

KDAM Monthly

NEWS AND NOTES FOR THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TEAM • DECEMBER 2016

LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR STRENGTHS:

Put your Harmony to good use this Holiday Season.

If Harmony is one of your strengths, it can be a real asset during holiday gatherings with family and friends. You may be able to defuse tense situations and help create a happy environment. For example: In discussions, look for the practical side of the issue and help others see it. This is the starting point of agreement. If an argument does arise between two people, ask others in the group to share their thoughts. By increasing the number of voices in the conversation you are more likely to find areas where all parties can agree, and you can draw people together.

People with Harmony as a strength look for areas of agreement. In their view there is little to be gained from conflict and friction, so they seek to hold it to a minimum. When they know that the people around them hold differing views, they try to find the common ground. They try to steer others away from confrontation and toward harmony.

BE READY TO:

Partner with someone with a strong Command or Activator theme. This person can help you confront the conflict head-on, when all of your best efforts to resolve it have met with no success.

KDA's top strengths as a whole are:
Responsibility, Achiever, Learner, Consistency and Harmony.

Department Comings and Goings

Please help us welcome these new KDA staff members:

Lyle Black FDLS, Meat & Poultry
Rowland Harris FDLS, Food Safety
Ann Kralik FDLS, Meat & Poultry
Topanga McBride..... Communication Intern
Donald McMaster FDLS, Meat & Poultry

These employees are no longer at KDA:

Samantha Albers..... W&M, Office Assistant
Keith Arkenburg Lab, Topeka
Phylisia Davis..... FDLS, Johnson Co.
Jeanne Fox..... Pesticide and Fertilizer
Alana McClain.....Ag Marketing, Intern
Jordan PieschlAg Marketing, Intern
Wyatt Pracht.....Ag Marketing, Intern
Julie Roller.....Ag Marketing
Tom Sanders..... Plant Protection
Courtney Schamberger...Ag Marketing, Intern
April Sidesinger.....Water Appropriations, SAA
Cassidy Stimpert.....Animal Health, Student



Coming Up:



- Dec. 19-22 Afterburn Exercise
- Dec. 26Christmas Holiday (Office Closed)
- Dec. 30 Last day to use 2016 Discretionary Day
- Jan. 2 New Year's Day Holiday (office closed)

H.R. CORNER

Bulletins:

Winter storms are upon us, so make sure you're familiar with the [KDA Inclement Weather Policy](#). Be safe out there!

Remember to visit HR Bulletins at agriculture.ks.gov/HR for updated newsletters, training schedules, archived KDA Monthly, and much more!

AFTERBURN EXERCISE DEC. 19-22

Thanks to everyone who is participating in the Afterburn exercise this week. If you aren't actively participating, remember that many of your co-workers will be focused on that event and will resume regular work duties when Afterburn is over. Be aware that we will have guests in the Manhattan office throughout the week.

This exercise is a critical part of preparing the state in the event of an actual animal disease emergency. We appreciate everyone's commitment to this part of the agency's vision: helping to ensure a safe food supply, protecting natural resources, promoting public health and safety, protecting animal health, and providing consumer protection to the best of our ability.

AFTER BURN

If you have items you would like to include in the next issue, please send them to Heather.Lansdowne@ks.gov

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KDA HOLIDAY PARTY RECAP



MANHATTAN POTLUCK FEAST



STAFFORD FIELD OFFICE



GARDEN CITY HOLIDAY PARTY



MANHATTAN OFFICE CHRISTMAS SWEATERS



STOCKTON FIELD OFFICE WITH THE SELFIE STICK!



LIVE CAROLS BY ADAM INMAN



MANHATTAN PARTY HATS



SCRANTON FIELD OFFICE

Merry Christmas

Seasons' Greetings!

As we sit down to write this letter, we reflect on the past year and look forward to the next. We hope that your year was half as phenomenal as ours was as an agency. This year flew by as usual, but you know what they say: "Time flies when you work with great people!"

Over the past 12 months, several good friends retired and many moved on to new things. New people have joined us, and it seems that everyone on the third floor had a baby! These staff changes have us wishing everyone's photos still showed up with the new email!

It has been the kind of year that reminds us how much we can accomplish. Implementation has begun on 100% of Phase I action items within the Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas, like development of Water Conservation Areas and Water Technology Farms. We also worked with folks from across the state to come up with a plan for water education and outreach.

Our neighbors sure were great this year. We signed resolutions with Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska to settle longstanding conflict over water for the Republican Water basin another to resolve water right issues between Kansas and Kickapoo Tribe. That really made a splash this summer!

2016 had a lot of new technology around here. The Food Safety and Lodging Program and the Division of Animal Health are converting to online renewal and it's going great! Over 30% of 17,000 food establishments have converted to online renewals, and over 70% of small animal licensees and 20% of brands have converted. Meanwhile, the IT team got us all switched over to Office 365 without a hitch. Great job, IT! And we don't like to brag, but our agricultural lab's Feed Section achieved accreditation!

This year was our first annual Summit on Agricultural Growth and we hosted about 400 of our closest friends to talk about Kansas agriculture in August. We also had fun when the agency hosted the MASDA conference and showed the Midwestern Secretaries of Agriculture the sights and tastes of the Manhattan area including Hildebrand dairy, Aggieville, Cow Camp Ranch and From the Land of Kansas food products. The Secretaries even broke out their shorts for the Kansas heat!

Going into late summer, each office hosted a barbecue and we all enjoyed conversation and yard games. In the fall, we had a great time at the Kansas State Fair and had a blast eating deep fried Oreos. Speaking of food, the American Royal hosted its barbecue for the first time in Kansas. Then we surprised everyone with the big announcement on October 25 that the American Royal is moving to Wyandotte County, Kansas! This is a great achievement for the state of Kansas and our rich heritage supporting animal agriculture and our commitment to providing high-quality agricultural education opportunities.

Going out with a bang, we are conducting our 4-day foreign animal disease response emergency preparedness exercise in December. We are hoping that Afterburn doesn't give us heartburn from all the constant action and catered food!

The holidays are a perfect time to think about how much we appreciate the job everyone does for the agency. We hope you enjoy a wonderful season filled with the people and traditions that mean the most to you, and may your season be merry and your presents underwear-free. (Unless you really need some!!)

Best Wishes,

The Kansas Department of Agriculture Family

