Pre-"Department of Agronomy"

- 1858-1863: Bluemont College
- 1863: Kansas State Agricultural College
- W.K. Kedzie (Chemical Department) conducted early work on crops and soils.
- 1887: Hatch Act establishes KAES
Pre-”Department of Agronomy”

• 1888-1905: Agronomic research conducted in Botany, Agriculture, Farm, and Chemical Departments.

• 67 KAES publications: Crop Science and Weed Science

• E.M. Shelton. 1888. Experience with Cultivated Grasses and Clovers in Kansas
Pre-”Department of Agronomy”

- June 1902: KBOR “voted that Soil Physics be carried out in the Farm Department and that Soil Chemistry be carried out in the Chemical Department”.

- J.T. Willard (Chemical Department, Head 1897-1918) conducted work on crops and soils
Department of Agronomy: 1906-1910

- Board of Regents Minutes, July 17, 1906

"Moved by Regent Nichols that the name of the Agriculture Department be changed to Agronomy. Carried."

Department of Agronomy: 1906-1910

- Albert M. Ten Eyck, Head, 1906-1910
- V. M. Shoesmith. 1906. The Study of Corn
Department of Agronomy: 1906-1910

• “... and to understand the principles of agriculture requires a knowledge of many sciences . . .”

• Four general areas of study:
  - Soils
  - Crops
  - Farm mechanics
  - Farm management
Department of Agronomy: 1910-1925

- William M. Jardine, Head, 1910-1913
- Leland E. Call, Head, 1913-1925
Department of Agronomy: 1910-1925

• 1914: Smith Lever Act establishes Cooperative Extension
• 1916: Klord and Kernel Klub organized
Department of Agronomy: 1910-1925

- 1917: Kanred Wheat, H. Fuller Roberts, Botany
- 1917: John Parker, Wheat Breeder
- 1919: First field inspection, KCIA
- 1923: First Agronomy Experiment Field
- 1923: First Crops Judging Team
- 1925: Agronomy Field Days Begin
Department of Agronomy: 1925-1946

- Ray I. Throckmorton, Head, 1925-1946
- Depression, dust bowl, WWII
- 1929-1930: 15 crop courses, 8 soils courses, 4 graduate courses
Alfred E. Aldous, Prescribed Burning
Department of Agronomy: 1925-1946

- 1931: KSAC becomes Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
- 1936: Kling L. Anderson, Range Scientist
- 1943-44 H.H. King (Chemistry Department) publishes in SSSAP
- 1945: Soil Conservation Curriculum created
Department of Agronomy: 1946-1970

- Harold E. Myers, Head, 1946-1952
- Raymond V. Olson, Head, 1952-1970
Department of Agronomy: 1946-1970

- 1947: First county soil testing lab
- 1947: Elmer Heyne, Wheat Breeding
- 1948: Roscoe Ellis, Jr., Soil Chemistry
- 1951-1952: Ph.D. in Agronomy, Soils
- Early 1950s (?), State soil testing lab opens
Department of Agronomy: 1946-1970

- 1958: Soils Judging Team begins with Orville Bidwell
- 1959: KSCAAS becomes Kansas State University
- Late 1950s-1960s: “Full-Load” Extension meetings and “In-Depth” Schools introduced
- 1963: Extension Agronomy faculty move to Waters Hall
- 1964: Klod and Kernel Klub becomes Wheat State Agronomy Club
Tornado at the Agronomy Farm, 1966
Department of Agronomy: 1971-1990

- George E. Ham, Head, 1980-1990
Department of Agronomy: 1971-1990

- 1977: Newton Wheat released
- 1981: First Weeds team competes
- 1982: Ellis and Heyne lectureships established
- 1989: Rannells Flint Hills Prairie research site established
Kansas Rangelands
their management,
based on
a half century of research
Harney Silt Loam

Adopted as the State Soil of Kansas

April 12, 1990
Groundbreaking, Throckmorton Phase I
Say thanks to an Extension Specialist

- New and improved crop varieties/hybrids
- Soil fertility
- Tillage
- Weed control
- Training of County Extension Agents
- Profound impacts on productivity, preservation of our soil resource, water quality, and many more
Department of Agronomy: 1990-2006

- Gerry L. Posler, Head, 1990-1998
- David E. Mengel, Head, 1998-2005
• Environmental research greatly expands
• 1991: Anderson lectureship established
• 1998: Betty and Heyne wheat varieties released
• 1999-2004: Crops Judging Team wins 6 consecutive national titles.
Department of Agronomy: 1990-2006

- 2001: Consortium for Agricultural and Soils Mitigation of Greenhouse Gases established
- 2001: Center for Sorghum Improvement established
- 2003: Learning Farm established
36 Faculty (56% with national recognition)

100 Undergraduate students with 100% placement

55 Graduate students

Five experiment fields
• $8,000,000 budget
• Extramural funding expenditures
  – 2nd College of Agriculture
  – 4th University-wide
• >250 on the payroll
Excellent laboratory, greenhouse, and teaching facilities
Excellent field research and seed production facilities
Economic Impact

- Approximately 2628 graduates since 1906
- Considering the difference in earnings between high school graduates and those holding a bachelors degree, our students have contributed >$2.4 Billion to the economy
- Does not consider significant personal and social benefits associated with a college education.
Economic Impact

- Pasture burning
  - Increased weight gains and reduced brush control costs
  - Annual net return of $22,400,000
Economic Impact

- Intensive early stocking
  - Increased weight gains
  - Annual net return of $76,125,000
Economic Impact

- Average crop yields have doubled since 1900
- For wheat, since 1977, 87% of the increase is due to wheat breeding
- Estimated economic benefit of KAES wheat breeding is $89 million/yr, or $2.6 billion since 1977.
- $18.50 returned to the state economy for each dollar invested
What does the future hold for Agronomy?

- Plenty of issues that need our expertise
  - Crop breeding and genetics
  - Environmental issues
  - Global climate change
  - Air quality
  - Herbicide-resistant crops and weeds
  - Many more
- Global food supply
What does the future hold for Agronomy?

- Alternative crops
- Cooperative Extension/Engagement
- Preservation/Enhancement/Utilization of our soil and rangeland resources
- Further expansion of our research beyond the boundaries of traditional agriculture
- High demand for our graduates