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Table of Contents and Introduction

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Bronze beauty
University research helps growth of sorghum around the world

Producing better produce
K-State improving the quality and shelf life of fruits and vegetables

The sounds of STEAM
Hear the concert of creativity in science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics
A look at *Fusobacterium necrophorum* in a petri dish. The bacterium causes infections in livestock and people, but researchers at Kansas State University have patented a way to protect animals and humans from *Fusobacterium necrophorum* infections. Find out more about the university’s latest patents on Page 38.
Kansas State University researchers have worked to improve people’s lives since 1863. The best thing about producing our university’s flagship magazine is taking time to review some of our recent accomplishments and ongoing projects that do just that — it’s in our mission, and it’s our mission to Seek.

Kansas is renowned for its wheat production, but we’re also the No. 1 sorghum-producing state in the country. Sorghum is an increasingly important crop worldwide. Ongoing work at K-State in its fight against sugarcane aphids, to develop genetic tools that breeders use to create new varieties, and to provide products that boost nutrition for children in Tanzania solidify our role as a global food systems leader.

Feeding the world’s growing population requires more than growing the crops. Development of modified atmosphere packaging to extend the shelf life of food products is another example of how K-State helps enhance food security. This work demonstrates our creativity in attacking this multifaceted problem.

Speaking of creativity, our multimedia, interactive story on the sounds of K-State research will make you think of research in a new way. You will hear laser-induced thunder, a concrete compression test, a music composition and more — and you’ll find out about projects from exercise on Mars to prairie burning. Other creative activities on display in these pages include an exploration of how the K-State drama therapy program — one of only five in the country — helps children on the autism spectrum form social connections and learn to work together by engaging them in after-school and summer drama activities. The College of Education is also producing an outstanding series of documentaries, one of which we spotlight here. Teachers in Kansas classrooms are using “Dawn of Day: Stories from the Underground Railroad” to encourage kids to learn more about the history in their own backyards.

Our backyard companion animals are another area of strength at K-State. Researchers in our College of Veterinary Medicine are producing knowledge that benefits both animal and human health. Our people are experimenting with stem cells to decrease dogs’ pain from hip dysplasia, which may lead to treatments for human osteoarthritis. 

This summary is far from complete. Our fall issue has much to offer, so please take a few minutes to “See” (and hear!) how K-State research, scholarly, and creative activities and discoveries are affecting our world. I promise you’ll be impressed.

Peter K. Dorhout, Vice President for Research

Kansas State University
Research Magazines