

# THE SYLLABUS

A newsletter for Kansas State University  
Master of Agribusiness students, alumni & friends.



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Join MAB on a farm and agriculture tour of Chile and Argentina.

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Kansas State University's Master of Agribusiness

# Chile and Argentina

May 18 - May 29, 2024



Kansas State University's Master of Agribusiness (MAB) program is offering a farm and agribusiness tour of Chile and Argentina. We'll visit livestock and cropping operations, fruit orchards, wineries and have several sightseeing opportunities. Anyone interested in getting a better understanding of this region is encouraged to join us. For more information or to sign up, contact Mary Sullivan at [mjbowen@ksu.edu](mailto:mjbowen@ksu.edu), 785-532-4435.

[www.mab.k-state.edu/internationaltours/chileargentina2024html](http://www.mab.k-state.edu/internationaltours/chileargentina2024html)

**Day 1 – Saturday, May 18: Buenos Aires (D)**

Arrival

Hotel in Buenos Aires

**Day 2 – Sunday, May 19: Buenos Aires (BD)**

Morning city tour

Evening Tango Show with dinner

Hotel in Buenos Aires

**Day 3 – Monday, May 20: Buenos Aires / Pergamino (BL)**

Cañuelas livestock market

Farm visits: dairy / cattle beef

Continue to Pergamino

Hotel in Pergamino

**Day 4 – Tuesday, May 21: Pergamino /**

**Rosario (BL)**

Agricultural cooperative – trade / industry

Farm visit: grain production

Continue to Rosario

Hotel in Rosario

**Day 5 – Wednesday, May 22: Rosario (BL)**

Leave to Rosario / Hotel in Rosario

Visit the Rosario Board of Trade

Visit a seeder factory

Hotel in Rosario

**Day 6 - Thursday, May 23: Rosario (BL)**

Visit a port for grain exportation

Farm visit

Hotel in Rosario

**Day 7 - Friday, May 24: Rosario / Mendoza (BL)**

Transfer to the airport for flight to Mendoza

Visit a fruit farm, crops and industry

Hotel in Mendoza



*Buenos Aires, Argentina*



*Winery in Mendoza, Argentina*



*Nuevo Mercado Agroganadero livestock auction*



**Day 8 – Saturday, May 25: Mendoza (BL)**

We will visit a traditional industrial winery and a small and modern winery. Lunch at the winery.

Hotel in Mendoza

**Day 9 – Sunday, May 26: Mendoza / Santiago (Chile) (BLD)**

We cross the Andes to Santiago de Chile. The crossing of the Andes Mountains is a tour where you will visit iconic landscapes including the Aconcagua, the highest mountain in the American continent.

Hotel in Santiago

**Day 10 – Monday, May 27: Santiago (BL)**

Lo Valledor Wholesale market

Fruit Crops and industry –

Hotel in Santiago

**Day 11 – Tuesday, May 28: Santiago (BLD)**

Morning winery visit - wine tasting

Afternoon city tour

Farewell dinner with folklore show

Hotel in Santiago

**Day 12 – Wednesday, May 29: Santiago (B)**

Transfer to the airport

*\*B-L-D indicate meals included. Itinerary is tentative and may change.*

**Estimated Trip Rates:**

- Double Occupancy Rate:
- Single = \$3,500\* Couple = \$7,000\*
- Single Occupancy Rate = \$4,300\*

*\*These are based on current estimates and exchange rates. The final cost will depend on the number of travelers.*

**Cost Breakdown**

- Registration: \$3,500 covers in-country logistics, hotel rooms (3-4 star where available), internal flight, and most meals for double occupancy.

**Additional Expenses**

- International Economy Airfare: \$800 - \$1,500 per person. Each traveler is responsible for transportation from local origin to Buenos Aires/from Santiago.
- Additional meals, souvenirs & personal items
- Optional trip insurance



*Fresh fruit from market in Chile*



*Santiago, Chile*





# Alumni Spotlight Don Brainard 2021



We sat down with **MAB Class of 2021 Don Brainard** to learn about his career in veterinary medicine and MAB experience.

**MAB:** Tell me a little about your background and education

**DB:** I grew up in Western Nebraska with a farm and many animals for 4-H and FFA projects. I earned a BA in Animal Science from the University of Nebraska and a DVM from Iowa State University. While in high school, I worked for a large animal practice in Nebraska, and primarily in small animal practices throughout college. I completed veterinary internships in Sacramento, CA and Dallas, TX and then upon graduation bought a mixed practice in Arkansas. I transitioned the clinic to a small animal only practice over seven years and was President of the State Veterinary Association, before selling that practice and moving to Ottawa, IL to purchase half of two other small animal practices about an hour from Chicago.

**MAB:** Describe your current job and responsibilities.

**DB:** I sold the small animal hospitals in Illinois and decided to go back for a MAB in my late 50s. After previously being on the Board of Directors for a large no kill shelter in Illinois, I decided to try shelter medicine in Florida while I was a student in the MAB program. The Planned Pethood office I started working decided to open two more offices and a mobile vet service with me as the lead veterinarian over the next few years.

*The thesis is just a step in the process of getting a master's degree. Try to select a topic you are passionate about or one you are paid to research so the time involved does not seem so overwhelming and start writing.*

**MAB:** Why did you decide to pursue the MAB program?

**DB:** Originally I had hoped to do some international work with the MAB in a veterinary-related business. Unfortunately, I graduated in December 2020 in the midst of Covid, and no opportunities were available in international agribusiness or veterinary service, so I elected to continue to mainly work

for nonprofit veterinary hospitals. I have been able to participate in international mission trips with World Vets. The most recent was in December 2023 for a couple weeks in the Galapagos.

**MAB:** What are current challenges in the veterinary medicine industry?

**DB:** We are seeing a positive evolution in the way we care for animals with

more technical diagnostics and testing, and subsequently better but more expensive care options available. It is now a female-dominated workforce and more corporate practices in medium-to-large communities. I think telemedicine will become a bigger part of veterinary medicine, but overall it has been slow to integrate.

**MAB:** Tell me a little about your thesis. Why did you choose your topic and what did you learn?

**DB:** My thesis was originally on opioid use and liability in veterinary medicine. My major professor, Dr. Vincent Amanor-Boadu, and I actually changed the title and it was majorly rewritten to "Economics of Pain Management in Terminally Ill

*Pets.*” It tied in some of the opioid research I had completed into the costs and emotions of treating terminally ill animals, which I did daily. Overall, it evaluated the emotional and financial costs related to pet ownership when hospice care is elected. Dr. Amanor-Boadu said it was the only thesis defense where tissues were provided, as the audience was emotionally traumatized at my stories of losing or euthanizing a beloved pet after a wonderful love filled live together.

The topic was selected because I feel client education is extremely important and has taken a lot of my time as a devoted veterinarian. Owners need to be educated on economics, as well as their human emotions, to make a comfortable decision on an animal reaching the hospice stage of its life. Talking openly about their options helps with the grieving process. Even when working for nonprofit hospitals, the emotional cost and degree of animal discomfort need to be considered with financial responsibilities.

**MAB:** How have you benefited from the MAB program? Why would you recommend the program to others?

**DB:** I have always enjoyed economics and business. Having owned veterinary practices since graduation, I was ready to try/learn something different. I am still looking for a niche I may be able to explore in the future. I think a Master’s degree in anything you are interested in will benefit you in future career development.

**MAB:** Other comments you’d like to share?

**DB:** I chose to get a Master of Agribusiness at K-State, because I felt it is an excellent program with outstanding professors. I feel I learned a lot and am somewhat disappointed I am not utilizing the analytical skills I developed while in the program on a daily basis.

I know my classmates are moving up the corporate ladders rapidly and I wish you all of you the best of luck in enhancing the agribusiness industry of the future.

**MAB:** Don’s MAB thesis can be read at <https://hdl.handle.net/2097/40614>



# Add MAB to your profile

Did you know you can add your Master of Agribusiness degree to your LinkedIn profile?

All you have to do is add MAB by editing your last name.

## Let’s flood LinkedIn with MABs!

It’s a great way to display your educational credentials, as well as grow your connections and network with current students and alumni.

Add to your profile and send us a screenshot!  
Join the MAB LinkedIn group at <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/51292/>.

Edit intro

\* Indicates required

First name\*

Willie

Last name\*

Wildcat, MAB

Additional name

Name pronunciation

This can only be added using our mobile app

Pronouns

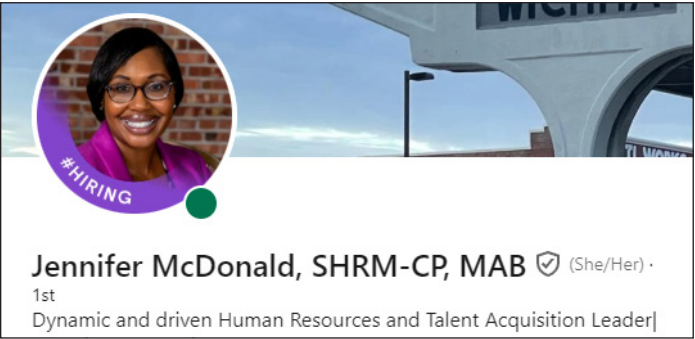
Please select

Let others know how to refer to you.

Learn more about gender pronouns.

Headline\*

President of School Spirit at Kansas State University





# Students and Alumni

**Steve Brody** ('01) hosted and moderated a session on the "Power and Promise of Science and Technology Driven Innovation Helping Global Food Security and Sustainable Food Systems" at the 2024 World Food Prize Foundation in Des Moines, IA.

**Joel Karlin** ('01) was a featured faculty member at Roger Williams University Mario J. Gabelli School of Business. He is currently researching supply chain and demand analysis in grain and milk markets, as well as price forecasting and design and implementation of risk management strategies.

**Ray Smith** ('02) was elected Wallace County Representative for the Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1.

**Oussama Alaoui** ('05) recently hosted Kansas Agricultural Secretary Mike Beam who visited Morocco as part of NASDA delegation (National Association of State Departments of Agriculture) to learn more about Alaoui's company, Stellar International Enterprises. The company is a leader in premium beef imports in Morocco (US, Australia and Japan), as well as Alaska seafood.

**Mike Schuele** ('08) was promoted to Plant Manager at Bay State Milling Company.

**Leslie (Shuler) Svacina** ('09) is now a Board Member of the Wisconsin Technical College System.

**Stan Sikora** ('10) is now a Territory Business Manager for John Deere Company. He also recently joined the Board of Directors for Wood County (Bowling Green, KY) Habitat for Humanity.

**Erin (Jordan) Kurth** ('12) started a new job as Sr. IT Project Manager with Dairy Farmers of America.

**Natasha (Sadofsky) Sharp** ('12) and her husband, Robert, welcomed their

daughter, Reagan Dallas, on September 19.

**Tene Toure** ('13) was recently promoted to Acting Senior Grants Management Specialist at USDA NIFA.

**Kevin Black** ('15) was recently promoted to Regional President at Pinnacle Bank.

**Brook Mitchell** ('15) started a new position as a Technical Agronomist - Channel Seed for Bayer.

**Jennifer McDonald** ('16) is the new Vice President Human Resources at Boys and Girls Clubs of South Central Kansas.

**Nicole Cleggs-Burns** ('17) is now an Equity Program Policy Specialist for USDA Farm Service Agency.

**Andrew Lauver** ('17) is now the Director of Conservation Programs, Trust in Food for Farm Journal.

**John Sachse** ('17) was promoted to 1st Lieutenant in the Kansas Army National Guard.



*Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Mike Beam and Oussama Alaoui ('05) in Morocco.*

**Shelby Drye** ('19) started a new position as an Agriculture Professor at Imperial Valley College.

**Austin Mbamba** ('19) and his wife, Eunice, welcomed son Peter Jay on September 23.

**Cassie Schneider** ('19) is now an Account/Product Manager for ICM, Inc.

**Dylan Romney** ('20) is now the Chief Executive Officer at Sun Valley Foods.

**Amy Stutzman** ('20) was recognized by the Hill's Women's Network as a 2023 Woman of Excellence. She also took a new role as a Supplier Management Quality Specialist at Hill's and celebrated 15 years with the organization.

**Megan Espinda** ('21) was named runner-up for the Rising Star Award from Indiana Farm Bureau. The Rising Star Award honors outstanding members who are active in Farm Bureau, their county, their community Collegiate Farm Bureau and/or YF&AP programs, as well as display personal and professional growth by participating in those activities.

**Rita Ramirez** ('21) was appointed Batory Foods first Chief People and Sustainability Officer. She will lead the company's initiatives to foster a culture of sustainability, diversity, and inclusion.

**Ethan Taube** ('21) started a new position as Regional Manager at Agtegra Cooperative.

**Sarah Niederee** ('22) was married to Gabe Franklin on September 2.

**Ryan Schiess** ('22) is now a Store Manager for Agri-Service, an AGCO dealership in Burley, ID.

**Amber Stutsman** ('23) has been elected to serve a term as Trustee on the Iowa 4-H Foundation Board.

**Steven Locke** ('24) has started a new position as Managing Director - Agribusiness at Frank Group, Inc.

**Anastasia Meyer** ('24) is now a Regional Farm Economist with University of Nebraska Extension. She and husband, Brady, also welcomed their son, Merrick, on October 23.

**Sean Moore** ('24) accepted a new role as Vice President of Sales, U.S. for the Marel Meat Division.

**Callie Brauman** ('25) was promoted to Regional Operations Manager for Purina Animal Nutrition. She is also engaged to be married on April 6.

**Hannah Wildman** ('25) has accepted a new position as Territory Manager at Stokes Seeds.

**Baylee Wulfkuhle** ('26) is now a Financial Officer - Portfolio for Frontier Farm Credit.

# THESIS DEFENSES



**Kaci Ferch**

Class of 2023

*Determining the Probability of Default for Agrifinancial's Loan Portfolio*



**Sage Hofer**

Class of 2024

*Examining the Viability of Direct-to-Consumer Beef Marketing on Hofer Farms: Financial and Market Analysis*



**Kyler Jost**

Class of 2023

*Strategic Analysis of the Visual Cattle Identification Market*



**Erica Lydolph**

Class of 2023

*Theoretical Applications and Understanding Variable Significance in Determining Credit Risk Rating Scores for Strategic Brand Extension*



**Alina Porta**

Class of 2024

*The Potential Effects of Implementing California Proposition 12 in the Swine Industry*

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

## SAVE THE DATE

### February 8

Steven Locke Thesis Defense

### February 13-15

MAB at World Ag Expo in Tulare, CA

### February 23-25

MAB Western Farm Show in Kansas City, MO

### February 24-26

MAB at GEAPS in Kansas City, MO

### February 26

Lincoln Griffin Thesis Defense

### February 28 - March 1

MAB at Commodity Classic in Houston, TX

### March 1

Last day to complete Graduation Application in KSIS for name to appear in commencement program

### March 1

MAB at Cattlemen's Day in Manhattan, KS

### March 22

MAB at MANRRS in Chicago, IL

### March 24-29

Manhattan Cohort Campus Session at K-State

### March 29

Virginia Daly Thesis Defense

### April 1

Jerricka Harrison Thesis Defense

### April 12

Examination ballot and final copy of thesis due to be Spring '24 graduate

### May 10

Spring Commencement at Bramlage Coliseum in Manhattan, KS

### May 18-29

MAB farm and agribusiness tour of Chile and Argentina

### June 1

Application deadline for August 2024 cohort

### June 21-23

MAB at AVMA in Austin, TX

### July 14-17

MAB at IFT in Chicago, IL

### August 4-9

Animal Health cohort Campus Session at K-State Olathe



# WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2026

## Animal Health - August 2023

**Tairyn Bruce**  
Operations Specialist  
Merck Animal Health  
Desoto, Kansas

**Akm Chowdhury**  
Owner  
Fabulous Gifts  
Fresno, California

**Kortnie Haney**  
Program Technician  
USDA – Farm Service Agency  
Belleville, Kansas

**Veronica Lavoie**  
Senior Account Manager  
Corbion  
Lenexa, Kansas

**Nasrin Sultana**  
Provider Assistant, IHSS  
Public Authority of Fresno County  
Fresno, California

## Manhattan Cohort - January 2024

**Kayla Allen**  
Credit Analyst  
Wilbur-Ellis  
Lincoln, California

**Megan Anguiano**  
4-H Professional  
Kansas State University Research and Extension  
Abilene, Kansas

**David Casterline**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Labache Ag  
Manhattan, Kansas

**Carmen Daszczuk**  
Procurement Commodities Lead  
Nestle  
Cleveland, Ohio

**Jonelle Gilardi**  
Accountant II  
Golden State Farm Credit  
Chico, California

**Tyler Leonhard**  
Key Account Manager  
Kemin Animal Health  
Oskaloosa, Kansas

**Benjamin Ramsey**  
Vice President, Loan Officer  
High Plains Farm Credit  
Larned, Kansas

**Kelsey Waugaman**  
Orchard Unit Assistant/Student Supervisor  
Fresno State University  
Fresno, California

**Baylee Wulfkuhle**  
Financial Officer - Portfolio  
Frontier Farm Credit  
Manhattan, Kansas



*MAB Class of 2025 and Class of 2026 students get to know each other during the January 2024 campus session orientation session.*

## MAB welcomes new program recruiter

Ben Jensen joined the MAB program as a recruitment coordinator in September. As recruitment coordinator, Jensen guides potential students through the application and admission process.

He graduated from Kansas State University in 2021 with Magna Cum Laude honors with a major in Agribusiness. At K-State, he participated on the livestock judging team and the National Agri-Marketing Association team while being involved in many other clubs as well.

You can reach Ben at [benrjensen99@ksu.edu](mailto:benrjensen99@ksu.edu) or 785-532-3918.

