

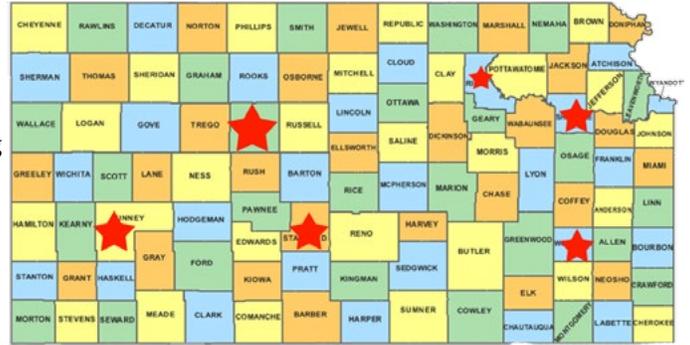
# KDAM Monthly

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

## REGIONAL MEETINGS

The Executive Team is hitting the road again for regional employee meetings! They are looking forward to the opportunity to visit with KDA employees and provide an opportunity for input, discussion and networking with coworkers. The agenda was distributed by email on Oct. 20.

Please plan to attend the meeting closest to your work station/region unless that date conflicts with other responsibilities or your schedule.



- **Monday, Oct. 31 at 2:00 p.m.** — 801 W. Mary St., Yates Center
- **Tuesday, Nov. 1 at 9:00 a.m.** — Stafford County Annex Community Room, 210 E 3rd Ave, St. John
- **Tuesday, Nov. 1 at 2:00 p.m.** — Agricultural Research Center Auditorium, 1232 240th Ave, Hays
- **Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 9:00 a.m.** — K-State Research and Extension Office, Large Conference Room, 4500 E. Mary St., Garden City
- **Thursday, Nov. 3 at 9:00 a.m.** — KDA Headquarters, 1320 Research Park Dr., Manhattan (Regional Employees)
- **Thursday, Nov. 3 at 1:00 p.m.** — KDA Headquarters, 1320 Research Park Dr., Manhattan (Headquarters Employees)
- **Friday, Nov. 4 at 9:00 a.m.** — KanPERC, 540 NW Broad St., Topeka
- **Friday, Nov. 4 at 1:00 p.m.** — KanPERC, 540 NW Broad St., Topeka

*\*Note that the Manhattan and Topeka meeting dates have been switched since the original meeting notification sent in August.\**

## KDA Holiday Party

Mark your calendar for the KDA Staff Holiday Party on Friday, Dec. 16. in Manhattan, Garden City, Stockton and Stafford (Topeka and Southeast Kansas dates have not yet been determined.) Events will be held at multiple locations, similar to the summer BBQ. Watch your email and the November newsletter for more details.



## In The News

Did you see a familiar face in the Manhattan Mercury this week? Karen Hunter, an administrative specialist in the water management program, was featured with her husband, Chris, to acknowledge the 2,800 hours they have served as volunteer Riley County auxiliary police officers. They both retired from the roles this fall and were recognized by the Riley County PD for their years of dedication.



## Coming Up:

- Oct. 28-29 ..... American Royal BBQ
- Oct. 31- Nov. 4 ..... Regional Meetings
- Nov. 11 .....Veteran's Day (Office Closed)
- Nov. 24-25 ..... Thanksgiving (Office Closed)
- Dec. 16 .....Holiday Party
- Dec. 19-22 .....Afterburn Exercise
- Dec. 26 .....Christmas Holiday (Office Closed)



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

# AMERICAN BEER DAY: OCT. 27



**From the Land of Kansas** is KDA's trademark program, representing businesses that produce items right here in the state. We have 325 From the Land of Kansas members, ranging from food processors to restaurants and from pumpkin patches to microbreweries, like those featured in this American Beer Day promotion.

This fall, member Thrill's Kettle Corn won Best in Taste at the State Fair, and you can find that prize-winning kettle corn on the From the Land of Kansas website, [fromthelandofkansas.com](http://fromthelandofkansas.com) or at HyVee and other stores. Look for the From the Land of Kansas logo when you're shopping!

Also please welcome Janelle Dobbins, who started this month as manager of the From the Land of Kansas program!

## New Employees

Please help us welcome these new KDA staff members.

- Stephanie Plaschka.....Legal Assistant, Legal, MHK
- Tyler Smith.....Environmental Associate, Water Appropriation, Topeka
- Alisha Pollard.....Assistant HR Director, Human Resources, MHK
- Brian Dighera.....Agriculture Inspector, Weights and Measures, Home based
- Janelle Dobbins.....FLOK Manager, Marketing, Advocacy & Outreach, MHK
- Sydney Lutjen.....Intern, Laboratory, Topeka
- Caitlyn Maloney.....Student Worker, Office of the Secretary, MHK
- Alex Bach.....Student Worker, Conservation, MHK
- Janelle Marney.....Student Worker, Plant Protection & Weed Control, MHK
- Kaylee Stutz.....Student Worker, Laboratory, Topeka

## H.R. CORNER

### Bulletins:

Visit HR Bulletins at [agriculture.ks.gov/HR](http://agriculture.ks.gov/HR) for the following:

- [Health Quest October Challenge](#)
- [Health Quest Newsletter](#)
- [OPS Training](#)
- [National Retirement Security Week](#)
- [Group Health Insurance Open Enrollment links](#)

**Remember: Open Enrollment deadline is Oct. 31!**

Open enrollment is the time to choose your health plan for 2017 and to enroll for optional group life insurance. Two open enrollment meetings remain:

- Garden City Field Office: Oct. 26, 1:30 p.m.
- Stafford Field Office: Oct. 27, 8:30 a.m.

## KDA Trivial Pursuit

This month's trivia question:

**What year was the Kansas Department of Agriculture first formed?**

Send your answer to Heather Lansdowne at [Heather.Lansdowne@ks.gov](mailto:Heather.Lansdowne@ks.gov). All answers are due by Nov. 4 at 12:00 p.m. All correct answers will then be entered in a drawing for a prize.



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# SPOTLIGHT

MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT ON THE PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS OF KDA • OCTOBER 2016

## Richard King, Food Safety and Lodging



### *Tell us about yourself.*

I live in Kansas City, Missouri. I went to Paseo High School. I got a B.S degree in agriculture from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. I have two children born on the same day one year part.

### *When did you start working at KDA, and what is your current job?*

I started working for KDA in 2012. I am a food & lodging surveyor II with the food safety and lodging program.

### *What is a typical day like for you?*

My typical day starts off as a brand new day each day. I try to start my typical day with a positive attitude to make sure I am out doing the best job I can do and to make the public safe when they choose to eat in my coverage area.

### *Favorite thing about KDA?*

My favorite thing about KDA is my support I get from my manager Amber Barham, and the staff in the district office.

### *What was your last job prior to coming to KDA?*

I was with the State of Kansas as a child support collection officer.

### *What's your favorite part of your job?*

I can make a difference in public safety by enforcing food establishments to do the right thing in keeping food safe.

### *What are your hobbies?*

Cooking and competing in the BBQ competition.

### *What would be your dream vacation?*

To visit Puerto Rico for a few days, and do some fishing off the coastal water.

### *What was the first job you ever had?*

I was a food vendor at the Kansas City Royals stadium in 1983.



## MORE ABOUT THE FOOD SAFETY AND LODGING PROGRAM

An amazing team of nearly 60 people work hard every day to protect the food that is sold and eaten across the entire state of Kansas. Every restaurant, retail food store, food processor (really, anywhere food is sold or made) is inspected by the 49 inspectors and helped by the other staff in the food safety and lodging program right here at the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Many people are surprised to find food inspections within agriculture, but to us it makes sense, because all food comes from ag! In reality, most states have their food inspections spread across two or even three state agencies — but here in Kansas all food licensing goes through KDA since 2008 when they were all consolidated in this agency (some were part of KDHE prior to that date).



“We have an incredibly dedicated team, with a food safety mission,” said Steve Moris, program manager for FSL. “They truly care about their job and want to protect Kansans and visitors to the state.”

In addition to inspecting restaurants, grocery stores, cafeterias, convenience stores, and food processing businesses, the staff of the FSL program provide a great deal of education and assistance to owners and workers in the businesses. “We educate before we regulate,” says Steve.

For example, a recent project has translated all educational handouts in Spanish and the program is now working on a similar project in Chinese.

And they are on site for a wide variety of disasters as well, including power outages, water advisory situations, fires/floods in food businesses, accidents involving food delivery vehicles — any time food safety is a concern for citizens, this team is there to help and to ensure safety is a focus.

Many of us don't get a chance to get to know these fellow KDA folks very well, because all 49 inspectors are home-based, spread across the state. So if you have a chance to meet them at KDA events (like the summer BBQ, regional meetings or the upcoming holiday party) make a point to say thanks for all they do for KDA and for Kansas!



The food safety and lodging program gathered at Rock Springs 4-H Center in October for training; the retreat included some unplanned time in the tornado shelter!

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## KDA PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Every year the Kansas Department of Agriculture Photo Contest generates hundreds of wonderful photographs showcasing the beauty of Kansas agriculture. Finalists are selected based on social media traffic, and the winners are chosen by a panel of agriculture leaders. Many of the entries are used throughout KDA's publications and social media, to promote Kansas ag. Every year several outstanding photos are selected to be enlarged and framed and hung on the walls of the KDA building in Manhattan. Watch for new photos coming soon to a wall near you!

