

# KDAM Monthly

NEWS AND NOTES FOR THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TEAM • JUNE 2018

## Welcome Back!

Yes, we know it's been a while since the last newsletter! We've been on a little hiatus and we apologize. We are back on track and will resume regular updates from now on.

## All-Agency BBQ:

It's time again for the annual KDA All-Agency BBQ!



### Topeka

Wednesday, June 27, from 11:30-1:30



### Manhattan, Garden City, Iola, Stafford, Stockton

Thursday, June 28, from 11:30-1:30



We hope you're planning to join your KDA friends in this fun annual summer event!



Remember to bring a lawn chair and yard/lawn games!



Regional sites will take a group photo, and the Manhattan site will do program/division photos upon request.



## Coming Up:



- June 27.....KDA All-Agency BBQ (Topeka)
- June 28.....KDA All-Agency BBQ (Garden City, Manhattan, Iola, Stockton and Stafford)
- July 4.....Independence Day (office closed)
- August 23.....Growth Summit Evening Social
- August 24.....Kansas Agricultural Growth Summit

## H.R. CORNER

Remember that current issues of state newsletters and HR-related updates can all be found at the HR Bulletins section of the website:

[agriculture.ks.gov/hr-bulletins](http://agriculture.ks.gov/hr-bulletins)

Also, the e-Handbook is chock full of great info, from the agency goals and objectives to details about benefits to the building emergency plans. Take a look!

[agriculture.ks.gov/e-handbook](http://agriculture.ks.gov/e-handbook)

## Department Comings and Goings

Please help us welcome these new KDA staff members.

- Rachel Achen .....Dairy
- Candace Deyoe.....Food Safety
- Callahan Grund.....Ag Marketing  
(was a student intern, now full time)
- Taylor Holmes .....Animal Health
- Stephanie Murray .....Administration
- Chris Rhoades .....Grain Warehouse
- Erin Smothers.....Plant Protection & Weed Control
- Daniel White .....Weights & Measures

These employees have retired from KDA:

- Karla Appling .....Food Safety & Lodging
- Jay Sheldon .....Dairy
- Carmen Simon .....Animal Health
- Jim Zenger .....Grain Warehouse

These employees are no longer at KDA:

- Louise Alvarado .....Food Safety & Lodging
- Holly Fenton .....Legal
- Destiney Mathos .....Food Safety & Lodging
- Kimberly Hunninghake.....Water Structures
- Michaela Kirmer Minks.....Water Appropriation
- Cindy McQuillen..... Water Structures
- Susan Metzger.....Administration
- Thomas Morey.....Water Structures
- Melissa Nichols .....Food Safety & Lodging
- Bridgett Paulk.....Water Structures
- Blake Ramsey.....Food Safety & Lodging
- Paige Schoonveld.....Animal Health
- Junnell Wallin-TenEyck.....Water Appropriation

If you have items you would like to include in future issues, please send them to [Heather.Lansdowne@ks.gov](mailto:Heather.Lansdowne@ks.gov)

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## From the IT Team



All of us in the IT team appreciate your patience over the last month as agency applications were offline due to the fire at Hale Library. Thank you for being understanding, courteous and professional as we all worked to restore functionality so we could all go back to serving KDA's customers and stakeholders.

As we mentioned in a recent email, we are looking at solutions to provide redundancy in our applications and services to prevent an outage from impeding our continuity of business in the future. With that goal in mind, we have scheduled Microsoft OneDrive training to give staff proficiency in an alternative storage and sharing site. If you have not already signed up, please choose a session at the link: <https://fs22.formsite.com/KansasDeptAg/form110/index.html>. Registration will close at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 29; for those who can't attend a session in person, a recorded version of this training will be available.

## KDA's Strengths Program

We are nearly halfway through the KDA yearlong strengths program, and the teams within KDA have gained new insight into how the strengths play out in our work. The activities we participated in during the first four months were designed to focus on gaining awareness and understanding of our own top 5 strengths, as we examined them in the context of our talents, our core values, and our successes.

The second set of activities (second four months) are leading us to apply our individual strengths in the workplace. When we get to the last four months, we will look at using our strengths when working with a team, demonstrating awareness and appreciation for others' strengths on the team.

## First Four Months: Understanding your Strengths

### January

We thought about how to get MORE out of our strengths (Motivate us relationships with Others, manage Responsibilities, Expand thinking).

### February

We used a mind map model to brainstorm a past moment of success, the actions that led to the success, and the strengths that supported the actions.

### March

We talked about our talents, and how they fit within our top five strengths.

### April

We considered how our top five strengths help us live out our core values in our work.

## New (very new!!) Faces at KDA!



If you've been hearing some funny noises on the first or second floor lately, it could be the newest young members of the KDA team. And when we say young, we mean VERY young! Three KDA staff members recently had babies, and are enjoying the Infants-at-Work program made available through KDA staff policy.

**Lexi Wright** is the marketing coordinator for the *From the Land of Kansas* program. She has been joined by her son, Jeremiah, who was born on March 9. Her son JL is nearly 2.

**Kelly Navinsky-Wenzl** is an attorney in the legal corner. She shares office space with her daughter, Brynne, who was born on March 12. She also has a daughter, Katherine, who is almost 3.



**Brandi Crubel** is an environmental associate with the pesticide and fertilizer program. She has been joined by her daughter Maevis, who was born on Feb. 27. Her other daughter, Revae, is almost 3.

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## Employee of the Quarter Recognition:

### Administration: **Brittney Grother, Kelly Navinsky-Wenzl**

*Brittney* has been the executive secretary for the KDA office of the secretary since July 2017, and prior to that she served as an intern in the KDA communications office. She got married this spring, so you may remember her as Brittney Houck.

*Kelly* is an attorney in the legal section of the administrative division, and has been with KDA since November 2016.

### Dairy and Feed Safety: **Ashley Goodman and Jamie Spencer**

*Ashley* is an agricultural inspector in the dairy and feed safety program, working out of her home to handle dairy inspections in the northeast region. She has been with KDA since January 2014.

*Jamie* has been with KDA since November 2005, and also works as an agricultural inspector in the dairy and feed safety program. He works from his home and handles the feed inspections in the southeast region.

### Food Safety and Lodging: **Erin Gibson, Kasey Todd, Michael Turner and Shawn Watson**

*Erin* is a food safety and lodging inspector and trainer in Sedgwick County, and has worked at KDA since October 2015.

*Kasey* also works in Sedgwick County as a food safety and lodging inspector and trainer, and has been at KDA since March 2014.

*Michael* has been a food safety inspector since June 2016 and works in Shawnee County.

*Shawn* is a food safety and lodging inspector and trainer and works in Montgomery County and surrounding southeast Kansas counties, and has worked at KDA since February 2012.

### Meat and Poultry: **Sheri Brinkley, Mike Fink, Mike Pierce and David Stuhlsatz**

*Sheri* is a meat inspector for the southwest part of the state. She is home based in Hutchinson and has worked in the meat and poultry inspection program at KDA for 4 years.

*Mike Fink* is a compliance officer for the north half of the state. He is home based in Chapman and has worked for the meat and poultry inspection program at KDA for 17 years.

*Mike Pierce* is an area supervisor in the southeast part of the state. He is home based in El Dorado and has worked for the meat and poultry inspection program at KDA for 28 years.

*David* is a compliance officer for the south half of the state. He is home based in Conway Springs and has worked for the meat and poultry inspection program at KDA for 17 years.

### Water Appropriation: **Austin McColloch, Charlotte Philip, Alex Whitesell**

*Austin* coordinates new applications and changes for the water appropriation program and has been with KDA since February 2016.

*Charlotte* processes certificates, conservation programs, findings and orders and also serves as the ombudsman for the water appropriation program and has been with KDA since February 2014.

*Alex* accepts and processes new applications and handles open records requests for the water appropriation program. He has been at KDA since October 2015.

### Water Management: **Ginger Pugh**

*Ginger* is an engineering associate for water management, and has been with KDA-DWR for more than 4 years.

### Water Structures: **Laura Gray and Martin Koch**

*Laura* is an engineering associate for the water structures program and has been with KDA-DWR since January 2016.

*Martin* is a floodplain mapping specialist for the water structures program; he has been with KDA-DWR for just over a year.



Congratulations  
to these KDA  
staff members, and  
thanks for your  
hard work!

# SPOTLIGHT

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## KDA Spotlight: Annual Photo Contest

If you take a look around your office, conference room, elevator or hallway, you may notice framed photos showcasing some aspect of Kansas agriculture. For the last six years, KDA communications staff has put on an annual photo contest that allows Kansans to submit photos to compete for prizes. The photos are used for building pictures, social media graphics, print materials, website photos, banner displays and more.

### Details

The photo contest takes place every summer, then contest finalists are determined during a month of social media voting through KDA's Facebook and Pinterest accounts. The top five finalists are then passed on to key leaders in Kansas agriculture, who pick two winners in each category. We are sorry to report staff cannot enter, but there is no regulation against employees' spouses, family members or friends from entering! For more details about the photo contest visit, [agriculture.ks.gov/photocontest](http://agriculture.ks.gov/photocontest).

### Categories

Every year there are different categories to celebrate the various aspects of Kansas agriculture. This year's categories, *Agriculture in the Fields*, *Agriculture in Town*, *Animals in Agriculture*, *Water in Agriculture*, *County Fair* and *Youth* will showcase the broad spectrum of what agriculture means in Kansas, from farmers' markets, to animals and crops, to the beautiful landscapes of Kansas farms, all while producing food, fiber and energy for Kansas in a growing world. The *Youth* division is for young photographers 19 and under. Past categories have included: *Technology at Work*, *Beauty of the Farm*, *From Farm to Table*, *Picture Perfect Prairie* and all seasons in Kansas.

### Materials

After submission, KDA is granted the right to use the photos in any publications, social media, websites, displays and other places. For example, many of the photos submitted are used in promotional materials for the Kansas Agricultural Growth Summit. Every year we are excited to see the new entries and how they will be used to advocate for Kansas agriculture, the state's largest industry. Tell your friends, and send photo entries to: [KDA.PhotoContest@ks.gov](mailto:KDA.PhotoContest@ks.gov)

