KSU2U: Partnerships and Resource Leveraging Among Multiple Partners

Wednesday, June 16, 2021
First land-grant created following the passage of the Morrill Act of 1862

Funding for K-State Research and Extension

--$46 million state
--$10 million NIFA capacity
--$66 million grants
Statewide reach

Geographic center of the 48 contiguous US states
Distribution of hard winter wheat fields in Kansas
Field-level and seed management supporting the breeding program immediately north of campus.

- Lincoln, NE: 136 miles
- Fort Collins, CO: 549 miles
- Stillwater, OK: 259 miles
- Columbia, MO: 245 miles
“Grain campus” located immediately east of field plot and seed operations supporting wheat breeding
Strong relationships with stakeholders strengthen LGU (state)-NIFA partnerships

NIFA PRESS RELEASE

NIFA Invests Over $8.65M for Plant Breeding

(Media contact: NIFA Director of Communications Faith Peppers, faith.peppers@usda.gov, (816) 745-0959)

KANSAS CITY, Mo., April 28, 2021 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) invested over $8.65 million in 22 plant breeding research projects through its Agriculture and Food Research Initiative program.

The Plant Breeding for Agricultural Production grants include a co-funded project by the Kansas Wheat Commission through the Farm Bill commodity boards topic provision, as well as five cultivar development projects aimed at accelerating testing, evaluating and releasing publicly-finished wheat, triticale, sorghum, and canola cultivars for farmers.

“Plant breeding is a critical link in helping agriculture mitigate climate change,” said NIFA director Dr. Carrie Castille. “These innovative projects will advance crop production efficiency, healthfulness, product quality, and the value of U.S. agricultural plants while increasing farmer profitability and sustainability.”
LGU (state)-stakeholder-NIFA partnerships through capacity and competitive funds leverage other federal investments and global partnerships.

**Applied Wheat Genomics Innovation Lab**
Contact: Jesse Poland, Director
Focus countries: India, Pakistan

This project is developing heat-tolerant, high-yielding and farmer-accepted wheat varieties that utilize local cultivars and breeding networks.
Summary: K-State experience

- Stakeholder trust/engagement
- Deepening K-State capacity/ever-growing impacts
- Leveraged investments/diverse partners