

Three Minute Thesis Competition

First round schedule

February 5, 2025



Each heat will begin with opening remarks by the moderator. Presentations will follow and will occur approximately every 4 minutes (3 minutes per presentation followed by approx. 1 minute for judges to finalize scores and to transition between presenters.)

Schedule is subject to change.
updated: 1-30-2025

Heat 1

9:30 - 10:20am | 227 K-State Student Union

First Name	Last Name	Degree	Program	Tentative Title	Faculty Mentor(s)
Albert	Benson	MS	Biological and Agricultural Engineering	An Irrigation Agent for optimal Water Application	Paul Armstrong Naiqian Zhang
Parul	Mandal	PhD	Horticulture and Natural Resources	Assessing the impact of short-term storage temperature on coated vs. non-coated turfgrass seeds	Ross Braun
Jane	Mascarenhas	MS	Genetics	Developing a System to Elucidate Genetic Factors Underlying Hypersensitivity Responses in Maize.	Sanzhen Liu
Sabreena	Parray	MS	Agronomy	Evaluation of Pearl Millet Germplasms for drought tolerance	Ramasamy Perumal P.V. Vara Prasad
Giovanna	Teixeira Sandoval Moreira	PhD	Plant Pathology	Improving Wheat's Viral Resistance Through eIF4E Gene Modification	Harold Trick
Saurav	Pantha	MS	Veterinary Biomedical Science	Obesity exacerbates influenza disease severity more in females than in males in a mouse model	Santosh Dhakal
Bindusri	Naraharasetti	MS	Grain Science	Peral millet - Enhance nutritional security	kaliramesh Siliveru P.V. Vara Prasad

Chip	Markwardt	MS	Entomology	Sickly Sweet: Using Floral Nectar to Track Biting Midges	Cassandra Olds Bethany McGregor
Rajendra	Mishra	PhD	Agronomy	Solar-Induced Fluorescence: a new approach of crop monitoring	Xiaomao Lin

Heat 2

10:00 - 10:50am | Flinthills Room K-State Student Union

First Name	Last Name	Degree	Program	Tentative Title	Faculty Mentor(s)
Dawson	Christensen	MS	Entomology	A Little Beetle, A Big Impact: The Threat of <i>R. dominica</i> to Food and the Role of Cold in Controlling It	Yoonseong Park Alison Gerken
Luiz Felipe	Almeida	PhD	Agronomy	Are soybeans environmentally sustainable?	Ignacio Ciampitti
Emmanuel	Nwachukwu	MS	Horticulture and Natural Resources	Can Compatible Turfgrass Species Compete in a Sward?	Ross Braun
Allan	Quadros	PhD	Statistics	Crystal Clear Equipment Failure Predictions from Invisible Data	Michael Higgins Brian Silverstein
Roselle	Barretto	PhD	Biological and Agricultural Engineering	From Plant to Ply: Hempseed Adhesives in Action	Donghai Wang
Sandhya	Gopisetty	PhD	Plant Pathology	Mapping the Genetic Basis of Trait Variation in Wheat Fusarium Head Blight.	Christopher Toomajian
Sourajit	Dey	PhD	Agronomy	Mapping the Path to Water-Wise Alfalfa Production using AI	Gaurav Jha Doohong Min
Heather	Poyner	MS	Entomology	The Buzz about CRP: Plant-Pollinator Communities in Restored Grasslands	Brian Spiesman
Kristina	Morrison	MS	Kinesiology	The Impact of Tamoxifen and Aging on Vasomotor Function in Oxidative Skeletal Muscle	Brad Behnke

Heat 3

11:00 - 11:50am | 227 K-State Student Union

First Name	Last Name	Degree	Program	Tentative Title	Faculty Mentor(s)
Maryam	Kazemidemneh	PhD	Environmental Design and Planning	Perception of safety at night	Anne Beamish
Manavjot	Singh	PhD	Biological and Agricultural Engineering	BioWRAP - A Novel Biodegradable Sprayable Mulch	Vaishali Sharda
Sydney	Weber	PhD	Economics	Building Walls and Building Blocs: Tariffs in American and Chinese Policy	Peri Da Silva
Nathan	Kenney	MS	Kinesiology	Combatting exercise intolerance in PH via exercise training	David C. Poole Timothy Musch
Aidan	McVey	PhD	Genetics	DNA Starships in Fungal Pathogens	David Cook
Rebecca	Donaldson	MS	Agricultural Education and Communication	Engaging Water Experts: Kansas Water Science Communication and Outreach	Jacqueline Aenlle
Carah	Porter	PhD	Health and Human Sciences - Kinesiology	Every Move Counts: The Role of 24-Hour Movement Patterns in Adolescent Health	Denver Brown
Jacqueline	Maille	PhD	Entomology	Flying under the radar no more: Using flight mills to improve Indian meal moth management	Kun Yan Zhu Erin Scully

Heat 4

11:15am - 12:05pm | Flinthills Room K-State Student Union

First Name	Last Name	Degree	Program	Tentative Title	Faculty Mentor(s)
Alexander	Thill	MS	Horticulture and Natural Resources	Agri-Voltaics: Let The Sunshine In!	Cary Rivard
Udit	Debangshi	MS	Agronomy	Conserving Water for Future Generations in Kansas	Gaurav Jha
Asmita	Mahara	PhD	Biological and Agricultural Engineering		Mark Wilkins

Rachael	Weiderman	PhD	Pathobiology	Spatial Transcriptomics: Mapping Gene Activity to Learn More About Cellular Process in Disease	Laura Miller
Festus	Ajibefun	PhD	Entomology	Exosome-Powered RNAi: Boosting Gene Silencing in Insect Cell	Kris Silver
Enzo	Unzain Moreno	MS	Genetics	Novel, Cost-Effective Genetic Tools Uncover How Winter Wheat Resists a Common Crop Virus	Allan Fritz
Muazzama	Mushtaq	MS	Agronomy	Past to present: how management practices changed soil carbon and nitrogen.	Charles.W Rice P.V. Vara Prasad

Heat 5
1:15 - 2:05pm | 227 K-State Student Union

First Name	Last Name	Degree	Program	Tentative Title	Faculty Mentor(s)
Ashley	Baranczuk	PhD	Health and Human Sciences - Kinesiology	Can Peripheral Artery Disease be treated with weight management medication?	Steven Copp
Ajay Prasanth	Ramalingam	PhD	Agronomy	Developing cold tolerant sorghum hybrids	Ramasamy Perumal P.V. Vara Prasad
Comfort	Kwamikorkor	MS	Horticulture and Natural Resources	Electrostatic spraying might be a tool to disinfect food contact surfaces	Manreet Bhullar
Thisura Chanuka Indralal	Ilukgoda Gedara	MS	Geology	Grounwater Quality of Public Wells in South Central Kansas	Matthew Kirk
Aysu	Deniz	PhD	Food Science	Formation and Control of Listeria monocytogenes Biofilms on Various Food Processing Surfaces	Valentina Trinetta
Jacob	Miller-Klugesherz	PhD	Sociology	Heal soil, heal soul: Community capital stocks, conservation agriculture, and cover cropping in the U.S. Corn-Soybean belt and Pottawatomie County, KS	Matthew Sanderson Cornelia Flora
Elaheh	Khosh Manzar	PhD	Agronomy	Phosphorus and Fe, a Powerful Pair in Soil Fertility	Nathan O Nelosn Ganga Hettiarachchi

Aashvi	Dua	PhD	Biological and Agricultural Engineering	Smart Tool for Quick Analysis of Drone and Satellite Data to Improve Farming and Crop Research	Ajay Sharda
Michelle	Wallisch	MS	Plant Pathology	Starch Soluble Synthase Genes: Empowering Wheat Against Heat Stress	Harold Trick

Heat 6
2:00 - 2:50pm | Flinthills Room K-State Student Union

First Name	Last Name	Degree	Program	Tentative Title	Faculty Mentor(s)
Ifedayo Sunday	Olubejide	PhD	Leadership Communication	Community Engagement, Stampede and Food distribution Network in West Africa	Samuel Mwangi Nancy Muturi
Sagar	Pokhrel	MS	Horticulture and Natural Resources - Urban Food Systems	Developing Produce Safety Posters for non-English-speaking immigrant growers in the US	Manreet Bhullar
Seungmin	Yang	PhD	Economics	Double Major Dilemma	Valerie Bostwick
Olivia	Depperschmidt	Masters	Regional and Community Planning	How Long Term Housing Demand is Being Addressed in Refugee Resettlement	Shakil Kashem
Nooshin	Darvishinia	PhD	Curriculum and Instruction	Exploring Virtual Reality's Role in Enhancing Equity and Learning Outcomes for English Language Learners in K-12 Education	Todd Goodson
Puja	Subedi	MS	Horticulture and Natural Resources	Maximizing the Growth and Quality While Minimizing Waste in Hydroponics	Teng Yang
Mohsen	Davoudkhani	PhD	Psychology	Same Encoding, Different Recall	Heather Bailey
Maryam	Ghasempour Siahgaldeh	Masters	Fine Art		Shreepad Joglekar
Bethany	Stock	Masters	Regional and Community Planning	Zoned Out: Land use policy and Homelessness in Des Moines, Iowa	Susmita Rishi

Heat 7**2:45 - 3:35pm | 227 K-State Student Union**

First Name	Last Name	Degree	Program	Tentative Title	Faculty Mentor(s)
Millicent	Tetteh	MS	Horticulture and Natural Resources - Urban Food Systems	Can We Grow More with Less? Exploring Safe Water Recycling for Hydroponics	Manreet Bhullar Teng Yang
Ifeoma	Okonye	MS	Geography	Investigating the spatial and temporal variations in Whooping crane stop over habitat preference along the Kansas Migratory flyway	Shawn Hutchinson
Salina	Raila	MS	Agronomy	Does planting date effect the weed management practices?	Sarah Lancaster
Abhinash	Boddepalli	MS	Entomology	Integrated Approaches to Stored Product Pest Management	Deanna Scheff Kun Yan Zhu
Seongmin	Yang	PhD	Civil Engineering	Reducing microbial greenhouse gas emissions from forage fermentation	Jeongdae Im
Shirin	Sheikhzadeh	PhD	Grain Science	Machine learning applications in plant-based meat product quality evaluation	Sajid Alavi
Ruchi	Chauhan	PhD	Food Science	Potential uses of low falling number wheat in food applications	Scott Smith
Nishadini	Widanagamage	PhD	Agronomy	Soil Microbes for Soil Moisture Retention	Gaurav Jha
Braden	Allmond	PhD	Physics	Studying the Higgs Boson by Capturing its Accomplices	Ketino Kaadze
Vikas Kumar	Galipothu	PhD	Horticulture and Natural Resources	UV DISINFECTION TUNNEL AS A TOOL IN FRESH FOOD SAFETY	Manreet Bhullar

Heat 8**3:15 - 4:05pm | Flinthills Room K-State Student Union**

First Name	Last Name	Degree	Program	Tentative Title	Faculty Mentor(s)
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Luiza	Adami Monteiro de Castro	PhD	Genetics	A Resilient Wheat: How Water Bears Can Help Agricultural Production?	Harold Trick
Madison	Kessler	PhD	Plant Pathology	Enhancing Soybean Production by Managing and Predicting Sudden Death Syndrome in Kansas	Rodrigo Onofre
Tucker	Graff	PhD	Grain Science	Environmental sustainability and LCA in aquatic feed processing	Sajid Alavi
Sarah	Fenn	MS	Kinesiology	Applying cardiovascular health scores across the cancer survivorship continuum	Carl Ade Brad Behnke
Sindhu	Palla	PhD	Agronomy	Evaluating Healthy and Senescent Spectral Signatures of Corn Canopy under Water and Nitrogen Stress	Gaurav Jha
Shivaprasad	Doddabematti Prakash	PhD	Grain Science	Is your cookie dough a safe delight?	Kaliramesh Siliveru
Justin	Montney	PhD	Health and Human Sciences - Kinesiology	Rehab Redefined: Unlocking Sustained Activity for Lifelong Health	Emily Mailey
Midhat	Tugoo	MS	Agronomy	Sensitivity of Pearl Millet [Pennisetum Glaucum (L.) R. Br.] Parental Lines to Clethodim, Quizalofop, Imazamox, and Nicosulfuron	Ramasamy Perumal P.V. Vara Prasad
Shubhangi	Arveli	PhD	Biological and Agricultural Engineering	From Trash to Treasure: Transforming Food Waste for a Sustainable Future	Jikai Zhao
Joshua	Jackson	MS	Entomology	Lasers and Ticks and AI, Oh My! Tick-Borne Pathogen Detection Using Mid-Infrared Spectroscopy	Cassandra Olds Lee Cohnstaedt