

# OTHER NEWS

## K-State ag research lab only one to get nod from feds to continue work

BY MORGAN CHILSON  
Kansas Reflector

MANHATTAN — The Trump administration defunded 16 of 17 Feed the Future labs across the country when it began wiping out U.S. Agency for International Development projects.

After months in limbo, Kansas State University found out its lab is the lone survivor.

Two K-State labs that are part of the Feed the Future network received stop work orders in January. In early April, K-State officials received notice that the Climate Resilient Cereals Innovation Lab could resume work, said Timothy J. Dalton, professor of agricultural economics and interim director of the lab.

The second lab, the Feed the Future Collaborative Research on Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab, which had a \$50 million co-operative agreement for its operations, was terminated.

Dalton is unsure what the future funding will be for the Cereals lab. The original cooperative agreement allocated \$22 million for five years.

"We are just completing our second year,"

he said. "We receive our funding in annual increments. We'll see what happens once this fiscal year ends."

Dalton is pleased to continue the work the Cereals lab began, which involves collaborations with universities around the country, and with national agricultural research systems in Senegal, Ethiopia and Bangladesh.

But he's concerned about the long-term impacts of ending 16 labs, each of which was doing work that affects farmers in the United States.

University spokeswoman Michelle Geering said U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran was helpful in getting the funding reinstated.

"K-State's innovation lab is helping bolster American agriculture by creating crops that are resistant to drought and disease," Moran said in a press release. "I appreciate (U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio) for recognizing the importance of the work being done at Kansas State University and supporting the continuation of this program."

**INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL IMPACTS**

The research work at all the labs has



Feed the Future labs work internationally to study agricultural issues. Kansas State University has the only lab out of 17 that survived USAID funding cuts. Here, KSU was part of a conference in Senegal that addressed water accessibility. COURTESY

implications internationally as well as for U.S. agriculture. Giving credit to another professor, Dalton borrowed an analogy to describe what the 17 Feed the Future labs were designed to do.

"We train our military to go and fight battles overseas in order to prevent similar problems from occurring in the United States," Dalton said. "It's a similar argument. What we're doing with the Innovation lab mechanism is working on very similar problems that just happen to be food-related."

Dalton said aligning with other countries to solve agriculture challenges like crop disease resistance pays off for the United States by

preparing U.S. farmers for when those same issues come here, which they eventually do, he said.

For example, research in the 1980s to protect farms in southern Africa from the sugarcane aphid helped U.S. farmers with managing the greenbug aphid, Dalton said.

"I have always expressed my deepest concern about the halting of any international collaborative work, that it's really going to fall on the shoulders of farmers because they're the ones who are not getting the type of research to get out in front of these challenges that they will face," Dalton said.

**LONGTERM RESEARCH**

Dalton also raised concerns that halting support for the other 16 labs sets agricultural research back because of the long-term, slow path that research sometimes takes.

Researchers are usually tied to the crop cycles, so they may only be able to do investigations in the fields during certain times.

"The work in Ethiopia has had tremendous impacts, but it started half a century ago," he said. "Because ag research moves slowly and it's all about persistence over time, rather than stop-and-go funding, you have to think about protecting the long-run interests."

**CEREALS RESEARCH**

Work will now continue in the Climate Resilient Cereals Lab, where they focus on researching four cereal grains: sorghum, millet, wheat and rice.

In Senegal, research is focused on wheat and sorghum. It's on the border of the Sahara Desert, Dalton said, where it's always hot and dry, allowing them to study wheat that is exposed to heat and drought. Those are two issues that regularly affect Kansas farmers.

Work studying rice in Bangladesh considers, among other things, the genes that rice varieties harbor that are resistant to disease. Identifying ways to fight rice blast, a fungal infection that destroys rice crops around the world, is part of that research.

Dalton said sorghum research is important because there are fewer researchers focused on it than on other grains. More than 50% of U.S. sorghum is grown in Kansas.

"There are so many more questions left to be answered about sorghum because it hasn't had that intense level of research," he said.

For more from the Kansas Reflector, visit [kansasreflector.com](http://kansasreflector.com).

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF FINNEY COUNTY, KANSAS**

In the Matter of the Estate of WILMA WALLER, deceased

**Case No. FI-2025-PR-000006**

(Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED: You are hereby notified that on February 6, 2025, a petition for probate of will and issuance of letters testamentary was filed in this court by Rita Kay Keim, co-executor named in the last will and testament of Wilma Waller, deceased.

All creditors of the decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against

### PUBLIC NOTICE

the estate within the latter of four (4) months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or, if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, thirty (30) days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Rita Kay Keim, petitioner  
Michael E. Collins, SC# 07384  
HOPE, MILLS, BOLIN, COLLINS & RAMSEY LLP  
607 N. Seventh Street  
P.O. Box 439  
Garden City, Kansas 67846  
Phone: (620) 276-3203  
Attorneys for Petitioner  
Published in Garden City Telegram  
April 19, 26, May 3, 2025.

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF FINNEY COUNTY, KANSAS**

In the Matter of the Estate of LARRY G. BINNS a/k/a LARRY GENE BINNS, deceased

**Case No. FI-2024-PR-000018**

(Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED: You are hereby notified that a petition for final settlement was filed in this Court by Tonda Tabor, duly appointed, qualified and acting executor of the estate of Larry G. Binns a/k/a Larry Gene Binns, deceased, requesting that petitioner's acts be approved; the account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; the last will and testament be construed and the estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto; the court find the allowances requested for attorneys' fees and expenses are reasonable and should be allowed; the costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the estate be closed; upon the filing of receipts, the petitioner be finally discharged as the executor of the estate of Larry G. Binns a/k/a Larry Gene Binns, deceased, and the petitioner be released from further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses to the petition on or before May 20, 2025, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. in the District Court in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

Tonda Tabor, executor  
Michael E. Collins, SC# 07384  
HOPE, MILLS, BOLIN, COLLINS & RAMSEY LLP  
607 N. Seventh  
P.O. Box 439  
Garden City, Kansas 67846  
Phone: (620) 276-3203  
Attorneys for executor  
Published in Garden City Telegram  
April 26, May 3, 10, 2025.

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