

# Luke Byers

3016 Geneva Drive, Manhattan, KS 66502 • (717) 491-5259 • lukesamuelbyers48@gmail.com

---

Department of Agricultural Economics  
Kansas State University  
3311 Waters Hall  
Manhattan, KS 66506

[lsbyers@ksu.edu](mailto:lsbyers@ksu.edu)

<https://orcid.org/0009-0008-6711-7808>

## Education

**Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics**, Kansas State University December 2027 (expected)  
**Master of Science Agricultural Economics**, Kansas State University May 2022  
**Masters Thesis:** *Nontraditional Agricultural Equipment Lending Trends in the Agricultural Resource Management Survey and Uniform Commercial Code Data.* **Supervisor:** Dr. Jennifer Ifft  
**Bachelor of Science Agricultural Business**, University of Wyoming May 2020  
**Bachelor of Science Economics**, University of Wyoming May 2020  
• Minor in Honors Program  
**Senior Research Thesis:** *Theoretical Market Situations for Corn and Gasoline Subject to Variable Implementations of the Renewable Fuel Standard.* **Supervisor:** Dr. Benjamin Rashford

## Employment

Jan. 2026 - present Extension Assistant, Dept. of Agricultural Economics Kansas State University  
Jan. 2026 - present Agriculture Program Manager, River Valley Extension District #4  
Oct. 2022 – Jan. 2026 Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent, K-State Research & Extension  
Aug. 2020 – May 2022 Graduate Research Assistant, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University  
Aug. 2020 – May 2022 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University  
Aug. 2017 – May 2020 Data Manager, Rocky Mountain Herbarium, University of Wyoming

## Honors and Awards

Parent Success Scholarship, Kansas State University, 2026.  
Kansas NextGen Under 30 Award, Kansas Department of Commerce, 2024  
Loren E. & Phyllis L. Harris Scholarship, Kansas State University, 2020-2022  
Timothy R. Donoghue Graduate Scholarship, Kansas State University, 2020-2022  
Oscar & Amanda Schmale Agricultural Scholarship, University of Wyoming, 2019-2020  
Rocky Mountain Scholars Award, University of Wyoming, 2017-2020  
Y Cross Ranch Endowment Award, University of Wyoming, 2017-2020  
Botany Service Award, University of Wyoming Botany Department, 2019  
Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, University of Wyoming Chapter, 2019  
Andrew Vanvig Scholarship, University of Wyoming, 2018-2019  
President's Honor Roll, University of Wyoming, 2017-2019  
J. Patrick Kauffman Scholars Award, University of Wyoming, 2017-2018

## Journal Articles

Gaku, Sylvanus, Jennifer Ifft, Brady Brewer, and **Luke Byers**. "The Financial Status and Local Credit Market Conditions of U.S. Farms Engaged in Multiple Borrowing." *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy* 48, no. 1 (September 15, 2025): 266–77. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aep.70027>.

Briggeman, Brian, **Luke Byers**, Jennifer Ifft, Ryan Kuhns, Noah Miller, and Jisang Yu. "Is Us Farm Sector Debt Underestimated? Evidence from Equipment Lending." *Agricultural Finance Review* 84, no. 2/3 (June 28, 2024): 191–207. <https://doi.org/10.1108/afr-12-2023-0168>.

## Working Papers

Sylvanus Gaku, Jennifer Ifft and **Luke Byers**, "The impact of cash flow shocks on farm debt structure." Working Paper, 2024.

## Conference Papers

Sylvanus, Gaku, Jennifer Ifft, and **Luke Byers**. "Farm Loan Concentration and Financial Risk." Paper presented at NC-1177: Agricultural and Rural Finance Markets in Transition, Detroit, MI, October 17-18, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.22004/ag.econ.329258>.

Sylvanus, Gaku, Jennifer Ifft, and **Luke Byers**. "Farm Loan Concentration and Financial Risk." Paper presented at Agricultural & Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA, July 31-August 2, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.22004/ag.econ.322568>.

**Byers, Luke**, Jennifer Ifft, and Noah Miller. "Farm equipment lending trends: implications for USDA farm debt estimates." Paper presented at Agricultural & Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, August 1-3, 2021. [Link](#)

## Extension Publications

**Byers, Luke**, and Kaitlyn Nelson. "2024 River Valley Extension District Lease Survey Summary." [www.Agmanager.info](http://www.Agmanager.info), Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University, January 23, 2025. [agmanager.info/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/RVED\\_LeaseSurvey\\_2024.pdf](http://agmanager.info/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/RVED_LeaseSurvey_2024.pdf)

**Byers, Luke**, and Kaitlyn Nelson. "2022 River Valley Extension District Lease Survey Summary." [www.Agmanager.info](http://www.Agmanager.info), Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University, February 21, 2023. [agmanager.info/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/RiverValley\\_LeaseSurvey\\_2023.pdf](http://agmanager.info/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/RiverValley_LeaseSurvey_2023.pdf)

**Byers, Luke**, and Jennifer Ifft. "Recent Trends in Nontraditional Lending." [www.AgManager.info](http://www.AgManager.info), Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University August 1, 2021. <https://agmanager.info/events/risk-and-profit-conference/previous-conference-proceedings/2021-risk-and-profit-conference-16>

## Grants/Funded Projects

Kansas Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Mini Grant, "2025 Kansas Agricultural Technologies Conference." Total SARE Award: \$2,500.00. PI: **L. Byers**.

Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) – Alpha Rho Chapter, 2023 Extension Endowment Fund Program Innovation Grant, "Passing onto the Next Generation!" Total ESP Award: \$3,000.00. PI: S. Wick. Co-PIs: **L. Byers**, J. Johns, B. Todd.

## Academic/Professional Presentations

**Byers, Luke**. "Woody Encroachment and its Downstream Effects on Land Quality, Productivity, and Scarcity." Presented at Kansas Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers Winter Meeting, Manhattan, KS, February 23, 2024.

**Byers, Luke**. "The 'Going Rate' for Farm Leases." Presented at K-State Research & Extension Agricultural Economics Agent Update, Salina, KS, January 19, 2024.

**Byers, Luke.** “Farm Equipment Lending Trends: Implications for USDA Farm Debt Estimates.” Presented at Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Austin, TX August 1-4, 2021.

**Byers, Luke.** “Generating Value for Customers and Employees Using the Lead Generation 2.0 System.” Presented at Sherwin Williams Northwest Region District Managers Conference, Seattle, WA, August 13, 2019.

### **Extension/Outreach Presentations**

**Byers, Luke.** “Kansas Farm Research Network: A Technical Support System for Farmer-Led Scientific Experiments.” Presented at Kansas Agricultural Technologies Conference. Clay Center, KS, February 20, 2026.

**Byers, Luke.** “The Hidden Cost of Woody Encroachment on Kansas Grazing Lands.” Presented at Clay County Conservation District: Rangelands – Protecting the Best, Reclaiming the Rest. Clay Center, KS, November 6, 2025.

**Byers, Luke.** “Farm Estate Planning with Medicaid.” Presented at Clay Center Lions Club Meeting. Clay Center, KS, May 13, 2025.

**Byers, Luke.** “Cropland Lease Survey Results.” Presented at River Valley Extension District Land Lease Survey Summary Meeting. Clyde, KS, January 23, 2025.

**Byers, Luke.** “The Agriculture Extension Program in Clay, Cloud, Republic, & Washington Counties.” Presented at Clay Center Lions Club Meeting. Clay Center, KS, November 12, 2024.

**Byers, Luke.** “Maximizing Profit: A Mechanistic Approach to Nitrogen Management.” Presented at K-State Research & Extension: Optimizing Soil Fertility for Your Bottom Line. Concordia, KS, January 24, 2024.

**Byers, Luke.** “Agricultural Land Leases in North-Central Kansas.” Presented at River Valley Extension District Land Leasing Strategies Meeting. Concordia, KS, January 23, 2024.

**Byers, Luke.** “Agricultural Land Leases in North-Central Kansas.” Presented at River Valley Extension District Land Leasing Strategies Meeting. Washington, KS, January 16, 2024.

**Byers, Luke.** “Agricultural Land Leases in North-Central Kansas.” Presented at River Valley Extension District Land Leasing Strategies Meeting. Clay Center, KS, December 5, 2023.

**Byers, Luke.** “Agricultural Land Leases in North-Central Kansas.” Presented at River Valley Extension District Land Leasing Strategies Meeting. Belleville, KS, November 28, 2023.

**Byers, Luke.** “Agricultural Hazards.” Presented at K-State Research & Extension Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Training. Beloit, KS, April 29, 2023.

**Byers, Luke.** “Recent Trends in Nontraditional Lending.” Kansas State University Risk and Profit Conference, Manhattan, KS. August 19-20, 2021.

### **Outreach Activities**

#### **Media/Interviews**

“Five Reasons to Celebrate Clay County Agriculture.” Clay County Dispatch Article. March 13, 2026.

“Kansas Farm Research Network Launches Inaugural Year in River Valley District.” KCLY Radio 100.9FM/Clay Center Regional Article. October 27, 2025.

“Big Beautiful Bugs and Bills.” River Valley Extension District Gab in the Cab Podcast. September 1, 2025.

“How do I Get My \$43/ac Payout?” River Valley Extension District Gab in the Cab Podcast. May 2, 2025.

“Tractor Safety Training Offers Job Skills and Certification for Area Teens.” KCLY Radio 100.9FM/Clay Center Regional/Concordia Blade-Empire/Beloit Call Article. April 14, 2025.

“Which do I Choose? PLC or ARC-CO?” River Valley Extension District Gab in the Cab Podcast. March 28, 2025.

“Agricultural Technologies Conference.” (with Darren Hofmann and John West) K-State Radio Network. February 20, 2025.

“Kansas Agricultural Technologies Conference Comes to Clay Center!” Concordia Blade-Empire/Beloit Call Article. February 12, 2025.

“What is the Going Rate for Cash Rent?” River Valley Extension District Gab in the Cab Podcast. January 29, 2025.

“Pesticide Exam Changes? Bah, Humbug!” River Valley Extension District Gab in the Cab Podcast. December 24, 2024.

“KDA Postpones Effective Date for Changes to Private Pesticide Applicator Certification.” KCLY Radio 100.9FM/Clay Center Regional/Concordia Blade-Empire Article. December 20, 2024.

“Agricultural Land Lease Survey Is Now Available.” KCLY Radio 100.9FM/Clay Center Regional Article. December 9, 2024.

“How Will the New EPA Director Change Kansas Agriculture?” River Valley Extension District Gab in the Cab Podcast. November 25, 2024.

“What is Inflation Doing to My Farm?” River Valley Extension District Gab in the Cab Podcast. October 31, 2024.

“The Upside to Down Grain Prizes?” River Valley Extension District Gab in the Cab Podcast. October 14, 2024.

“Commerce Dept. Honors Local Young Professionals: NextGen 30 Under 30.” KCLY Radio 100.9FM/Clay Center Regional Interview. September 16, 2024.

“River Valley Extension District: And the Winner Is...” NCKToday.com Interview. July 31, 2024.

“River Valley Extension District Will Host Conference.” KCLY Radio 100.9FM/Clay Center Regional Interview. August 16, 2023.

“USDA-NASS Releases March Reports.” KCLY Radio 100.9FM/Clay Center Regional Article. April 7, 2023.

“PLC and ARC Program Updates.” Belleville Telescope Article. March 1, 2023.

### **Regular Radio Spot**

“River Valley Scoop.” Concordia Radio KNCK 1390AM-98.3FM Interview. January 27, 2026.

“River Valley Scoop.” Concordia Radio KNCK 1390AM-98.3FM Interview. December 2, 2025.

“River Valley Scoop.” Concordia Radio KNCK 1390AM-98.3FM Interview. October 8, 2025.

“River Valley Scoop.” Concordia Radio KNCK 1390AM-98.3FM Interview. March 31, 2025.

“River Valley Scoop.” Concordia Radio KNCK 1390AM-98.3FM Interview. January 24, 2025.

“River Valley Scoop.” Concordia Radio KNCK 1390AM-98.3FM Interview. November 26, 2024.

“River Valley Scoop.” Concordia Radio KNCK 1390AM-98.3FM Interview. July 30, 2024.

“River Valley Scoop.” Concordia Radio KNCK 1390AM-98.3FM Interview. May 13, 2024.

“River Valley Scoop.” Concordia Radio KNCK 1390AM-98.3FM Interview. May 7, 2024.

“River Valley Scoop.” Concordia Radio KNCK 1390AM-98.3FM Interview. April 9, 2024.

“River Valley Scoop.” Concordia Radio KNCK 1390AM-98.3FM Interview. February 13, 2024.

“River Valley Scoop.” Concordia Radio KNCK 1390AM-98.3FM Interview. December 18, 2023.

“River Valley Scoop.” Concordia Radio KNCK 1390AM-98.3FM Interview. October 18, 2023.

“River Valley Scoop.” Concordia Radio KNCK 1390AM-98.3FM Interview. August 7, 2023.

“River Valley Scoop.” Concordia Radio KNCK 1390AM-98.3FM Interview. July 3, 2023.

“River Valley Scoop.” Concordia Radio KNCK 1390AM-98.3FM Interview. May 16, 2023.

“River Valley Scoop.” Concordia Radio KNCK 1390AM-98.3FM Interview. March 27, 2023.

“River Valley Scoop.” Concordia Radio KNCK 1390AM-98.3FM Interview. December 20, 2022.

“River Valley Scoop.” Concordia Radio KNCK 1390AM-98.3FM Interview. November 28, 2022.

## **Teaching Experience**

### **Graduate Teaching Assistant (Kansas State University)**

AGEC 500: Production Economics (Fall 2020)

AGEC 520: Market Fundamentals and Futures/Options Trading (Fall 2020)

## **Other Work Experience**

May 2022 – Oct. 2022 Farm Operations Technician, Frank Farms, Inc.

May 2019 – Aug. 2019 Management Intern, Sherwin Williams Paint Company

Sep. 2015 – Aug. 2016 Farm Operations Employee, Beidel Bros. Dairy Farm

## **Skills/Training/Languages**

R and RStudio, FINPACK, ArcGIS, Microsoft Office Suite, CattleMax, National Geographic TOPO

Latin (Reading, writing, and speaking basic to intermediate level). Three years of formal education

Portuguese (Reading, writing, and speaking basic to intermediate level). Informal education in Portugal

## **Professional/Community Service**

North Central Kansas Experiment Farm Planning Committee Member, Oct. 2022 – Jan. 2026

Kansas Association of County Agricultural Agents Teaching & Educational Technologies Committee Member, Mar. 2023 – Jan. 2026

Kansas Association of County Agricultural Agents Agricultural Economics & Community Development Committee Member, Mar. 2023 – Jan. 2026

Farm Management Program Focus Team Agent Co-Chair, Oct. 2023 – Oct. 2025

Kansas Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge Judge, Apr. 2025

Clay County Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge Judge, Mar. 2025

North Central Kansas FFA Public Speaking Career Development Event Judge, Feb. 2025

North Central Kansas FFA Discussion Meet Career Development Event Judge, Mar. 2024

North Central Kansas FFA Public Speaking Career Development Event Judge, Jan. 2024

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting Abstract Reviewer, Feb. 2021

Senior Counselor, Centro Biblico de Esmoriz (Esmoriz, PT) Jun. - Jul. 2019

American Red Cross of Wyoming Volunteer, Jan. 2018

Senior Counselor, Camp Joy El (Greencastle, PA), May – Aug. 2017

Eagle Scout Rank Project Boy Scouts of America, Mar. 2017

## **Affiliations**

National Association of County Agricultural Agents

Kansas Association of County Agricultural Agents

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association