

Jumpstart funding was awarded to nine Kansas-based agribusinesses to support new and expanding enterprises.







Truck weights on state highways have been increased, allowing the transport of up to 90,000 pounds on six axles, to maximize efficient movement of agricultural products and reduce environmental impact.







Kansas announced Cattle Trace, a collaborative partnership to conduct a pilot project aimed at developing and testing a purpose-built infrastructure capable of tracing cattle movement through the supply chain for disease traceability purposes.







A biofuels infrastructure grant to Kansas for \$1.3 million is being used to improve consumer access to E15 by partnering with gas stations across the state to install pumps that can supply E15.







Southwest Kansas is home to the largest single-dryer dairy processing plant in North America, which recently received the Sustainable Plant of the Year award.





A national alfalfa checkoff program now provides funding for alfalfa research.







The Kansas Expocentre has announced that approved expansion plans for Domer arena will provide greater opportunities for larger equine programming.





Kansas is a national leader in the development of Secure Food Supply plans at cattle feeding and dairy operations. As of July 1, 16 Kansas dairies and 25 feed yards have completed or are in the process of developing site-specific biosecurity plans.





The Kansas Wheat Innovation Center expanded in March 2018 to increase its capability to house critical wheat research dedicated to cutting edge wheat genetic improvement for Kansas wheat farmers.





A Kansas sorghum processor has established a market for baijiu alcohol in China, expanding the operation's export opportunities.







Numerous pet food trade missions over the past year have opened discussions with potential export market opportunities: Petfood Forum Asia in March 2018, China in August 2017, Cochran Fellowship in-country from Serbia in March 2018.





The Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission, in partnership with U.S. Grains Council and KDA, increased the number of trade missions developing and further strengthening global relationships for the state's sorghum farmers and agribusinesses.







The Kansas Legislature passed the Alternative Crop Research Act, allowing the cultivation of industrial hemp in a research program, and the rules and regulations are underway with a goal that planting can begin in 2019.







A survey was conducted to investigate the economic impact of specialty crop growers in Kansas and their effect on the local food systems, to provide knowledge of the scope and needs of producers.







The Kansas governor signed a bill passed by the state legislature in 2018 which set into statute guidelines related to animal conversion units, poultry facilities, and confined feeding facilities.







From the Land of Kansas has reorganized with a new benefits structure and more marketing opportunities which can help food processors.





.....



Colleges and universities in the state are actively engaged in promoting UAS/precision agriculture as a career option to secondary students, and are partnering with tech companies to enhance their ag tech programs.







Cotton yields were up 177 percent in Kansas in 2017, with a record production of 185,000 bales, primarily due to increased use of 2,4-D tolerant varieties.







The Kansas Pork Association has reached over 4 million consumers with targeted messaging showing how hogs are grown and raised, and with positive messages about the pork industry.







The Kansas State Fair will receive additional revenue for capital projects at the fairgrounds to allow the fair to expand and continue providing Kansas with a first-class fair and facilities.







K-State College of Agriculture promotes pet food academic specialties, and last year 25 students enrolled in the pet food minor and 27 students enrolled in the pet food option of the feed science and management major.







K-State Research & Extension food safety staff is reaching out to food councils to share information about FSMA and produce safety workshops available to farmers in their areas.







K-State hired an extension sheep and meat goat specialist to provide support to statewide extension programs as well as teaching and applied research on campus.





The Collaborative Sorghum Investment Program has led the development of a multi-discipline KSU Sorghum Crop Improvement Mission, Vision and SMART goal strategic plan.





Progress is underway in the wheat industry to identify potential veteran farmers, and farmers looking for the next owner/operator, offering succession possibilities.







Ag equipment businesses have developed a strategy to reach out to secondary schools to recruit students while in high school.





A collaborative Alfalfa Variety Evaluation project will provide current information regarding alfalfa varieties; the project is led by K-State Research and Extension & Cowley County Extension, with support from the Kansas Forage and Grassland Council & private alfalfa seed companies.





The Kansas Agriculture Emergency Response Corps was launched in 2017 to recruit and train Kansas citizens who have skills that will be important in an agricultural emergency response. Nearly 60 members have applied and received training as of July 1.







In 2017, exports of beef and beef products from Kansas totaled \$1.25 billion, the largest export value in the past five years, and beef and beef product exports from Kansas have accounted for between 18 and 26 percent of total U.S. beef exports for each of the last five years.







KDHE has worked to strengthen the livestock waste management section staff, and have improved efficiency of the permitting process by implementing new internal policies that involve the engineering workflow.







In collaboration with other states and national organizations, online FSMA pet food training modules have been planned for fall 2018, bringing increased training opportunities to Kansas.







The Kansas Corn Commission is helping educate youth about GMOs by providing appropriate labs related to GMOs and biotechnology for 6th-12th grade teachers, as well as training and funding specifically created to meet state science standards.







The Bipartisan Budget Act in 2018 amended the 2014 Farm Bill, adding seed cotton as a covered commodity under the ARC and PLC programs.







Kansas will soon be home to a 110-cow rotary — the largest rotary milking system in North America — and to one of the two largest fully robotic rotary platforms currently sold.







The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is assembling a group of public and private poultry industry representatives to write and propose rules and regulations for SB 405.







Cargill announced plans to build a state-of-the-art biodiesel plant in Wichita, a \$90 million investment that will produce 60 million gallons of biodiesel annually when it opens in January 2019.





Kansas was selected as one of 10 partners in the UAS Integration Pilot Program, with a proposal that seeks to leverage a statewide unmanned traffic management system to facilitate precision agriculture operations.





The Collaborative Sorghum Investment Program research on water optimized sorghum for Kansas will utilize \$150,000 in state-appropriated funds to research water use in multiple research locations.







A K-State Research and Extension poultry specialist has been working with many communities across the state to better understand all aspects of the poultry industry — e.g., layers, broilers, turkeys.



