate context available for decision makers to facilitate good leadership.

The OLG and CRMER programs share one core mission; the tutelage and professional development of student workers. Real world experience, coupled with hands on research and data collection techniques, give our students an unprecedented opportunity to develop key professional skills as they continue on to their future careers. Our educational component continues to see the best and brightest, and we'll highlight some of their achievements in our undergraduate highlight section of the newsletter.

We're celebrating another great year for faculty grants for research. The department has received over \$800,000.00 in recent grants and sponsorships. This will enable them to conduct research ranging from the role of U.S. agriculture in global food and environmental security, to bovine respiratory disease impact on feedlot operations. Our achievements are directly related to the continued support of our alumni and corporate sponsorships. This support helps us provide our students and outreach programs the proper foundation to continue our tradition of excellence. We appreciate the dedication and engagement of our alumni and outside supporters. Thank-you to our generous donors who give back to the Department.

Please take time to learn more about the activities of our department. We also encourage you to share your career and family developments so we can keep your fellow alumni informed. Please email me at afeather@ksu.edu or Thomas Reust, our newly minted communications coordinator, at tomreust@ksu.edu with information you would like to share with your fellow alumni.

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