



KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Agricultural Economics



From the desk of Dr. Allen Featherstone

We have completed the academic year and are gearing up for the Fall of 2023. You'll find information on the numerous awards received by our students, faculty and staff over the last year at https://www.ageconomics.k-state.edu/about/awards_honors/index.html.

Featured in this newsletter are articles on:

- 2023 Outstanding Seniors
- 2022 Distinguished Alum Lon Frahm
- New faculty in the Agricultural Economics Department
- Dr. Nelson Villoria received a Fulbright Scholar Award
- 2022-23 Scholarship Awards
- Three graduate students named Farm Foundation Ag Scholars
- The Evolving Kansas Farmer Cooperative Landscape
- Antonina Broyaka's journey from the Ukraine to the U.S.
- Calendar of upcoming events

In the fall we will honor a new distinguished alumni member at our annual scholarship and awards banquet. We hope you will join us for the scholarship banquet Friday, September 22 and at the tailgate event before the September 23 football game against new Big 12 member University of Central Florida. Be watching for more information on both events.

Our achievements are directly related to the continued support of our alumni and corporate sponsorships. We appreciate the dedication and engagement of our alumni and outside supporters. Thank you to our generous donors who give back to the Department. If you have an interest in giving before the end of the year, please contact me about departmental needs or go to our Give Back page to contribute.

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 Mary Sullivan, our communications coordinator, at mjbowen@ksu.edu with information you would like to share with your fellow alumni.

Go Cats!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen M. Featherstone".

Dr. Allen Featherstone

Department Head, Professor, Master of Agribusiness Program Director, University Distinguished Professor

Frahm named Agricultural Economics Distinguished Alum

The Department of Agricultural Economics selected Lon Frahm as the 2022 Distinguished Alum. The award is given annually to an alum who has demonstrated significant professional achievement related to agricultural economics or agribusiness.

"It is quite an honor to be invited back to speak to students and faculty as part of the Distinguished Alumni program. I am grateful for the opportunity," Frahm said.

As the driving force behind Frahm Farmland, Inc., he is the 6th generation to farm in Thomas County, KS. Frahm has been at the helm of Frahm Farmland, Inc. since 1986 when his father's sudden death launched the then-28-year-old into the farm's lead role. Since then, Frahm has grown the operation from 5,000 acres to more than 30,000 and continues to look for opportunities to enhance the business.

Frahm completed his bachelor's degrees in business administration and agricultural economics and later his Master of Agribusiness (MAB), all from Kansas State University.

"I'd been out of school for 20 years when I went back to the master's program. The MAB program helped me figure out what was a big risk and what wasn't. Those tools helped us make wise decisions about what risks we should take.

"During the program, I learned Word and Excel.



The crew all learned it along with me. Today, the farm runs on Excel," Frahm said. "Education is one of the best investments of your time and dollars. Lifelong learning is part of my mission and vision."

He has also taken part in numerous professional educational programs, including Kansas Ag and Rural Leadership, Leadership Kansas and The Executive Program for Agricultural Producers with Texas A&M University, and Harvard Agribusiness Seminar. A particular high point in Frahm's career came in 2009 when he was named Farm Journal's Top Producer of the Year. He has since been invited to a variety of educational and business venues to speak on farm management and other areas of expertise.

While the vast majority of Frahm's time and energy is spent managing the business and marketing aspects of the farm, he does find time to pursue his other passions, including landscaping, music, cars, boats, motorcycles, architecture, books and reading, international travel and aviation. He also places great importance on local community development and he has served on a variety of boards and committees, including High Plains Public Radio, the Thomas County Historical Society, Groundwater Management District #4 and the Citizens Medical Center, among others.



Lon Frahm speaking to students and their families at the Agricultural Economics Banquet



New faculty join Agricultural Economics Department



Aaron Johnson joined the Department of Agricultural Economics in the fall of 2022 as an associate professor. His areas of focus are entrepreneurial skills, sales and sales management, strategic management, and marketing and marketing management. Johnson conducts research in the areas of new venture creation, business management, strategic management and strategic marketing. Currently, he teaches Small Business Operations, Food and Agribusiness Management, and Food and Agribusiness Management Strategy. A major priority of his is to develop future professionals who can deliver value to whatever endeavor they pursue. In doing so, he values industry engagement both in consulting roles and through connecting industry and students. Prior to joining Kansas State University, Johnson was at the University of Idaho conducting research and teaching agribusiness management students for fifteen years. Prior to that, he was the Food Business Strategy Specialist at Oregon State University's Food Innovation Center in downtown Portland, where he worked with hundreds of food business startups. Dr. Johnson received his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University.



Joe Parcell joined the Department of Agricultural Economics in this spring as a professor and Director of the Center for Risk Management Education and Research. His focus is on risk management and policy solutions leading to strategic opportunities for businesses and individuals to be innovative, resilient, and profitable. Recognizing that no solution is found in isolation, Parcell's approach is to use systems design in modeling decision processes. This allows for robust solutions to agency-level questions. He teaches AGE 751 Risk Management Fellows Seminar. Parcell received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Northern Iowa, and he earned his master's and doctoral degree from Kansas State University. Prior to returning to K-State, he served as Division Director of the Applied Social Sciences division from 2017-2022 at the University of Missouri. He is a dedicated leader, teacher, mentor, and researcher with over 25 years of academic and consulting experience.

Agricultural Economics Outstanding Seniors 2023

The Agricultural Economics Department has selected four students to receive the Department's 2023 Outstanding Senior Award: Hannah Ballard, Ashley Hartman, Jenae Tilford, and Parker Vulgamore. The award recognizes seniors in the Agricultural Economics Department for their significant contributions during their time at K-State.

"The Department of Agricultural Economics is proud to select four students as our outstanding seniors for 2023. These students have all represented our Department, College, or University through various capacities and have been a joy to work with during their time at KSU. We are proud of their academic accomplishments as well as their leadership skills and are excited to continue to watch them succeed as alumni of our program!" Dr. Elizabeth Yeager, Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics and Director of Undergraduate Programs, said.

The following students were recipients of Agricultural Economics Outstanding Senior Award:

Hannah Ballard, Madison, Kansas, graduated from the department in Agribusiness in December. During her time at K-State, Ballard served as the President of Alpha of Clovia 4-H Cooperative Leadership house, was an active member in the Agricultural Economics Club, Alpha Zeta, Kansas Corn Collegiate Academy, and a team member of the International Food and Agribusiness Marketing Association, who won the 2022 international championship in Costa Rica. Additionally, Ballard was honored as the College of Agriculture Student of the Month. She gained valuable work experience as a student worker for the Agricultural Economics department, where she had the opportunity to travel to the World Ag Expo in California to recruit students for the College of Agriculture. Ballard now lives and works in Baldwin City, Kansas for Frontier Farm Credit as an Insurance Services Officer.

"I am honored to receive the outstanding senior award. My time in the Agricultural Economics Department at Kansas State is something I will look back on for many years to come. I will forever be grateful for all the special connections I made with faculty, staff, and students. K-State has some of the best and I am so proud to be an Ag Econ K-State Alum!" Ballard said.

Ashley Hartman, Waterloo, Illinois, grew up in Waterloo, IL on her family's grain farm. She graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics with a specialty in Marketing and minor in Animal Science. Throughout her time at K-State, Hartman was involved in many organizations. She was part of the Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority, College of Ag Ambassadors, NAMA team, Dairy Science Club, and Gamma Sigma Delta. Hartman has held many leadership roles such as President and Secretary of Dairy Science Club, Secretary and Treasurer of Sigma Alpha, Director of Involvement in Ag Ambassadors, and Dairy Chairman for Little American Royal. Academically, she maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her four years at K-State. Hartman gained various work experience from working on her family's farm to working at the USDA as an office assistant to interning for John Deere with the Baling and Mowing Marketing team. Back home, she is part of the Monroe County Farm Bureau Young Leaders and Waterloo FFA Alumni. After graduation, Hartman will join the John Deere Marketing Development Program.

"I am honored to be named an Outstanding Senior for the Department of Agricultural Economics. I have greatly enjoyed my time at K-State and this is largely due to their classes and faculty that have helped me grow over the last four years," Hartman said.

Jenae Tilford, Roca, Nebraska, decided to come to K-State because of the great agricultural programs and the welcoming family atmosphere. She majored in Agricultural Economics and Global Food



Hannah Ballard



Ashley Hartman



Jenae Tillford



Parker Vulgamore

Systems Leadership. Throughout her undergraduate degree Tillford was involved in Pre-Law Ambassadors, Economics Club, Kappa Alpha Theta, Gamma Sigma Delta, and Hands-on K-State. In the summer Tillford will be interning with the Kansas Department of Agriculture in their Water Resources Division. In the fall, we will start her master's in agriculture economics at K-State.

"I'm very honored and grateful to have been selected for this award and to receive it in such great company. It means a lot to me to have had the support of the Agricultural Economics Department for the past four years," Tillford said.

Parker Vulgamore, Scott City, Kansas, studied agricultural economics with a pre-law specialty. On campus, he served as the Student Body President of Kansas State, was a member and the former chapter president of the Delta Upsilon Fraternity and served as a Pre-Law Ambassador. He is also a member of the Delta Upsilon International Fraternity board of directors. Vulgamore is the third generation of his family to study agriculture at Kansas State, and he is the fifth generation to grow up living and working on his family's farm in Scott City, Kansas. After graduation, he plans to pursue a master's in agricultural economics at Kansas State.

"I'm truly honored and humbled to be recognized with this award from the people who have made my undergraduate experience truly outstanding. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Department of Agricultural Economics for the crucial support and exceptional education that has enabled my success and inspired my dreams. The academic advising, connections in industry, and legacy of outstanding students in the department are second to none," Vulgamore said.

Upcoming Events

Kansas Income Tax Institute

The program is for tax professionals and is designed to provide up-to-date training on current tax law, regulations, and updates.

- June 15-16, Petoskey, MI - 2023 Farm and Ranch Income Tax/ Estate and Business Planning Seminar
- November 2-3, Online
- November 6-7, Garden City
- November 8-9, Hays
- November 20-21, Lawrence
- November 27-28, Salina
- December 7-8 Wichita
- December 13-14, Pittsburg
- December 18-19, Online
- Ethics - Topeka and Online

Risk and Profit Conference

August 17-18

K-State Alumni Center, Manhattan

This conference provides you with opportunities to interact with other producers as well as Ag Economics faculty.

Agricultural Economics Scholarship Banquet

September 22, K-State Alumni Center, Manhattan

Agricultural Economics Tailgate

September 23, Manhattan, KS

KSU vs UCF

Ag Lenders Conference

K-State's annual Agricultural Lenders Conferences are designed to provide the Kansas financial community with updates on current agricultural topics. But it's not only for lenders and bankers. Producers, landlords, crop insurance agents, and agribusiness managers also attend.

- September 26, Garden City
- September 27, Manhattan and Online

Kansas Crop Insurance Workshop

This one-day workshop will help crop insurance agents, agricultural lenders, farmers/ranchers, and other financial consultants provide better risk management information and advice to their clients or apply to their farm-ranch. If you are involved in the crop insurance industry, either as an agent, a producer, or an ag lender, you should consider attending this workshop.

- October 18, Akron, CO
- October 19, Grand Island, NE
- October 20, Salina

For more information on conferences, go to AgManager.info

Villoria receives Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to Brazil

The U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board are pleased to announce that Nelson Villoria, associate professor of agricultural economics at Kansas State University, received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award to Brazil.

Nelson Villoria will work with colleagues at the Escola Superior de Agricultura Luis de Queiroz (ESALQ), Universidade de Sao Paulo as part of a project to understand the role of Brazil's farmers and agribusinesses on reducing deforestation. The study is a part of a broader effort investigating the conditions under which supply chain actions can help to reduce deforestation.

"Deforestation is a major cause of biodiversity loss and the second largest contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions after fossil fuels. Proposed legislation in the US, the European Union, and the United Kingdom to curb tropical deforestation relies on policies that assume that agribusiness corporations can use their market power to compel farmers in the tropics to change production practices. Soy is central to these policies as it drives land clearing in Brazil, the world's main soy producer and host of large vulnerable ecosystems. Yet, with strong competition for soy among actors with different environmental priorities, it is an open question whether the current structure of soy markets is compatible with the intended policy objectives," stated Villoria. "I am thrilled to have this opportunity to work with the faculty and researchers at ESALQ. This project will identify the incentives needed for corporate policies in Brazil's soy sector to reduce forest loss and will provide a framework to study other forest-risk commodities in the tropics."

As a Fulbright Scholar, Villoria will share knowledge and foster meaningful connections across communities in the United States and Brazil. Fulbrighters engage in cutting-edge research and expand their professional networks, often continuing research collaborations started abroad and laying the groundwork for forging future partnerships between institutions. Upon returning to their institutions, labs, and classrooms, in the United States, they share their stories and often become active supporters of international exchange, inviting foreign scholars to campus and encouraging colleagues and students to go abroad. As Fulbright Scholar alumni, their careers are enriched by joining a network of thousands of esteemed scholars, many of whom are leaders in their fields. Fulbright alumni include 60 Nobel Prize laureates,



88 Pulitzer Prize recipients, and 39 who have served as a head of state or government.

"The Agricultural Economics Department is pleased that Dr. Villoria was selected for the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program," Dr. Allen Featherstone, professor and department head, said. "This is a great opportunity for him to meet with farmers and agribusinesses in Brazil to better understand deforestation. Nelson will bring all of that knowledge and research back to K-State to share with students, faculty and producers in Kansas and around the nation."

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program and is supported by the people of the United States and partner countries around the world. The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs is pleased to announce that 2021 marked the 75th Anniversary of the Fulbright Program.

Since 1946, the Fulbright Program has provided more than 400,000 participants from over 160 countries the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas, and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns. The primary source of funding for the Fulbright program is an annual appropriation by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Participating governments and host institutions, corporations and foundations in foreign countries and in the United States also provide direct and indirect support.

Three graduate students named Farm Foundation Agricultural Scholars

Three K-State Agricultural Economics graduate students were named Agricultural Scholars by the Farm Foundation, an accelerator of practical solutions for agriculture. Nominated by their college dean or department head, up to 15 applied or agricultural economics students are selected for this exclusive program, with at least five to be chosen from 1890 land-grant institutions. Micah Cameron-Harp, Ph.D. graduate; Ashling Murphy, master's degree graduate; and Amber Oerly, master's degree graduate, were selected for the 2022 program.

The Ag Scholars program seeks to actively engage graduate students working in agricultural economics or related agricultural policy work with a year-long series of learning experiences, focused on gaining a deeper understanding of production agriculture, agribusiness, and government, in hopes of inspiring and training the next generation of agricultural economists interested in agricultural policy, commodity market analysis, agricultural finance, and other applied fields of economics. This annual program is sponsored in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Economic Research Service (ERS).

"The Agricultural Scholars Fellowship Program with the Farm Foundation has provided me with a unique and inspiring experience. Not only has the program allowed me to do professional networking with industry leaders and peers in other graduate school across the country, it has also allowed me to further develop my technical skills in agricultural economics through engagement with USDA ERS economists and staff," Oerly said. "The program is intentionally focused on preparing future agricultural economists, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to be involved in with their group!"



Events and projects conducted throughout the year include a mentorship with an ERS senior analyst, a research project and ag-focused forums and meetings, such as a World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) "lock-up" session and Farm Foundation Round Table meetings. Scholars also meet with and learn from senior executives with agribusinesses and local trade associations.

"One week before the Farm Foundation's June Round Table meeting, I was in Florida for the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists' (AERE) annual meeting. Looking back, I think those two weeks at AERE and the Round Table are a perfect example of the incredible opportunities afforded by the Farm Foundation's Agricultural Scholars program.

The Farm Foundation continually supports the academic efforts and research pursuits of the Scholars, while also giving us opportunities to network with stakeholders throughout the agricultural sector," Cameron-Harp said.

When Cameron-Harp was notified the paper he submitted was selected for the summer AERE summer conference, the Farm Foundation sponsored his trip to Miami so he could present the paper. From that experience he gained more than a trip; he was able to present his paper and receive feedback.

"The paper I presented there is co-authored with my thesis advisor, Dr. Nathan Hendricks, and it's titled: 'Dynamic effects of irrigation technology: When increasing irrigation efficiency reduces groundwater use.' In our paper, we investigate whether improvements in irrigation efficiency reduced irrigators' groundwater withdrawals in Kansas, and we find markedly different changes in groundwater use over time depending on the type of technology adopted," he said.

"As our paper was part of a session on water resources, the feedback and discussion we had afterwards was fantastic. To then have water be one of the main topics at the Round Table meeting just one week later was too good to be true," Cameron-Harp said. "At the Round Table meeting, I had the chance to discuss the very same results with producers and providers of irrigation technology. As I saw the challenges they face in maintaining, installing, and operating irrigation systems, it helped me contextualize my research and understand my results in new ways."



Amber Oerly, Ashling Murphy, and Micah Cameron-Harp in Idaho during a Farm Foundation Ag Scholar event.

Bottom left: Farm Foundation Scholars 2022-23

2022-23 Scholarship Award Recipients

**Aaron Patrick Morrison
Scholarship**
Brooklynn Bennett

**Adrian John Polansky II
Scholarship**
Alexis Hansen

**American AgCredit
Scholarship**
David Branson
Ashlind Gumpenberger
Cole Regehr
Taran Zoltenko

**Bill Hanson Crop Insurance
Professionals Association
Memorial Scholarship**
Hattie Polson

**Charles Dean and Harriet
McNeal Memorial
Scholarship**
Sydney Beesley
Brooklynn Bennett
Garin Cooper
Presli Firkins
Maci Gerken
Weston Guetterman
Hunter Hatcher
Callie Humbolt
Lane Klepper
Rhett Larson
Aaron Maxwell
Daelynn Peine
Landon Rau
Cole Rogers
Aubrey Weatherbie
Ray Wright

**Charles W. and Lois H.
Nauheim Agricultural
Economics Scholarship**
Sage Dierks
Elise Jackson
Jayla Johnson
Calder McCollum

**CHS Foundation
Scholarship**
Katie Cummings
James DeRouchey
Cara DeTar

Ashley Hartman
Kagan Keeten
Piper Schlatter
Caleb Stout
Liberty Thompson
Gillian Villa
Baylee Wulfschuhle

**Cleo Harvey Kuhn
Scholarship**
Joshua Kreisler

**CoBank Outstanding
Student Scholarship**
Hannah Ballard
Riley Buss
Ely Eslinger

**Dan and Beth Bird
Scholarship in Agricultural
Economics**
Kade McGinn
Brett Pendland
Parker Vulgamore
Sydney Yancy

Dave Woolfolk Scholarship
Makenna Campbell

**David and Susan Barton
Cooperative Leadership
Scholarship**
Samantha Mies
Bryston Warren

**Dr. Walter Heid Agricultural
Economics Scholarship**
Andrew Husband
Alison Wilson

**Duane and Pauline Murphy
Scholarship**
Courtney Clinesmith

**E. Robert and Donna Kern
Agricultural Economics
Scholarship**
Lauren Rudy

**Farmers National Company
Foundation Scholarship**
Curtis Bloom

**Flinchbaugh Agriculture
Policy Scholarship**
Grace Otott

**George R. Hanson
Scholarship in Agriculture**
Koby Royer

**Gladwin A. Read Memorial
Fund Scholarship**
Blake Allender
Sanders Barbee
Matthew Baumgartner
Beau Bennett
Curtis Bloom
Brody Canant
Bailey Eck
Tyler Entz
Michael Farenden
Connor Fisher
Landon Gegen
Jacklyn Geiger
Matthew Hammes
Michael Hill
Philip Hodges
Jack Holmes
Colby Hough
Justin House
Cooper Jaro
Cody Jarvis
Kyle Johnston
Cameron Keefer
Jackson Lindamood
Spencer Macke
John Mayer
Jackson McVey
William Molloy
Bailey Palecki
Matthew Pauly
Blake Penka
Hattie Polson
Bailey Price
Mollie Reno
Ella Roberts
Koby Royer
James Runyan
Britney Sanchez
Halle Schindler

Nicholas Schmitt
Jacob Seager
Dawsen Shalberg
Burke Shapland
Sydney Sherer
Daegan Steinlage
Maccoy Stika
Parker Stoecklein
Quinton Stoecklein
Joseph Stout
Jarrett Truelove
Brannan Vail
Kristopher Wagner
Jon Wells
David Wesseler
Chantry Williamson
Alison Wilson

**Hosea S. Harkness
Agricultural Economics
Scholarship**
Jackson Lindamood

**J. Adair Hodges Memorial
Fellowship Scholarship**
Ashlind Gumpenberger
Kagan Keeten
Kaitlyn Scott

**James E. Pruden Jr.
Memorial Scholarship**
Jenae Tilford

**Jim and Mary Lou Birkbeck
Family Scholarship**
Riley Buss
Grete Olsen

**John & Pearl E. Bullock
Scholarship**
Paige Vulgamore

**Joseph Lieber Memorial
Cooperative Scholarship**
Jalen Tucker



**Kansas Ag Bankers
Scholarship**

Laurynn Karr
Sarah Wood

**Leonard W Schruben
Agricultural Economics
Scholarship**

Corbin Smith

**Matthew Kent Stamper
Memorial Scholarship**

Jarek Meyer

**Orlen Grunewald Ag Econ
Scholarship**

Katie Pralle

**Otis and Mary Lee Molz
Cooperative Scholarship**

Katelyn Reiff

**Packebush Family –
Mary Vanier KSU Family
Scholarship**

Trent Beier

**Ruth McClanahan
Dotson and John Dotson
Agricultural Economics
Scholarship**

Maci Behrnes

**Sam and Martha Logan –
Kruse Family Scholarship**

Jenae Tilford

**Seyfert Family – Vanier
Family Scholarship**

Cole Regehr

**Stanley G. Wendland
Memorial Scholarship**

Caleb Stout
Emma Thorpe

**Ted Heath Memorial
Scholarship Fund**

Rhett Larson

**Thomas G. Hobbs Memorial
Scholarship**

Cameron Keefer

**Tim Lim Undergraduate
Scholarship in Agriculture**

Bailey Palecki

**Triangle Insurance
Scholarship**

Alexis Hansen
Garrett Korte
Grace Otott

**W. Dan and
Lynn Weaver
Scholarship**

Cole Rogers

**W.L. "Bill" Webber
Memorial Scholarship**

Kagan Keeten

**William S. May
Scholarship for Ag
Finance**

Jacob Deay
James Foote
Paige Vulgamore
Isaac Wingert

**Other Options for
Departmental Giving:**

Ag Econ Departmental Support Fund - D15290

Ag Econ Emeritus Faculty & Friends
Scholarship Fund - O50290

AgManager.info - D15180

Arthur Capper Cooperative Center - C55950


Coolidge (J.H.) Farm Management Fund -
D58235

Flinchbaugh (Barry) Chair in Agricultural
Economics - O65027

Kansas Society Farm Managers and Rural
Appraisers - O08650

Master of Agribusiness Scholarship Fund
(MAB) - O01137

Risk Management Center - D84855



**143 Scholarships
123 Students
\$257,800**

From Ukraine to the U.S.A. - Antonina Broyaka

Life in Ukraine changed dramatically when Russia invaded on February 24, 2022. Millions of people have been displaced from their homes, and thousands have been killed. The country's infrastructure has been severely damaged, and the economy has been devastated. For Antonina Broyaka, it meant leaving her home with her children and moving to the United States so they would be safe.

After the invasion began, she and her husband, Volodymyr Lapshov, made the decision that she should leave the country with their children, 15-year-old Oleksandra (Sasha) and 9-year-old Maksym (Max). Broyaka and their children first moved to Poland. Lapshov could not leave with his family in case he was needed to fight with the military.

"Our friends in Poland were so kind, but I knew I needed to put as much distance as possible between my children and the Russians," Broyaka said. "I am convinced the Russians will try to advance beyond the Ukrainian borders." She hopes the war will end soon but she and her children plan to stay in Manhattan for the foreseeable future.

Broyaka had previously been at K-State as a Ukrainian Fulbright scholar so was familiar with the area and had friends in Manhattan.

"I had been to Kansas State University with the Fulbright Junior Faculty Development Program, so a lot of things are familiar to me here. I spent the 2004-2005 academic year in the Agricultural Economics Department. I had built professional connections, and I made many friends at K-State University, who support me and are helping me adjust," she said.

"It is not easy to adjust when you move from one continent to another especially under such circumstances. But despite many differences there are a lot of similarities. Both Ukraine and Kansas are great agricultural producers of wheat, corn, sunflower and other crops. When you are in the countryside and looking over wheat fields in Kansas, it feels like I am in Ukraine."

Before leaving her country, she served as dean of the faculty of Economics and Entrepreneurship at the Vinnytsia National Agrarian University in Vinnytsia, Ukraine. She is an expert on the Ukraine agricultural economy, which she has closely followed

since Russia's invasion. Since coming to Manhattan in March 2022, she has been giving seminars to students, faculty, and the public on the global impact of the invasion at K-State and U.S. Grains Council meetings.

"I try to explain how the Russian invasion has impacted global food production and created food insecurity," she said. "Ukraine is a major exporter of wheat, corn, and sunflower oil, and the disruption of its exports has led to higher prices for these commodities. This has made it more difficult for people around the world to afford food, and it has raised concerns about global food security."



Antonina Broyaka and her children, Sasha and Max

Broyaka said it is important for people involved in all levels of agriculture to understand the crisis so they know what they can do to develop a clear plan and stabilize global food supplies. Africa, she said, is particularly at risk with food insecurity. The Russian strategy has been to close Ukraine ports and outlets needed to export commodities. Russian President Vladimir Putin wants to expand and one of his weapons in the war is controlling the food supply. That strategy should concern the entire global community.

"People around the world, need understand that impact of Russian invasion to Ukraine is global. It leads to a repatriation of the share of grain market players, the formation of new supply chains, and changes in the pricing mechanism. It leads to the creation of new political and economic world order and using food as a weapon," Broyaka said.

Broyaka believes her country, which over the past 20 years has helped feed the world, will rebound following Russia's invasion but adds it is going to take time.

"I am proud to be a part of K-State and I appreciate all of the support that I have received from colleagues here," she said. "I believe combining our efforts in solving the economic problems that Ukrainian agriculture is facing will help minimize the negative impact of Russian military aggression on a world food supply."

You can view some Broyaka's presentations/updates at <https://agmanager.info/events>.

The Evolving Kansas Farmer Cooperative Landscape

Since 2016, the Kansas farmer cooperative landscape has changed significantly. Cooperatives have merged, acquired new businesses, formed LLCs and invested in infrastructure to continue to add value to their farmer-owners. In 2016, there were 81 local, farmer cooperatives with a Kansas-based headquarter location. Today, there are 61. While there are fewer Kansas farmer cooperatives today, the presence of the cooperative system remains strong in Kansas.

An illustration of this evolving landscape is tracked through a cooperative mapping project conducted by the **Arthur Capper Cooperative Center (ACCC)**. The first map, created in 2016 and the most recent map are shown below. In each map, the large purple dot represents the cooperative's headquarters or where the senior management are located. The small purple dot represents a grain location connected to the cooperative. Lines are drawn between the headquarter and the grain location to create a 'starburst' effect, which shows the significant coverage of cooperative grain locations across Kansas. In fact, nearly 50 percent of all grain storage capacity in Kansas is connected to a farmer cooperative.

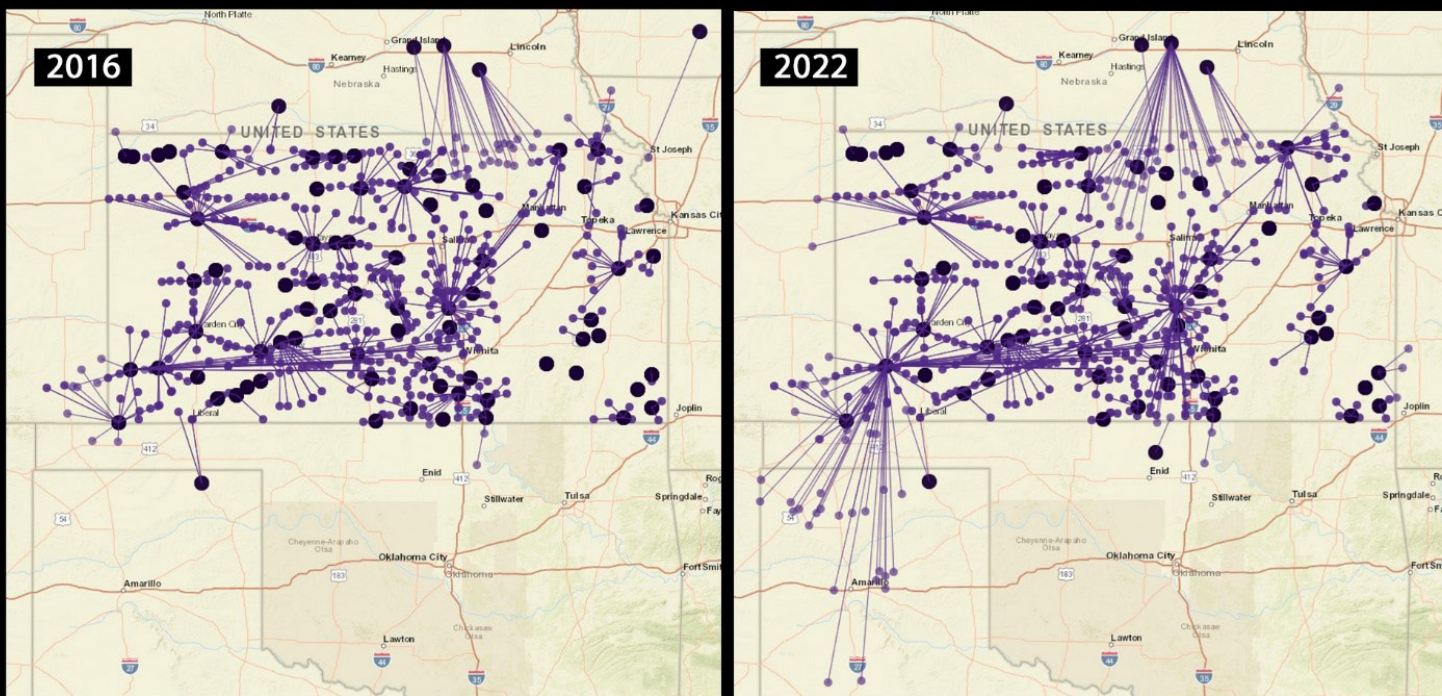
Why are there fewer co-ops today? While there are multiple reasons for consolidation, such as a manager retiring or access to new markets, the most important reason for consolidation

resides in the cooperative principle of local control. A farmer cooperative board of directors is comprised of elected members who work with the CEO or General Manager to ensure the cooperative provides value to their farmer-owners. If the board sees value in merging, they might bring it to a membership vote. If merging is not the best path, the board will continue to work to create value for their membership. Local control is what gives cooperatives the ability to do what is best for their farmer-owners.

The farmer cooperative system in Kansas will likely continue to evolve. Cooperative boards of directors need to be aware of this evolution. The ACCC's mapping project is a piece of information for directors to use to ensure their own cooperative meets the needs of their farmer-owners.



The Evolving Kansas Cooperative Landscape, Comparison of 2016 to 2022



Each map shows all Kansas farmer cooperatives' headquarters (large purple dot) and their grain locations (small purple dot) as well as out-of-state farmer cooperatives' headquarters (large purple dot) with grain locations in Kansas (small purple dot).