

The Quarterly E-Newsletter of the Department of Agricultural Economics | May 2019



From the desk of Allen Featherstone

As we head into summer, I would like to congratulate all of our students who graduated this spring. We look forward to following your accomplishments as you head onto the next stage in your life's journey.

In this E-Newsletter, we share stories about some of those graduating seniors. They exemplify the best and brightest we have in the department, and we are proud to have had a part in developing these young leaders as well as all of our graduates.

One of our junior students recently placed in a national competition. Jayden Meyer demonstrated his expertise to gain an edge for his own family owned operation.

Finally, we visit with department extension associate Robin Reid. Reid has an additional position and a new Farm Bill team to train, and is up to the challenge.

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 in many areas. If you have interest in knowing areas for investment, let me know.

Please take time to learn more about the activities of our department including our annual tailgate party October 5, 2019. 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, at tomreust@ksu.edu with information you would like to share with your fellow alumni.

Go Cats!

Dr. Allen Featherstone,
Department Head, Professor,
Master of Agribusiness Program Director



2019 Outstanding Seniors

Every year the Department of Agricultural Economics recognizes the best and brightest senior students with Outstanding Senior Awards. In 2019, five students were honored highlighting exemplary academics and community engagement outside the classroom. Justin Bina, Bailey Peterson, Del Adcock, Claudia Hisson and Adam Holtorf received the award in a recent ceremony held in Waters Hall, attended by faculty and friends of the department.

Dr. Christine Wilson, Undergraduate Program Director, says the committee looks at key attributes when selecting the awardees, “We look for students that excel academically and show outstanding leadership while they attended our program.”

Justin Bina, from Marion, Kansas, was a student fellow for the Center of Risk Management and Educational Research (CRMER) beginning January of 2018. Bina recently received the WAEA outstanding undergraduate student award. He has authored several AgManager.info fact sheets on risk management during his time as an undergraduate student. Bina completed a study abroad trip to India as part of his undergraduate degree.

Bina says the CRMER opportunity helped broaden his experience with many different types of companies and events, “We do volunteer work, guest lectures, field trips to Chicago and Washington, D.C. to study how risk is handled in many different industries.”

Bina will be pursuing his M.S. degree here in the Department of Agricultural Economics this fall.

Adam Holtorf, from Seward, Nebraska, excelled at being a starting offensive lineman for the Kansas State University football team and getting top marks in his coursework. As an athlete, he worked over 30 hours a week to hone his skills on the field. Holtorf was the offensive line leader, and was looked up to by over 130 teammates. He received the Academic All-American award and All Big 12 football team. Holtorf worked with the program “Cats in the Classroom”, and visited schools across the state reading to children from Kindergarten to sixth grade.

Holtorf urges undergraduate students to get engaged early in their time within the Department of Agricultural Economics, “It’s extremely important to be involved in organizations like the agribusiness club and intramural sports. You should meet as many people as you can and make connections in organizations while you have the chance to help you in whatever career field you choose after college.”

Holtorf is pursuing a MBA degree at Kansas State University, and will play football again next fall.

Bailey Peterson, from Buhler, Kansas, says her strategy for her undergraduate degree was having a clear goal in mind. Peterson wants to continue her education to obtain a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics. She worked with her advisor, Dr. Nathan Hendricks, to map out her classes that will help her achieve her goals. In addition, Peterson served as a College of Agriculture Student Ambassador, was a member of the Clovia sorority, and worked extensively with the Kansas Future Farmers of America program.

“I took advanced math classes like applied matrix theory, and calculus instead of business math to get ahead of the curve,” says Peterson. “I really have a passion for teaching and students, and the classes I really enjoyed were the agricultural economics classes.”

Bailey plans to pursue her masters degree in Agricultural Economics next fall.

Del Adcock, from Assumption, Illinois, believes his experiences in the Department of Agricultural Economics gave him the tools for success. Adcock recently came in third in a competition hosting over 500 teams from across the world sponsored by the Chicago Mercantile and Exchange. He was involved in the AgEcon Club and has been a student fellow in CRMER since his junior year. He served as a College of Agriculture Ambassador, and traveled to India as a study abroad student from the department. Adcock believes those types of activities are an important part of the college experience.

“What you do outside the classroom is just as important as keeping up your grades,” says Adcock. “My grandpa told me ‘don’t let classes get in the way of your education’ when I came to Kansas State.”

Adcock will be joining the Bartlett Grain Company in Kansas City after graduation.

Claudia Hissong, from Greencastle, Pennsylvania, credits her involvement in extracurricular activities as what sets her apart as well. Hissong was involved in Block and Bridle, undergraduate research, served as the president of the College of Agriculture Ambassadors, and was a student fellow in CRMER. Hissong went on a study abroad trip to Italy, and interned with Cargill.

“I had some great cross disciplinary experiences as an undergraduate,” says Hissong. “I have had really great professors here that have sparked my interest in continuing my education.”

Hissong will pursue a M.S. in Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University, and hopes to go on to get her Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics in the future.

Wilson says that the drive to participate in opportunities outside the classroom and show initiative has really shown itself in this year’s awardees. “We have such an amazing group of students, and we are all very proud of each and every one of them.”



Justin Bina, Bailey Peterson, Del Adcock, Claudia Hissong, Adam Holtorf
Department of Agricultural Economics E-Newsletter June 2019

College of Agriculture Student Ambassadors



Gracie Danner

The College of Agriculture ambassadors represent the college to students and alumni at events across the country. Over 60 students represent the college and assist with outreach efforts. Assistant Dean of Academic Programs, Sandy Klein says the Department of Agricultural Economics has a strong presence in the program.

“Kansas State University College of Agriculture Ambassadors host perspective students and family on campus and tell their own stories about their time in the college,” says Klein.

Gracie Danner, senior in Agricultural Economics from West Liberty, Iowa, believes peer to peer conversations are an important part of communication, “My favorite part about being an ambassador is getting one-on-one time with prospective students and their families. Prospective students seem to be more comfortable asking me about my experiences at K-State versus a faculty member sometimes. I enjoy hearing about their interests and past experiences and helping them find the right major, minor or club at K-State that would really fit their interests. It is especially rewarding when you see a student on campus who you helped on a visit or ag experience day!”

Being an ambassador means passing the College of Agriculture Training (CAT) program during the fall semester. Applicants are interviewed and prepare presentations for the position. According to the college, new ambassadors are selected off a scoring process.

Danner says the process of becoming an ambassador was enlightening, “In the CAT class we learned about all of the different majors, minors, facilities, and clubs associated with the College of Agriculture, so we could explain what the college has to offer.”

“We look for outgoing, welcoming and passionate ambassadors that are able to share their experiences within the college. They offer a student view behind the scenes of the college and the university, and are invaluable to our recruitment efforts,” says Klein.

Claudia Hissong, senior in Agricultural Economics from Greencastle, Pennsylvania, served as the most recent president for the group. She appreciated the experience to interact with other fields within agriculture.

“It really helped me to break out of the silo of being involved in my major,” says Hissong. “Being able to share my passion for the college and the program was one of the highlights of my undergraduate career.”

New ambassadors have recently been selected and the Department of Agricultural Economics has 13 new students representing the college for the upcoming year. Those members are from Kansas: Walker Clawson from Meade, Natalie Harris from Abilene, Holly Holthaus from Beattie, Jayde Reiss from Plains, Kate Cooper from Garnett, Michaela Forst from Marysville, Kinsey Griffith from Wakeeney, Maria Kimzey from Fredonia, Dannell Kopp from Hiawatha, and Courtney Sherbert from



Claudia Hissong

Morganville. From Nebraska: Brea Hostert from Atkinson, Nebraska. From Pennsylvania: Daniel Rohrbaugh from Seven Valleys. From Oregon: Reed Middleton from Hermiston.

Jayden Meyer: NACTA Event



Jayden Meyer

A Department of Agricultural Economics student, Jayden Meyer, recently earned top awards at a recent North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Judging Conference at Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky as part of the university crop team. Competing against 25 teams across a broad spectrum of events, the Kansas State University team placed first over Iowa State University to get its first win at the event since 2014.

Meyer, a junior in Agricultural Economics from Smith Center, won first place in the harvesting technology event, fifth place in the math practical, and earned eighth place overall in the individual rankings. The crops contest consisted of laboratory, agronomics, math, and plant and seed identification. Meyer helped the team to go undefeated in the Knowledge Bowl in the winners bracket.

Meyer says there was a lot preparation for the event, “We have been practicing all year for the contest itself.”

In high school, Meyer’s involvement in the Future Farmers of America led him into the crops contest. His experiences in those early contests became the impetus to keep competing as he entered college. In fact, Meyer says his performance in the NACTA contest benefits from his background in FFA, his applied knowledge gained from his Agricultural Economics classes, and passion for the subject matter.

Meyer wants to use all of his experiences from the competitions and classes to return to the farm and run the operation. “I’ve always been interested in agriculture, and these types of events let me see a wider view of how other operations handle the challenges we see in modern agriculture.”

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Agricultural Economics

Robin Reid



Robin Reid is tackling a new challenge that comes from her additional role as the Program Leader Coordinator for Agriculture and Natural Resources for Kansas State Research and Extension (KSRE). The position oversees initiatives in commercial agriculture, and resource conservation. Reid joined the Department of Agricultural Economics in 2015 as an Extension Associate. Previously, Reid was a District Extension Agent in Clay, Cloud, Washington, and Republic Counties.

Reid says her time as an agent helps give her a unique perspective, “I can see both sides of issues from the administration to the issues facing agents on the ground.”

Currently, Reid is working with a team providing 2018 Farm Bill training. As the new Farm Bill enters into the implementation phase, the team is getting ready to roll out a program to educate producers and extension agents to understand the changes from the previous bill. An initial webinar has been set covering key concepts for agents.

Robin Reid

Reid says the prospect of training producers and extension agents on the Farm Bill can be daunting, “The previous team provided over 150 meetings across the state, and trained over 10,000 producers.”

Finding the right time to hold the training is also challenging. With wheat planting occurring during the sign-up period, it will be a tight fit in the schedule to ensure producers are able to attend the sessions. Reid says that’s where working with the local extension agents will become even more important. However, she believes information is crucial for producers and agents to make decisions in the current market conditions.

“The previous farm bill decisions were made during a market upswing, but producers need to understand the program to manage their operation to enhance profit, while understanding the risk exposure of each choice,” says Reid.

The 2018 Farm Bill team consists of Dr. Mykel Taylor, Dr. Monte Vandever, and Dr. Rich Llewellyn from the Department of Agricultural Economics. Reid is confident their expertise will be important in developing educational programs.

“This is a great team, and we are building on the frame work set by the previous Farm Bill training initiative,” says Reid.

Currently, training is being provided by the United States Department of Agriculture on the 2018 Farm Bill. Reid expects the 2018 Farm Bill training team will be available in late August. The 2018 Farm Bill training and events times and locations will be available on <https://www.agmanager.info>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Risk and Profit Conference

August 22 - 23, 2019

Manhattan

Kansas State University/Washburn University School of Law Agribusiness Symposium

September 13, 2019

Hutchinson

2019 Scholarship and Awards Banquet

October 4, 2019

Agricultural Economics Tailgate Party

October 5, 2019

Ag Lenders Conferences

October 8, 2019

Garden City

October 9, 2019

Manhattan

1603 Old Claflin Place
342 Waters Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506-4011
192-001



Facebook facebook.com/ksuageconomics



Twitter [@kstateagecon](https://twitter.com/kstateagecon)



YouTube youtube.com/kstateagecon

Brand names appearing in this publication are for product identification purposes only. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.
Contents of this publication may be freely reproduced for educational purposes. All other rights reserved.