

Go-Getters meet in September and October

On September 12th, 2020 at 5:15pm the Go-Getters 4-H club met at the 4-H Building. They started the meeting off with the pledge of Allegiance lead by Emily. Next on the addenda they did the 4-H pledge lead by Taven. Roll call was then announced by 4/4 members by stating what was their favorite thing about going back to school.

Anna read the minutes from the last meeting. The last month minutes will need to be fixed and brought back to next meeting. Taven reports that the minutes were placed in the paper. Emily reports on the money we have

in the bank after fundraisers and fair. Christina presented the leaders report which was about the upcoming 4-H newsletter. She discussed state fair, record books, radio spots, and pin requirements.

No old business discussed. New business discussed at this time was on 4-H week, 4-H carnival and record books. The club has decided that they will work on posters and hanging them in the school hallways for 4-H week. The next new business discussed was the 4-H carnival. The club has decided that they will have a sign up table for their cub to try and get

more members. The next new business discusses how to complete the record book and due date. The next meeting for the Go-Getters 4-H club is scheduled for October 10th, 2020.

On October 10th, 2020 at 4:56pm the Go-Getters 4-H club met at the 4-H Building. They started the meeting off with the pledge of Allegiance lead by James. Next on the addenda they did the 4-H pledge lead by Anna. Roll call was then announced by 4/4 members by stating which was better, school or homeschool. Anna read the minutes from the last meeting and the meeting

prior. Taven reports that the minutes will be placed in the paper this coming up week. Emily reports on the money we have in the bank. Christina presented the leaders report which was on record book questions and due date. She also let the club know they have cancelled the 4-H carnival. No old business discussed. New business discussed at this time was on the achievement banquet and Christmas tree sales. The next meeting for the Go-Getters 4-H club is scheduled for November 14th, 2020.

— By Taven Schmidt, Go-Getter's Reporter

K-State scientists earn award for pioneering work with wheat genes

Borlaug award recognizes efforts to provide durable resistance to stem rust

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Two U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists working on the Kansas State University campus are part of a national team that has earned praise for its pioneering work in building sturdy resistance to a highly-virulent strain of stem rust in wheat.

The Borlaug Global Rust Initiative awarded its 2020 Gene Stewardship award to a USDA Agricultural Research Service team that includes Robert Bowden and Mary Guttieri, who are adjunct faculty at K-State, and colleagues from four other states.

"When it comes to stem rust and breeding stem rust resistant wheat, this is the go-to team and the undisputed leader for the United States," said Jose Costa, national program leader for grain crops at USDA-ARS, in a press release announcing the award.

"For years, the entire wheat community has relied on their leadership, scientific skills and contributions to cultivar development and screening for resistance to rust diseases. Their evaluation of materials in Africa and at the USDA facility in Minnesota is literally the only thing that stands between the American wheat producer and catastrophe should the disease — which is spread by airborne spores and jet streams — come to the United States."

Bowden, supervisory plant pathologist with the ARS Hard Winter Wheat

Genetics Research unit in Manhattan, said the group's success hinges on stacking genes resistant to Ug99, a stem rust that has wreaked havoc in parts of Africa since the late 1990s, and other parts of the world since then.

"Gene stewardship is taking care of genes so they will be useful in the future, in addition to their usefulness now," Bowden said. "We've had a lot of resistance genes over the years and we tend to put them out one at a time. But the pathogen (stem rust) can actually mutate and defeat the resistance gene."

Wheat scientists at K-State have been successful in locating molecular markers in resistance genes that allow them to stack the genes one on top of the other and form a pyramid that is more durable to stem rust's attempts to beat the resistance.

"It's very difficult to stack the genes," Bowden said. "But when you are able to stack them, they protect each other. The probability of defeating one gene is a certain number — let's say one in a million. So then, the probability of defeating two genes is one in a million times one in a million."

"When you stack them up, it becomes less and less probable that the pathogen is going to be able to mutate and defeat all of the genes in this deck. So if you want a gene to last a long time, you put it in a stack. Even if the pathogen defeats one, it doesn't defeat the rest."

Bowden and Guttieri have worked to stack six genes resistant to stem rust.

"This is an excellent

example of collaboration across organizations and continents," Guttieri said. "It's so critical to stack these genes because we can lose the efficacy of years and years of hard work by deploying new genes independently."

Currently, Ug99 and other stem rusts are not a problem in Kansas or the United States. American farmers are likely more concerned with leaf rust and stripe rust. Bowden said the same team is working to build pyramids of resistance to both of those rust diseases, as well. Guttieri added: "Kansas producers have experienced the boom and bust of single-gene resistance to leaf rust, and we are working to create gene combinations that will be reliable in commercial production."

Bowden and Guttieri, along with their USDA-ARS colleague Guihua Bai, work closely with K-State scientists in the Department of Plant Pathology, including Bernd Friebe, Eduard Akhunov, Jesse Poland, and recently-retired faculty members Bikram Gill and Bill Bockus.

Since 2006, the USDA-ARS team has evaluated more than 20,000 germplasm accessions for genes associated with resistance to Ug99 and other stem rust races. So far, they have discovered 20 resistance genes effective against Ug99 and have published more than 140 journal articles.

Bowden says the teamwork shown across the K-State campus and among the participating scientific groups is symbolic of Norman Borlaug, an

American agronomist whose work to breed high-yielding crop varieties helped land him the reputation as "The Father of the Green Revolution."

"Norman Borlaug always had an international perspective that everybody is a human being and we can work together to improve the human condition on this planet, and to fight starvation and famine," Bowden said.

"We're proud to be part of the larger K-State team and the bigger USDA team and even the much bigger global team that is doing this work. Everybody is working together wonderfully, and it's inspiring."

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President Trump Signs Sens. Moran, Gardner, Baldwin and Reed's 9-8-8 National Suicide Prevention Hotline Bill

WASHINGTON — This weekend, President Donald Trump signed S. 2661, the *National Suicide Hotline Designation Act*, legislation introduced by U.S. Senators Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), Cory Gardner (R-Colo.), Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) and Jack Reed (D-R.I.). This bipartisan legislation designates 9-8-8 as the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline.

"I commend President Trump for signing our legislation into law, designating this three-digit number, 9-8-8, as the new national suicide and mental health crisis hotline number," said Sen. Moran. "This pandemic has highlighted the need for modernized mental health and suicide prevention resources, and this easy-to-remember number will help connect callers in need of help with experts who can offer resources and hope to make it through a mental health crisis."

"I applaud the President for signing my common-sense, bipartisan legislation to shorten the national suicide hotline from ten digits to three easy-to-remember numbers: 9-8-8," said Sen. Gardner. "Colorado tragically has one of the highest suicide rates in the country, which is

why I've made it a priority to work with my colleagues across the aisle for years to make mental health support more available. The COVID-19 pandemic has only increased our state's mental health needs, and during this unprecedented challenge suicide prevention is now more important than ever. This change to 9-8-8 will make it easier for Americans dealing with a crisis to access mental health support that could save their lives."

The National Suicide Hotline Designation Act, S. 2661, designates 9-8-8 as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline,

which would include the Veterans Crisis Line for veteran-specific mental health support. The current National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and Veterans Crisis Line is 10-digits long, which is a barrier to Americans in crisis seeking support.

During the transition to 9-8-8, Americans who need help should continue to contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by calling 1-800-273-8255 (1-800-273-TALK). Veterans and servicemembers may reach the Veterans Crisis Line by pressing 1 after dialing, chatting online at www.veteranscrisisline.net, or texting 838255.

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