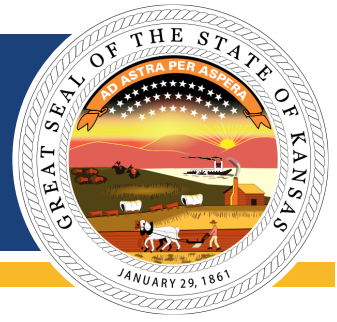


Partnerships



The Kansas Department of Agriculture has a Master Research Agreement with Kansas State University to establish a large partnership between the two entities. The agreement states that the University shall exercise reasonable efforts to carry out research projects in accordance with the referenced statement of work as set forth in task orders issued under the agreement. The Master Research Agreement was renewed effective March 25, 2020, and has a term of five years from the effective date. As outlined in the following pages, 11 divisions and programs within the agency currently work in collaboration with K-State under this agreement. The agency also works with K-State for service support including facilities management, parking, police and information technology.

Projects and Synergies

Conservation

- Collaborates with the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering on streambank project monitoring.
- Collaborates with the agricultural communications and journalism program to identify conservation practice adoption barriers and to create training materials for natural resources professionals.
- Provides funding and support for the Southwest Research-Extension Center's irrigation water probe sensor demonstration project.
- Provides funding and support for a K-State Research and Extension project on phosphorus management and soil health.
- Partners with the Soil Testing Lab to provide agricultural lime testing.
- Leases office space to one Kansas Forest Service water quality forester.
- Partners with the Kansas Forest Service on two water management grants regarding phreatophyte removal.
- Collaborates with the Kansas Forest Service on riparian forest buffer restoration.
- Utilizes Kansas Forest Service as a technical service provider to enhance and protect riparian areas through the Riparian Quality Enhancement Initiative.

Dairy and Feed Safety

- Facilitates a three-hour lab/lecture to students enrolled in the Fundamentals of Milk Processing course.
- Collaborated with K-State Research and Extension and the Beef Cattle Institute to produce and distribute Veterinary Feed Directive Education modules and milk hauler training videos. These milk hauler training videos are now available nationwide to regulatory agencies through FoodSHIELD, a web-based system for communication, coordination, education and training among the nation's food and agriculture sectors.
- Facilitates a three-hour lab/lecture to students enrolled in the Fundamentals of Milk Processing course.
- Collaborates with K-State Research and Extension and Dr. Cassie Jones to produce and distribute FSMA (Food Safety Modernization Act) informational videos and materials. These videos are available both on the KDA website and will also be made available on the K-State Research and Extension site.
- Collaborates on training for Small and Medium Pet Food Manufacturers for FSMA PCQI (Preventive Controls Qualified Individual) training course.
- Collaborated with Beef Cattle Institute to produce milk hauler training videos, which are now available nationwide to regulatory agencies through FoodSHIELD, a web-based system for communication, coordination, education and training among nation's food and agriculture sectors.

Emergency Management

- Embeds university personnel into the agency's incident management team.



Food Safety and Lodging

- Partners with K-State Research and Extension to provide the necessary training for the Produce Safety Rule to help growers to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act.
- Partners with K-State Olathe to update and edit the Food Safety for Kansas Farmers' Market Vendors, Food Labeling for Kansas Food Producers and Processors, and Sampling Safely at Farmers' Markets publications.
- Collaborates with the Kansas Value Added Foods Lab to provide to Kansas food companies technical assistance with product formulation and labeling.
- Partners with Department of Animal Sciences and Industry to provide a mentorship to a student for a Masters in Public Health field experience project.

Laboratory

- Employs K-State students on staff to initiate a talent pipeline for future regulatory analysts.
- Collaborates with the Value Added Foods Program to explore future laboratory collaborations.
- Is currently exploring opportunities for future internships with the Master of Public Health Programs.

Marketing

- Partners with university faculty and employees to progress the Kansas Ag Growth Project and facilitate the Kansas Governor's Summit on Agricultural Growth.
- Collaborates with K-State Innovation Partners on knowledge-based business development opportunities.
- Collaborates with university faculty on the development of a livestock export seminar and meat marketing webinars.
- Coordinates visits with international parties visiting the university.
- Produces custom rates and bluestem survey projects in partnership with the Department of Agricultural Economics.
- Collaborates with K-State Research and Extension on farmers' market and direct-to-consumer workshops virtually and record to share out relevant topics such as food safety, sales tax laws, senior farmers' market nutrition program, SNAP, etc.
- Administers specialty crop block grants awarded to the departments of horticulture and agronomy.
- Partners between Valued Added Food/Meat Center and the From the Land of Kansas Program.
- Facilitates a Federal State Marketing Improvement Project (FSMIP) FarmUs project, focused on a farm-to-campus collaboration to access consumer markets on Kansas college campuses utilizing sorghum and wheat milling innovation with the Collaborative Sorghum Investment Program, Department of Grain Science and Industry, Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, and Housing and Dining Services.
- Partners and financially invests in the Collaborative Sorghum Investment Program at the Center for Sorghum Improvement.
- Supports Kansas State Department of Education Career and Technical Education influence in agriculture education classrooms and FFA chapters across the state in the form of communications and agricultural education support.
- Supports the development of Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) curriculum and mentoring through the BEST (Beginning Educator Support Team) Program, a collaborative effort of the Kansas FFA Foundation, K-State College of Agriculture Department of Communications and Agricultural Education and the Kansas State Department of Education.
- Awards State Water Plan Crop and Livestock Research funding for DropXL to advance sorghum technology aligning with the Kansas Water Vision and the Kansas Ag Growth sorghum sector action steps.
- Awards State Water Plan Crop and Livestock Research funding for the project titled "Monitoring Soil Moisture and Irrigation Requirements for Industrial Hemp Production in Kansas."
- Awards State Water Plan Crop and Livestock Research funding to support "Investing in the Future – Cotton Research in Kansas."
- Supports the development of K-State's Plan for Economic Prosperity in Kansas by coordinating listening sessions with agriculture stakeholders and local level economic development professionals, gathering testimony for consideration from counties across the state specific to Pillar 3 – K-State 105.
- Invests in the Kansas State Agriculturist publication, highlighting careers in agriculture and agency internship opportunities with current students, faculty and alumni.

Pesticide and Fertilizer

- Provides the university with a portion of the collected fertilizer tonnage fees to conduct fertilizer research.
- Collaborates with a K-State Research and Extension wildlife specialist, entomologist, and weed specialist to obtain special local-need pesticide product registrations for producers.



- Submits fertilizer and soil amendment registration applications to the university for evaluation of evidence/research.
- Aids the university's pesticide safety education coordinator and provides pesticide applicator training.
- Collaborates with K-State Research and Extension to analyze pesticide drift complaint samples and other pesticide residue testing.
- Partners with K-State Research and Extension crop specialists to periodically provide field identification training to agency staff for detecting pesticide drift symptoms in field crops.

Plant Protection and Weed Control

- Partners with the Kansas Forest Service to provide forest health management.
- Partners with K-State Research and Extension and the Department of Plant Pathology on a pine wilt initiative.
- Coordinates a cooperative agriculture pest survey between the agency, Kansas Forest Service, Department of Agronomy, Department of Entomology, and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.
- Collaborates with K-State Research and Extension to provide education and outreach regarding industrial hemp production in the state.

Water Appropriation

- Partners with the university research and extension staff to implement Water Vision action items, especially those focused on research, technology, education, and outreach focused regarding water conservation and irrigation system efficiencies.

Administration and Service Support

- Collaborates with K-State Research and Extension to develop and update the Kansas Ag Stress website.
- Recruits students to fill student worker positions in divisions and programs throughout the agency, totaling more than 240 hires since 2015.
- Since 2015, 118 students have completed internships within many KDA programs.
- Utilizes the Agriculture Today radio show to promote agency programs and agricultural issues.
- Integrates multiple information technology functions including an in-house service desk and an appropriate option for a cloud-based storage system.
- Utilizes K-State Police to regularly patrol the parking lot and in scenarios requiring first responders.
- Contracts facilities management for such services as building safety testing and maintenance.
- Supports the Institute for Commercialization's community outreach through advertisement of their blood drive.
- Provides class presentations and use of meeting space.
- Utilizes discounted group ticket prices for McCain Auditorium performances.

Future Projects Under Discussion

- Continue dialogue on potential interactions with K-State's Global Food System Initiative.
- Construct a joint application for the Regional Center to Enhance Food Safety.
- Share HACCP/HARPC outreach resources.
- Construct an international food safety training program.
- Evaluate a pet food/feed ingredient partnership across multiple academic departments within the university.
- Work with K-State Research and Extension to develop and distribute feed industry outreach materials.
- Establish a groundwater specialist within K-State Research and Extension.
- Expand engagement with the Beef Cattle Institute.
- Expand foreign animal disease response and training partnerships.
- Consider grain sample preparation services for testing commercial grain analyzers.
- Consider an NBAF-related summit or conference.
- Improve competitiveness with grant applications.
- Share positions and adjunct faculty positions.
- The KDA Laboratory has relocated to Manhattan adjacent to KDA headquarters. This will enable KDAL to forge partnerships with K-State faculty and laboratory managers where KDA Laboratory programs intersect with teaching, research and outreach.
- Work with K-State Research and Extension to develop county level Natural Resource Management Plans to address resource concerns across the state.

