BAE E-News
September 21, 2015

PUBLICATION:

LIMITED IRRIGATION ROUNDTABLE – September 25, 2015 at K-State SWREC, 4500 E. Mary Street, Garden City, KS:
Learn about “Yield Prophet” a decision support tool Australian farmers, crop consultants, and ranchers are using to maximize profitability by matching inputs such as irrigation and fertilizers to seasonal yield potential. Get an update on K-State research on Mobile Drip Irrigation. Also learn how KanSched can help you improve irrigation scheduling even under low well capacity.

Featured speaker will be Tim McClelland who is the Yield Prophet coordinator for Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) based in Australia. He grew up on a mixed enterprise farm north of Birchip in north western Victoria in Australia. He helps farmers maximize profitability and reduce production risks using the Yield Prophet decision support tool. Also speaking are Drs. Isaya Kisekka and Jonathan Aguilar, both faculty of BAE based in Garden City, KS.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided at the Garden City presentation only. Register by calling Ms. Ashlee Wood at (620)-276-8286 or e-mail awood22@ksu.edu to get a head count for the meals.

Tim McClelland will be giving a presentation at the Manhattan campus on Thursday, September 24, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Seaton 134-C. Scroll down for abstract and more information.

ENGINEERING FALL CONVOCATION:
At the COE Fall Convocation on September 10, BAE faculty members were recognized as recipients for the following Engineering awards:
• James L. Hollis Memorial Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching – Ronaldo Maghirang
• Myers-Alford Memorial Teaching Award – Stacy Hutchinson
• Robert R. and Lila L. Snell Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award – Ronaldo Maghirang
• Larry E. and Laurel Erickson Public Service Award – Phil Barnes
• Outstanding Assistant Professor Award – Lisa Wilken
• Frankenhoff Outstanding Research Award – Donghai Wang
• Dean’s Award of Excellence in Service – Lisa Wilken

Pictured left to right: Drs. Donghai Wang, Stacy Hutchinson, Lisa Wilken, Ronaldo Maghirang

Pictured left to right: Drs. Phil Barnes and Larry Erickson

RESEARCH AND THE STATE:
The Research and the State Graduate Student Poster session will be held on October 27. This is an opportunity for graduate students to share their research and scholarly work and discuss the implications it has for topics of interest to the State of Kansas. Abstract submission is now open and will remain open through September 25 at 11:59 p.m. More information and guidelines may be found at: http://www.k-state.edu/grad/students/studentcouncil/research-forums/
FREE BUSINESS CARDS FOR ALL COE Ph.D. STUDENTS:
ERGP is offering free business cards for all engineering Ph.D. students. Business cards must be requested before October 1. For the address, be sure to use Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Kansas State University, 129 Seaton Hall, 920 N. 17th Street, Manhattan, KS 66506-2906. For more information go to: http://www.engg.ksu.edu/ergp/grad-program/current/businesscards.html

ENGINEERING UNDERGRADUATE POSTER FORUM:
The COE Undergraduate Poster Forum will be held on Thursday, December 3 in the Rathbone and Fiedler atriums. This forum allows engineering undergraduate students the opportunity to share their research with the community. Abstract submission will open on October 1. More information will be available later this month.

SPARK WEEK OCTOBER 5-9:
Students Promoting the Advancement of Research at K-State events will focus on undergraduate research all week. Faculty and graduate students who mentor undergraduates are asked to participate as well. The Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry is sponsoring SPARK Tank on October 7 in Room 227 of the K-State Student Union. This is an opportunity for undergraduate students to pitch their research ideas to a panel of judges and possibly win a $1,000 OURCI research/travel grant.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:
“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.”
--Albert Camus

LOOKING AHEAD:
September 21 – Fall Census Day
September 21 – Last day for 50% refund for a regular session course
September 22 – All-University Career Fair, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Bramlage Coliseum
September 22 – COE Career Fair banquet, 5:30 p.m. social; 6:15 p.m. dinner, K-State Alumni Center
September 23 – All-University Career Fair, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Bramlage Coliseum
September 25 – Spring 2016 course schedule on web
September 28 – Last day to drop a regular session course without a W being recorded
September 29 – President & Provost annual colleges/units meeting: COA 2:30-4:30 p.m., K-State Student Union Big 12 Room
October 1 – President & Provost annual colleges/units meeting: KSRE 9:00-11:00 a.m., Hale Library Hemisphere Room
October 26 – Enrollment for Spring 2016 Term begins
October 30 – Last day to drop a regular session course
November 20 – Last day for graduate students to confirm (online) December commencement attendance.
November 20 – Last day for graduate students to submit documents for December graduation
November 23-25 – Student holiday
November 26-27 – University holiday
December 11 – Fall 2015 term ends
December 11 – Graduate School commencement
December 12 – Undergraduate commencement
December 14 – Finals week
December 19 – Residence halls close
December 22 – Deadline (5:00 p.m.; 4:00 p.m. if through KSOL) to submit Fall 2015 term final grades
December 23 – Term final grades available in KSIS
December 24-25 – University Holiday
December 28 – January 2016 intersession begins
January 1 – University holiday

Please submit your news and travel information to Barb Moore bjmoore2@ksu.edu
Abstract. Australia’s dryland cropping zones are subject to high annual variation in climate and weather; in this context, farmers are daunted by the challenge to adjust crop production inputs to yield prospects. Agricultural simulation models play an increasingly important part in informing farmer practice, breeding strategies and government policies that aim to address challenges such as food security and climate variability as well as adaptation to and mitigation of a changing climate. The Agricultural Production Systems simulator (APSIM), a farming systems modelling framework, was developed by CSIRO and has evolved significantly to address emerging issues in agricultural production and sustainability. It contains interconnected models to simulate systems comprising soil, crop, tree, pasture and livestock biophysical processes. It is used extensively to assess on-farm management practices, climate risk adaptation strategies and mixed pasture/livestock strategies.

Yield Prophet® provides the bridge between the analytical power of APSIM and the practical application of farming. It was developed as a commercial arm of the APSIM model to extend its availability to practicing farmers and advisers. It is an Internet-based decision support system designed to reduce farmer uncertainty about yield prospects and the potential effects of alternative management practices on crop production and income. Yield Prophet® allows dryland cropping farmers to realistically identify the problems in their fields and to conduct virtual experiments to explore various solutions. It provides a means for virtual monitoring of the progress of a crop throughout a given season. This is particularly important for in-season decision support and for frequent reviewing, in real time, of the consequences of past weather events and of past and future management decisions on possible future outcomes.

Taking a complex crop model to market has generated a range of barriers and challenges. Does the opportunity exist to take the Yield Prophet model to market in the Central Plains region?