

Complete Curriculum Vitae



Assistant Professor of Crop Science  
Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University  
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Educator and researcher passionate about the agriculture industry, solving problems, and connecting with people. Excited to be a part of our industry's future and contribute to the crop science research of tomorrow through discovery and inspiration of future professionals.

Teaching  
Team-building

Leadership  
Coordination

Communication  
Organization

Research  
Connection

### Professional Preparation

Ph.D. Agronomy, Crop Production and Cropping Systems, Kansas State University, 2022  
Adviser: Dr. I.A. Ciampitti (Professor, Farming Systems)  
Dissertation topic: Corn tiller development and crop production impacts in Kansas

B.S. Environmental Plant Science – Crop Science, Missouri State University, 2018  
Minors: Agronomy, Horticulture  
Summa cum laude

### Teaching Experience

AGRON 220 – Crop Science (instructor of record), SP23  
Kansas State University Department of Agronomy (Manhattan, KS)

AGRON 350 – Plant and Seed Identification (instructor of record), SP23  
Kansas State University Department of Agronomy (Manhattan, KS)

AGRON 220 – Crop Science (Dr. Kevin Donnelly), FA19, FA21, SP22  
Kansas State University Department of Agronomy (Manhattan, KS)

Lab – Teaching assistant/instructor of record for one section per semester (grading, preparation, delivery, student communication and assistance as needed)

#### Teaching Evaluations

Overall effectiveness as a teacher – 4.4 (2019), 4.4 (2021), 4.6 (2022)

Increased desire to learn about subject – 3.9 (2019), 4.4 (2021), 4.3 (2022)

Amount learned in the course – 4.0 (2019), 4.5 (2021), 4.2 (2022)

Lecture – Technology assistance and delivery in professor’s absence

AGRON 360 – Crop Growth and Development (Dr. Kraig Roozeboom), FA20  
Kansas State University Department of Agronomy (Manhattan, KS)

Lab – Teaching assistant (preparation, delivery, grading, remote technology operation, student communication and assistance as needed)

AGR 300 – Food and Agricultural Chemistry, Organic Chemistry for the, FA18  
Agriculture Major (Dr. Elizabeth Walker, Professor, Animal Science)  
Missouri State University Darr College of Agriculture (Springfield, MO)

Lecture – Peer-assisted study session (PASS) leader and teaching assistant (instructor support, grading, lecture delivery in professor’s absence, and student mentoring)

### **Research Experience**

“Understanding the physiological tillering process in maize” 2019-2022  
Dr. Ignacio Ciampitti, Kansas State University (Manhattan, KS)

“UAV imaging validation for grain sorghum yield predictions” 2018  
Drs. Laura Mayor and David Hessel, Corteva Agriscience (Manhattan, KS)

“Horticultural production and farm management of fruit and vegetable crops” 2018  
Dr. Andrew Thomas, University of Missouri Southwest Research Center (Mount Vernon, MO)

“Cattle forage nutrition considering the grass tetany ratio” 2018  
Dr. Melissa Remley and Taylor Young, M.S., Missouri State University (Springfield, MO)

“Hydroponic production for resident dining halls on a university campus” 2017  
Chartwells Dining Services, Missouri State University (Springfield, MO)

“Effect of neem oil on the immune system of *Galleria mellonella*” 2017  
Dr. Maciej Pszczolkowski, Missouri State University Fruit Experiment Station (Mtn. Grove, MO)

“*Drosophila suzukii* pressure in blackberries” 2016  
Dr. Maciej Pszczolkowski, Missouri State University Fruit Experiment Station (Mtn. Grove, MO)

“*Popillia japonica* pressure in Missouri fruit crops” 2016  
Dr. Maciej Pszczolkowski, Missouri State University Fruit Experiment Station (Mtn. Grove, MO)

### **Extension Experience**

Kansas State University (Dr. Ignacio Ciampitti, Professor, Farming Systems)

2022 Kansas Soybean Management Schools – Facilitation

2020, 2022 Kansas Corn Management Schools – Facilitation and Presentations

2021, 2022 Kansas Corn Commission Seed to STEM – Speaker (Kansas MS and HS teachers)

Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Research Reports – first author (see below)

Extension Bulletins – conceptualization, authoring, updating (see below)

Research promotion and online resource development (<http://linktr.ee/rveenstra>)

- Twitter (2021 Statistics) – Tweets: 907 | Impressions: 1,577,942 | Profile Visits: 168,715
- YouTube (2021 Statistics) – Videos: 18 (14 field/research, 2 promotional, 2 statistics/coding)
- Website (as of Jun. 2022) – Visitors: 3,805 | Reach: global | Blog: 49 reads/post

Established partnerships with industry, commodity, and producer groups

### Peer-Reviewed Publications

**Veenstra, R. L.**, Messina, C. D., Berning, D., Haag, L. A., Carter, P., Hefley, T. J., Prasad, P. V. V., & Ciampitti, I. A. (2021). Effect of tillers on corn yield: Exploring trait plasticity potential in unpredictable environments. *Crop Science*, 61(5), 3660–3674.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/csc2.20576>

**Veenstra, R.**, Messina, C. D., Berning, D., Wallace, S., Legleiter, M., Haag, L., Prasad, P. V. V., and Ciampitti, I. A. (2022). “Corn Tiller Yield Contributions are Dependent on Environment: A 17 Site-Year Kansas Study.” Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Research Reports. (in press)

**Veenstra, R.**, Messina, C. D., Berning, D., Wallace, S., Legleiter, M., Haag, L., Prasad, P. V. V., and Ciampitti, I. A. (2021). "Corn Tiller Yield Contributions and Ear Development in Low Plant Densities." Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Research Reports: Vol. 7: Iss. 5.

<https://doi.org/10.4148/2378-5977.8074>

**Veenstra, R.**, Messina, C., Haag, L., Prasad, P. V. V., and Ciampitti, I. A. (2020). "Tiller Contributions to Low-Density Corn Biomass and Yield." Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Research Reports: Vol. 6: Iss. 5. <https://doi.org/10.4148/2378-5977.7919>

Pszczolkowski, M. A., Chastain, K., **Veenstra, R.**, & Kaps, M. L. (2019). Blackberry Cultivar Feeding Preference of Adult Japanese Beetles. *HortScience*, 54(5), 885-889.

### Extension Publications

KSRE MF3463 “Kansas Corn Yield Contest, High-Yield Management 2021” (First author)  
<https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3463.pdf>

KSRE MF3571 “Tillering Impacts on Corn Yields” (First author)  
<https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3571.pdf>

KSRE MF3208 2021 Kansas Corn Management Guide (Co-author - “Tillering” section, since updated)

### Competitive Proposals Authored

**Veenstra, R. L.**, Thielen, S., & Ciampitti, I. A. Corn Career Connection: Bridging the Gap between Lab and Life. Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom Challenge Grants Program.

### Public Engagements and Presentations

#### Conference Abstracts

**Veenstra, R. L.**, Hefley, T., Berning, D., Messina, C. D., Haag, L. A., Prasad, V., & Ciampitti, I. A. (2022) Predicting Corn Tiller Densities with Key E x M Factors. ASA, CSSA, SSSA International Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.

<https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2022am/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/142658>

**Veenstra, R. L.** & Ciampitti, I.A. (2022) Utility of Corn Tillers: Exploring Ear Type Plasticity. ASA, CSSA, SSSA International Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.

<https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2022am/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/142680>

**Veenstra, R. L.** (2021) Corn Tillers: Rethinking the "Sucker" Theory. ASA, CSSA, SSSA International Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.

<https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2021am/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/140642>

**Veenstra, R. L.,** & Ciampitti, I. A. (2021) Corn Tillers: Rethinking the "Sucker" Theory. ASA, CSSA, SSSA International Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.

<https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2021am/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/134925>

**Veenstra, R. L.,** Messina, C. D., Berning, D., Haag, L. A., Carter, P. R., Hefley, T., Prasad, P. V. V., & Ciampitti, I. A. (2021) Yield Impact of Corn Tillers: Evaluating Plasticity Trait Potential. ASA, CSSA, SSSA International Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.

<https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2021am/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/134917>

**Veenstra, R. L.,** Messina, C. D., Haag, L. A., Prasad, V., & Ciampitti, I. A. (2019) Water-Limited Corn Yields As Influenced By Tiller Biomass and Leaf Area at Varying Plant Densities. ASA, CSSA and SSSA International Annual Meetings (2019), San Antonio, TX.

<https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2019am/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/120529>

Torres, A. R., Moro Rosso, L. H., **Veenstra, R. L.,** & Ciampitti, I. A. (2019) Relative Abundance of Ureides and Protein Concentration in Soybean Seeds. ASA, CSSA and SSSA International Annual Meetings (2019), San Antonio, TX.

<https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2019am/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/120881>

**Veenstra, R. L.** & Joost, M. R. (2018) Validation of panicle count and segmentation UAS data for application in grain sorghum yield predictions. Corteva Agriscience Summer Intern Research Symposium, Johnston, IA. In print.

#### Invited Talks

“Establishing a Personal Brand on Social Media”, 2022

Graduate Genetics Workshop Course, Iowa State University (virtual)

“Women in Ag” Panelist, 2022

ΣA professional sorority, Fort Hays State University (Hays, KS)

“Corn Tillers: Cause for Concern?”, 2022

AgronCon 2022 North American Agronomy Conference, Corteva Agriscience Pioneer Agronomy (Johnston, IA)

“Establishing Your Brand” Panelist, 2022

National Association of Plant Breeders, Graduate Student Working Group (virtual)

“Tillering in Corn”; “Corn Tillers: Cause for Concern?”, 2020, 2022

Corn Management Schools, KSRE and Kansas Corn Commission (Oakley, KS)

“Building Your Online Presence”, 2021

ASA-CSSA-SSSA Graduate Student Committee (virtual)

“Corn Field Scouting and Crop Management Considerations”, 2021, 2022

Seed to STEM (Middle and high school teacher workshops), Kansas Corn Commission (Hays, KS; Salina, KS; Topeka, KS)

“Plant Growth Responses (G × E × M)”, 2021  
Mansfield Middle School (Mansfield, MO)

“Making Sense of Suckers”, 2020  
2020 Kansas Corn Symposium, Kansas Corn Commission (Manhattan, KS)

#### Non-Academic Public Media

“What are corn tillers?”, June 2022  
Invited submission to the Sustainable, Secure Food Blog (ASA and CSSA-sponsored)  
<https://sustainable-secure-food-blog.com/2022/06/07/what-are-corn-tillers/>

“Tiller Queen”, March 2022  
Raney Rapp of Farm Talk newspaper (Parsons, KS)  
[https://www.farmtalknews.com/news/tiller-queen/article\\_009c65f8-a47c-11ec-a543-730f0eddbf96.html](https://www.farmtalknews.com/news/tiller-queen/article_009c65f8-a47c-11ec-a543-730f0eddbf96.html)

“Taking Stock of Tillers”, March 2021  
Larry Reichenberger of The Furrow magazine (John Deere, Moline, IA)  
<https://www.deere.com/en/publications/the-furrow/2021/march-2021/taking-stock-of-tillers/>

#### **Honors and Awards**

CSSA-C3 Outstanding Paper (<https://doi.org/10.1002/csc2.20576>)  
National Corn Grower’s Association Research Ambassador (2022-23 term)  
K-State Agriculture Dean and KSRE Director’s Award for Graduate Student Research  
K-State Richard Elmore Brown Award for Graduate Student Teaching  
1<sup>st</sup> Place – CSSA Graduate Student Competition, International Annual Meeting  
1<sup>st</sup> Place – CSSA C-3 Ph.D. Student 5-Minute Rapid Presentation Competition  
1<sup>st</sup> Place – CSSA C-3 Ph.D. Student Poster Competition, 2021  
K-State Irvin D. and Dora Mae Atkins Family Scholarship  
NACTA Graduate Student Teaching Award  
K-State Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award  
Kansas Corn Next Generation Scholarship  
ASA-CSSA-SSSA Graduate Student Leadership Conference Nominee  
K-State Schrader/Massier Graduate Excellence Fund in Agronomy Scholarship  
Summa Cum Laude, Missouri State University (2018)  
Missouri State University Darr College of Agriculture Anson W. Elliot Citizenship Award  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Summer Intern Poster Competition, Corteva Agriscience Pioneer Agronomy  
Missouri Green Industry Alliance Scholarship

#### **Membership and Service**

North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA)  
American Society of Agronomy (ASA)  
Crop Science Society of America (CSSA)  
    CSSA Society-Wide Student Competition Committee (2022-2023 term)  
Soil Science Society of America (SSSA)  
Kansas Corn Grower’s Association  
National Corn Grower’s Association

2022 KACTA Regional Collegiate Crops Contest Volunteer  
Topics in Predictive Agriculture (K-State Independent Student Organization)  
Symposium Organizing Committee - "Predictive Ag: Turning Data into Decisions"  
<https://ciampittilab.wixsite.com/2020>

### **Professional Development**

Online Presence Building and Maintenance (branding, website, social media)  
4,224 global website visitors (*updated Dec. 2022*)  
1,577,942 Twitter impressions (*2021*)  
18 YouTube videos (*2021*)  
Elective Graduate Coursework, Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance  
Program Planning in Agricultural and Extension Education (N. Carolina State Univ.)  
Grant Writing (University of Arkansas)  
Graphic Design (University of Arkansas)  
Certified Crop Adviser, ASA (certification in progress; International, C. Plains exams passed)  
Graduate Student Leadership Conference, ASA-CSSA-SSSA  
sUAS Commercial Remote Pilot Training, K-State Polytechnic  
Certified sUAS Remote Pilot (2019 – 2021), Federal Aviation Administration  
Student Leader Training and Engagement Workshop, Missouri State University