College of Agriculture

PEOPLE

ACADEMIC ADVISER

BY ***ELIZABETH CHAMBERS***

Helping students build class schedules is a routine part of the job, but the role often extends beyond that. As an academic adviser in Kansas State University's College of Agriculture, Micah Kough works with students in milling science and management, animal sciences and industry, and agronomy to guide academic planning and connect them with mentors across campus.

Kough, a K-State graduate in milling science, returned to campus after working in the grain milling industry. That experience shapes how he approaches advising, focusing on helping students navigate decisions both inside and outside the classroom.

"I see my role as not being all-knowing, but being able to have the connections," Kough says.

Kough works closely with faculty mentors, who provide in-depth knowledge of coursework and the industry, while he helps guide students through their academic planning to meet goals.

"That's really what the goal of the faculty mentor is — they have the knowledge of the industry and the classes, while I can help connect students to the right resources," Kough says.

Kough adds that each student requires a different approach. Some arrive with clear plans, while others need help identifying their direction.



Those conversations often require asking additional questions to better understand each student's goals.

"Some come in and they're not forthcoming with their goals, and I have to dig a little bit deeper," he says.

By working with students individually, Kough helps them make decisions that shape their academic paths and careers in agriculture.

Kough says, "I'm just one small part of K-State supporting our students and the broader impact of their work."

TRANSFER STUDENT

BY ***CHANCEY HAICK***

Junior college transfers are becoming more common in the higher education community, with enrollment numbers for the fall of 2025 totaling 751 students in College of Agriculture. Colton Tripp, a third-year student and a Brahman, Oklahoma, native, aids this statistic. Before enrolling in classes at Kansas State University in the fall of 2025, Tripp attended Northern Oklahoma College where he was a member of the livestock judging team. He graduated NOC with a dual associate in agricultural communications and managerial business.

One of his favorite things about K-State is the opportunities given to students both in and outside of the classroom.

"There was no other university that would give me the opportunities and experiences that K-State can," Tripp says.

During his time as a student, Tripp has had many opportunities, including working for K-State Extension as a writer and on Agriculture Today (a K-State Research and Extension podcast).

Most importantly, Tripp says he has always known that



the agricultural and natural resources communications department was where he belonged, and where he wanted to round out his academic career.

Tripp says, "The faculty members want to see the best for each student and will help you make connections and grow opportunities for the professional world."