

# 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: 2-4-2025

#### Heat 1

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

First Name	Last Name	Degree	Program	Tentative Title	Faculty Mentor(s)
Albert	Benson	MS	Biological and Agricultural Engineering	The Irrigation Bot	Paul Armstrong Naiqian Zhang
Parul	Mandal	PhD	Horticulture and Natural Resources	Coated vs. Non-Coated Turfgrass Seeds: Which Performs Better?	Ross Braun
Jane	Mascarenhas	MS	Genetics	UNDERSTANDING HOW PLANTS DEFEND THEMSELVES FROM DISEASE	Sanzhen Liu
Sabreena	Parray	MS	Agronomy	Pearl Millet for the Future: Discovering Drought-Tolerant Forage Lines	Ramasamy Perumal P.V. Vara Prasad
Goivanna	Teixeira Sandoval Moreira	PhD	Plant Pathology	Editing Wheat Gene to Combat Viral Threats	Harold Trick
Rajendra	Mishra	PhD	Agronomy	Solar-Induced Fluorescence: A Tool for Monitoring Photosynthesis and the Global Carbon Cycle	Xiaomao Lin
Bindusri	Naraharasetti	MS	Grain Science	Pearl Millet: Resilient Grain to Enhance Food Security with Cold Plasma Technology	kaliramesh Siliveru P.V. Vara Prasad



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### Heat 2

10:00 - 10:40am | Flinthills Room K-State Student Union

First Name	Last Name	Degree	Program	Tentative Title	Faculty Mentor(s)
Saurav	Pantha	MS	Veterinary Biomedical Science	The weight of infection: How obesity and biological sex tip the scale in Influenza A severity	Santosh Dhakal
Dawson	Christensen	MS	Entomology	Freezing the Competition: Using Cold to Control a Grain Pest	Yoonseong Park Alison Gerken
Justin	Montney	PhD	Health and Human Sciences - Kinesiology	Rehab Redefined: Unlocking Sustained Exercise for Lifelong Health	Emily Mailey
Emmanuel	Nwachukwu	MS	Horticulture and Natural Resources	Does Turfgrass species compete for space when mixed during planting ?	Ross Braun
Sandhya	Gopisetty	PhD	Plant Pathology	Mapping the Genetic Basis of Trait Variation in Wheat Fusarium Head Blight Disease.	Christopher Toomajian
Sourajit	Dey	PhD	Agronomy	AI-Driven Solutions for Water-Wise Forage Production	Gaurav Jha Doohong Min
Kristina	Morrison	MS	Kinesiology	Post Cancer Care and Vascular Function	Brad Behnke

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### Heat 3

11:00 - 11:40am | 227 K-State Student Union

First Name	Last Name	Degree	Program	Tentative Title	Faculty Mentor(s)
Maryam	Kazemidemneh	PhD	Environmental Design and Planning	Women and 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	Talking Tariffs: Lessons from the First Trade War	Peri Da Silva
Ashley	Baranczuk	PhD	Health and Human Sciences - Kinesiology	Can GLP-1's reduce exercising blood pressure and cardiovascular risk?	Steven Copp
Aidan	McVey	PhD	Genetics	DNA Starships in Fungal Pathogens	David Cook
Carah	Porter	PhD	Health and Human Sciences - Kinesiology	Exploring the Role of 24-Hour Movement Behaviors in Adolescent Healthy Development	Denver Brown
Jacqueline	Maille	PhD	Entomology	Flying Under the Radar: Using Flight Mills to Improve Indian Meal Moth Management	Kun Yan Zhu Erin Scully

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### Heat 4

**11:15 - 11:55am | Flinthills Room K-State Student Union**

First Name	Last Name	Degree	Program	Tentative Title	Faculty Mentor(s)
Udit	Debangshi	MS	Agronomy	Smart Irrigation: Addressing Water Scarcity in Kansas	Gaurav Jha
Asmita	Mahara	PhD	Biological and Agricultural Engineering	Eco-Friendly Bioplastics: Investigating Synergistic Bacteria for PHB Synthesis from Hemp wastes	Mark Wilkins
Rachael	Weiderman	PhD	Pathobiology	Spatial Transcriptomics: Mapping Gene Expression to Learn More About Cellular Process in Disease	Laura Miller
Victoria	Lopez	MS	Food Science	Sorghum Unlocked: Fermentation for Enhanced Nutrition	Valentina Trinetta
Festus	Ajibefun	PhD	Entomology	Exosome Postal Services: Revolutionizing Pest Management	Kris Silver
Muazzama	Mushtaq	MS	Agronomy	Farming for the Future: 31 Years of Soil Research in the Fight Against Climate Change	Charles.W Rice P.V. Vara Prasad
Ruchi	Chauhan	PhD	Food Science	Potential uses of low falling number wheat in food applications	Scott Smith



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### Heat 5

1:15 - 1:55pm | 227 K-State Student Union

First Name	Last Name	Degree	Program	Tentative Title	Faculty Mentor(s)
Alexander	Thill	MS	Horticulture and Natural Resources	Agrivoltaics: Let The Sunshine In!	Cary Rivard
Nathan	Kenney	MS	Kinesiology	Running to Combat Exercise Intolerance in Pulmonary Hypertension	David C. Poole Timothy Musch
Comfort	Kwamikorkor	MS	Horticulture and Natural Resources	Advancing Produce Safety: Electrostatic Spraying for Smarter Surface Disinfection	Manreet Bhullar
Thisura Chanuka Indralal	Ilukgoda Gedara	MS	Geology	Nitrate Contamination of Private Water Wells in the South-Central Kansas Region	Matthew Kirk
Aysu	Deniz	PhD	Food Science	Formation and Control of Listeria monocytogenes Biofilms on Food Processing Surfaces	Valentina Trinetta
Jacob	Miller-Klugesherz	PhD	Sociology	Heal soil, heal soul: Enhancing cover cropping and farmer wellbeing in Pottawatomie County (KS) and the U.S. Corn-Soybean Belt	Matthew Sanderson Cornelia Flora
Elaheh	Khosh Manzar	PhD	Agronomy	From Fertilizers to Green Waters: The Phosphorus Problem	Nathan O Nelosn Ganga Hettiarachchi

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### Heat 6

2:00 - 2:40pm | Flinthills Room K-State Student Union

First Name	Last Name	Degree	Program	Tentative Title	Faculty Mentor(s)
Sagar	Pokhrel	MS	Horticulture and Natural Resources - Urban Food Systems	Produce Safety Posters for Non-English-Speaking Growers	Manreet Bhullar
Seungmin	Yang	PhD	Economics	Double Major Dilemma	Valerie Bostwick
Olivia	Depperschmidt	Masters	Regional and Community Planning	Josh's American Dream	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	Can Current Nutrient Practices Sustain Hydroponic Production?	Teng Yang
Mohsen	Davoudkhani	PhD	Psychology	Sniffing Out Memory Loss	Heather Bailey
Bethany	Stock	Masters	Regional and Community Planning	Zoned Out: Land Use Policy and Homelessness in Des Moines	Susmita Rishi

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### Heat 7

2:45 - 3:25pm | 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	Growing more with less	Manreet Bhullar Teng Yang
Salina	Raila	MS	Agronomy	Influence of Planting Date on Weed Control Strategies and Soybean	Sarah Lancaster
Abhinash	Boddepalli	MS	Entomology	From Warehouse to Table: Safeguarding Stored Food from Insect Pests	Deanna Scheff Kun Yan Zhu
Seongmin	Yang	PhD	Civil Engineering	Reducing the greenhouse gases: Strategies for a sustainable future	Jeongdae Im
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 PRODUCE SAFETY	Manreet Bhullar

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### Heat 8

3:15 - 3:55pm | Flinthills Room K-State Student Union

First Name	Last Name	Degree	Program	Tentative Title	Faculty Mentor(s)
Luiza	Adami Monteiro de Castro	PhD	Genetics	A Resilient Wheat: How Can Water Bears Help Agricultural Production?	Harold Trick
Madison	Kessler	PhD	Plant Pathology	The Silent Killer: Saving Soybeans from Sudden Death	Rodrigo Onofre
Sarah	Fenn	MS	Kinesiology	Assessing heart health throughout cancer survivorship	Carl Ade Brad Behnke
Sindhu	Palla	PhD	Agronomy	Can plants reveal their struggles? Using spectral signatures to detect water and nitrogen stress	Gaurav Jha
Shivaprasad	Doddabematti Prakash	PhD	Grain Science	Unwrapping the Sweet Mystery: Is your Cookie Dough a Safe Delight?	Kaliramesh Siliveru
Midhat	Tugoo	MS	Agronomy	Reduced sensitivity of Pearl millet	Ramasamy Perumal P.V. Vara Prasad
Shubhangi	Arvelli	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! Using infrared spectrometry to detect tick-borne pathogens	Cassandra Olds Lee Cohnstaedt