

# THE SYLLABUS



## What's inside:



### Iceland/Scandinavia Trip

The Master of Agribusiness and Kansas Farm Bureau are hosting an agricultural tour of Iceland, Norway and Sweden.



### MAB Theses & Graduation

We had a great spring thesis defense season with 15 students completing their theses. Learn more about their topics.



### Alumni Spotlight

MAB Advisory Board Members Terry Garvert and Dave Rock ('03) team up for Tractors for Africa three-day training workshop.



### #BeMAB and IFT19 Food Expo

Info on our upcoming #BeMAB events and photos from the IFT19 Food Expo.



### Student & Alumni Updates

Read the latest updates from MAB students and alumni.

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*Top photo: K-State Food Science and MAB faculty and staff at the IFT Food Expo in New Orleans, June 2019. Left to right: Nicole Marple (FSI), Randy Phebus (FSI), Mary Bowen (MAB), Sara Gragg (FSI) and Deborah Kohl (MAB).*



### Trip Basics:

- Hosted by Master of Agribusiness program and Kansas Farm Bureau
- August 23 - September 5, 2020
- Ag tour of Iceland, Norway and Sweden with optional Finland extension

### Tentative Itinerary:

- August 23 – Depart U.S.
- August 24 – Arrive Reyjavik, Iceland
- August 25 – Reyjavik - Þingvellir National Park - Gullfoss
- August 26 – Gullfoss - Skógafoss - Vik
- August 27 – Vik - Hveragerði - Reykjavik
- August 28 – Reykjavik - Bergen, Norway
- August 29 – Bergen - Hardanger - Voss
- August 30 – Voss - Sognefjord
- August 31 – Voss - Hallingdal Valley - Oslo
- September 1 – Oslo
- September 2 – Oslo - Fredrikstad
- September 3 – Lake Vänern - Stockholm, Sweden
- September 4 – Stockholm - Uppsala
- September 5 – Depart Stockholm back to U.S. or Finland for Lapland Tour

**To reserve your spot**, contact Mary Bowen at [mjbowen@ksu.edu](mailto:mjbowen@ksu.edu) or 785-532-4435. Detailed information and pricing will be available soon.

*The trip is open to anyone interested in participating - MAB or Kansas Farm Bureau affiliation is not required.*



# Thesis Completions

Thesis projects can be found at <http://krex.k-state.edu> or by logging into the MAB Community Page on Canvas.



**Shelby Drye, '19**

Strategic Fit Analysis: Using Technology to Reduce Pre-harvest Losses in Sugar Beets



**Curstan Dye, '18**

Strategic Fit Analysis for Nestle Purina Pet Care Oklahoma City Facility



**Logan Hoffman, '19**

Hedonic Bull Pricing Models for Red Angus Bulls



**Cassie Schneider, '19**

Ethanol Plant Predictive Regression Models: The Importance of Plant Data Analytics



**Nicole Studer, '19**

Generational Appeal in Agriculture Equipment Lending



**Sara Trattles, '19**

Current State of Economics of Southwest Michigan Blueberries



**Taylor Holmes, '19**

An Analysis of Different Types of Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection



**LaKoda Kelber, '19**

Agriculture Curriculum Needs of Homeschooling Parents: A Case Study



**Scott Marckini, '19**

Multiple Warehouse to Customer Site Optimization Study in Support of a Company Strategic Customer Service Initiative



**Kalby Wehrbein, '19**

Regression Analysis on Management Factors that Affect an Agricultural Equipment Dealer's Market Share Performance



**Jody Wendt, '19**

An Examination of the Impact of 4-H on Employability Skills



**Lindsey Wilson, '19**

An Economic Feasibility Analysis of Pulsed Electromagnetic Field Therapy as an Equine Therapeutic Modality



**Dustin Miner, '19**

Truckload Forecasting



**Kaitlyn O'Neal, '19**

NPV Analysis of Go-To-Market Strategies for Wheat Seed



**Chase Ostmeyer, '19**

Ostmeyer Family Farms: Economic Feasibility of Replacing Summer Fallow with Field Peas in Northwest Kansas



**Spring Commencement 2019**

# Alumni Spotlight: Tractors for Africa



## MAB Advisory Board Members team up for Tractors for Africa

The following is a Q&A with **Terry Garvert**, MAB Advisory Board Member, Retired, Grain and Oilseed Supply Chain NA, Cargill, Inc., and **Dave Rock** ('03), MAB Advisory Board Member, Retired, Region Operations Manager, John Deere Company, about their experiences with **Tractors for Africa** (TFA).

Tractors for Africa is an US-based non-profit focused on mechanization and improving living standards for African farmers. TFA finds out-of-use tractors that are too small for American farms, refurbishes and ships them to farming cooperatives in Africa. They provide training on equipment and maintenance, business management, and agronomy to help increase yields for African farmers.

In March 2019, Terry and Dave traveled to Ejura in central Ghana to conduct a three-day training workshop. Ejura has three TFA partner cooperatives, and each received a tractor and plow in early 2019. Workshop sessions included equipment use, safety, and maintenance, along with agronomy and business management.

### Q. Why did you choose to volunteer with Tractors for Africa? How did you get involved?

**Terry:** I chose to volunteer with TFA shortly after I retired from Cargill three years ago. I had discussions with several former Cargill work colleagues who asked if I would be willing to help raise money for TFA. That turned into also working on sanding, scouring metal parts and repainting farm equipment like plows, and disc harrows, as well as tractors. I



*Dave Rock ('03) listens to questions during a Tractors for Africa training session.*

also got involved in making a farm trailer from just an 8-ton 4-wheeled axle with another Cargill retiree. I really enjoyed spending time rehabbing farm equipment.

**Dave:** Terry contacted me looking for operation and maintenance training materials for the John Deere 3020 tractor. Since those tractors were produced in the 1960s, if it had been available it would likely be in 35 mm slide format. I contacted Deere training and learned the files had been purged within the past 18 months. I told Terry I'd be glad to write a new program. Early in my Deere career, I was a writer and service instructor. It was a fun trip down memory lane taking the information from an old operator's manual and creating a training program in PowerPoint. After I shared the file with Terry, he asked if I'd like to come along to Ghana to teach it - "heck yes!"

### Q. What has the experience been like for you? Highlights?

**Terry:** I've really enjoyed the work, having regular board meetings with former work colleagues from Cargill, networking with others to find donors of farm equipment, as well as financial donors gives me something to look forward to on top of helping subsistence farmers improve their opportunities to dramatically improve their farm yield. We've tracked yield improvements and have generally been able to raise maize yields by nearly double through ag mechanization and improved tillage of the soil alone. There will be more with exposure to

fertilization and then better plant genetics down the road to further increase yields.

**Dave:** The opportunity to work with TFA and the farmer coops in Ghana is very rewarding. It's been an unexpected add to my retirement portfolio of giving back. I spent my career supporting the advancement of ag mechanization to increase the productivity of crop production. It's easy to take ag mechanization for granted. In the USA, not having GPS guidance, yield mapping or variable rate is considered lagging. Imagine manual tillage, planting, care and harvest as standard operating procedure, not for your garden but for crop production. Affordable access to a tractor for tillage is a significant advancement for the Ghana farmers we work with.

I spent many hours driving my Dad's 3020 on the farm and then I worked in a John Deere dealership repairing them. That was over 40 years ago. That experience seemed like only yesterday, as I leveraged it to teach the classes. We held the training sessions at Ejura Ag College. It was a nice facility that had been built with USAID funds in the 1960s. Having the farmers and tractor operators crowd around the tractor, ask questions and develop their ability to safely drive the tractor was a highlight, though a bit scary at times as "STOP!" and "CLUTCH!" didn't always work.

Another highlight was riding with a farmer on his motorcycle to visit his farm field several miles from town. Imagine locating a farm field where there

are no section lines, fences or farm-to-market roads beyond winding paths off the pavement. The trees left in the fields all looked the same. The trees provide shade for the field workers so they are hesitant to remove them.

### Q. What are your responsibilities with the organization?

**Terry:** Currently, I monitor the TFA website and respond back to questions on behalf of the organization. I'm also on the farm equipment and volunteer team where I help track down farm equipment, and assist in bringing it in to the Twin Cities to be rehabbed and loaded onto 40 foot containers. I'm also still involved in grant writing and soliciting donors for financial aid. All of our current team members get involved in many facets of the project. We also have monthly board meetings to discuss the general direction of the program and update activities with the team. There are as many as 8-10 other former Cargill colleagues and family members, friends (including Dave) that get involved in one important way or another. I enjoy all of it and stay busy and engaged.

**Dave:** I contribute as a subject matter expert with equipment. Since ag mechanization in Ghana is limited, the support infrastructure is limited as well. There isn't a dealer, parts store or repair shop on every corner. A more robust inspection and get ready process prior to shipment has been developed. The logistics of obtaining parts and

locating experienced technicians is a challenge. However, the resourcefulness of local mechanics is amazing. "MacGyver" is an accurate nickname to describe their ability to make repairs.

I have also assisted with connections to John Deere and their dealer in Ghana, as well as exploring contacts to learn improved agronomic practices developed through local research efforts.

### Q. What all did you do with the group while in Ghana?

**Terry:** Originally I was tasked with tractor training for the week in Ghana. In actuality I sought out the help of Dave, with his lengthy career with John Deere and his prior experience when younger as a tractor mechanic and an editor in the tractor operations manuals for JD. He has become a subject matter expert for TFA, and I'm grateful he has stepped in so enthusiastically with our group. Dave has been a HUGE contributor and gives us great insights from his prior career experience. My efforts in Ghana served as a "trainer" where I rode along on the tractors with the students to make sure things like brakes, steering, hydraulics and use of PTO were done properly.

**Dave:** In addition to presenting the training, we visited the John Deere offices in Accra, held meetings with the farmer coops in their towns and the Catholic Bishop whose Diocese TFA is working with. We also visited a K-12 boarding school funded by the Staley family.



*Left: Terry Garvert with Matilda Exorman Egbenya, Extension Manager for Masara N' Arziki Coop, one of the cooperatives TFA has placed equipment with in Tamale, Ghana*

*Right: The group started the three-day session with a morning walk around the tractor to talk about maintenance issues.*



## Want to get involved?

**Terry:** Volunteers and equipment will always be needed. As we go forward, we are defining our farm equipment standards and trying to make sure the equipment goes overseas in very good condition, but sourcing John Deere 3020's, which at this time we have selected as our primary targeted tractor, can always use a shot in the arm. Others can get involved by contacting me as equipment and volunteer team member, and we can discuss ways that a person can help.

**Dave:** Tractors for Africa is always looking for leads on good used equipment—JD3020's and mounted equipment such as rippers and planters. Also, financial support would be welcome.

*For more information on Tractors for Africa, please contact Terry Garvert at [terry.garvert@tractorsforafrica.org](mailto:terry.garvert@tractorsforafrica.org) or visit [tractorsforafrica.org](http://tractorsforafrica.org).*

# Learn how to #BeMAB

The Master of Agribusiness program will host #BeMAB events in Washington, D.C. and Minneapolis, MN, in the next few months. These events will include a briefing and a networking reception, and we will provide information about the traditional MAB cohort, the Animal Health cohort and the new Animal Health Management Certificate.

You'll learn about the program, courses you'll take and skills you'll develop as you pursue the MAB degree or Animal Health Management Certificate.

MAB students and alumni are also invited and encouraged to attend the receptions.

Be watching our social media accounts for updates on dates and locations. For more information, contact Deborah Kohl at dkohl@ksu.edu or 785-532-4495.



**August 3-5**  
MAB at AVMA in Washington, D.C.

**August 4-9**  
Animal Health Cohort Campus Session at Olathe, KS

**August 22-23**  
MAB at Risk & Profit, Manhattan, KS

**August 24-26**  
MAB at Fetch, Kansas City, MO

**September 23**  
MAB hosting KC Ag Outlook Breakfast in Kansas City, MO

**September 24-26**  
MAB at Women in Ag in Minneapolis, MN

**September 30 - October 1**  
MAB at Feed and Pet Food Joint Conference, Kansas City, MO

**October 4**  
Last day to schedule a defense for name to appear in Commencement program

**October 20-24**  
MAB Campus Session at K-State Olathe

**November 1**  
MAB at AFA Career Fair in Kansas City, MO

**November 2**  
K-State Global Campus scholarship application deadline

**November 6**  
MAB at IFT Supplier's Expo, Chicago, IL

**November 15**  
Final copy of thesis due to Graduate School to be Fall '19 graduate

**December 1**  
MAB/AgEcon scholarship application deadline

**December 13**  
K-State Fall commencement at Bramlage Coliseum

## Scenes from IFT19

Thanks to everyone that stopped by the K-State Master of Agribusiness and Food Science Institute booth at the IFT Food Expo in New Orleans. We had a great time visiting with students, alumni and individuals interested in the MAB program.



Photos from IFT19

Top: Marvin Goertz ('12)

Center: Willie the Wildcat reading up on how to #BeMAB.

Bottom: Scott Marckini ('19)

# Student and Alumni Updates

**Kelley Ayres** ('15) and his wife welcomed their third grandson, Maxson, on January 21st.

**Curtis Cretin** ('15) accepted a Sales and Marketing position and is now a Product Line Information Specialist - Waterloo Works at John Deere Tractor Factory.

**Lindsey Ahlen** ('16) is now an Export Sales Assistant at SunRice in Elizabeth Bay, New South Wales, Australia.

**Travis Schieltz** ('16) is now the Manager, Implementations in the Enterprise Order Management program at John Deere.

**Theresa Sisung** ('16) has taken a new job with Michigan Farm Bureau as the Field Crops and Advisory Team Specialist.

**Andrew Lauver** ('17) was the winner of the National FFA and Firestone Ag Tires "Rooted in Farming" contest.

**Michelle Mensing** ('17) was promoted to Director of Operations at Decision Innovation Solutions.

**Britney Rosburg** ('17) and her husband announced the birth of Brint Thomas on December 28th.

**Adam Tjernagel** ('17) was promoted to Director, Global Operations at Elanco Animal Health.

**Taylor Holmes** ('19) accepted a Grants and Contracts Administrator position with PreAward Services at Kansas State University covering the College of Agriculture.

**Pierce Randall** ('20) is now the Territory Manager for Great Plains Ag covering the Northeast and has relocated to Mattapoisett, MA.

**Will Stafford** ('20) has taken a position as a Washington Representative serving as a policy expert on agriculture issues for CHS Inc. in Washington, D.C.

**Emily Warriner** ('20) is now the Managing Director of the Center for Risk Management Education and Research at Kansas State University.

**Megan McWherter** ('21) is the Pet Resort Manager for Ocotillo Animal Clinic and has moved to Chandler, AZ.

**Elle Wood** ('21) was recently promoted from Credit Officer to Relationship Manager at Northwest Farm Credit Services.

**Joel Karlin** ('01) finished his first semester teaching Intermediate Agricultural Economics to 90 first and second-year students at Fresno State University.

**Matt Craig** ('05) was promoted to Vice President of Sales - North America at Schenck Process.

**Young Jung** ('07) completed a Certified Financial Planner program at Georgetown. He took the national CFP exam in March 2019 and passed. He is currently working as a Wealth Management Advisor at Morgan Stanley.

**Meng Tee** ('09) is now the COO at Growers Transplanting, Inc.

**Tanner Ehmke** ('11) and his wife announced the adoption of their daughter, Greta Lynn on October 15th.

**Teresa Oium-Zube** ('11) is now the Director Sustainable Swine Resources at Johnsonville Sausage.

**Nate Smith** ('11) is now a Division Manager, Asset Management with John Deere.

**Erin Jordan Kurth** ('12) has taken the position of Scrum Master at Ardent Mills. She will focus on optimizing their custom software application development processes.

**Emily Barwick Bass** ('13) and her husband, announced the birth of their second son, Sawyer Blaylock, on April 19.

**Mario Cervantes** ('13) is now in Business Development at Hazel Technologies, Inc.

**Nate Perry** ('13) and his wife, Lauren, welcomed their first child, Wyatt William, on March 21st.

**Ron Vargas** ('13) is the Director of Internal Farming Group at Dole Fresh Vegetables.

**Kurt Anderson** ('14) is now a Channel and Technical Product Support Manager at The Toro Company.

**Janel Schemper** ('14) is on her third year writing for the *High Plains Journal* and *All Aboard Harvest*. Her articles are published weekly May through August in the *High Plains Journal*.



**Mark Orchard**  
July 13, 1963 - May 13, 2019

The MAB Program was saddened to learn of the passing of alum Mark Orchard ('04).

Mark is survived by his wife Linda, and their four children: Mary (Samuel) Huyett, Benjamin (Abbey) Orchard, Elizabeth (Calvin) Pingry, and Rachel Orchard. Mark also had one grandson (born May 15, 2019).

He was a faculty member at Brigham Young University-Idaho and oversaw the college success course. Mark was very proud of his work on the College Success Program and felt blessed to have been able to share his vision for developing world-class leaders. Over the years, he referred a number of students to the Master of Agribusiness program.

We are thankful to have known Mark as a student, alum, and faithful friend to the Master of Agribusiness program. Our thoughts are with his family.

His full obituary can be found at: <https://www.flammfh.com/obituary/mark-orchard>.

#MABluv

