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**Cargill Meat Solutions' Scholarship Program Prepares FFA Members for Careers**  
*"Genuinely Better" Scholarship Program Gives Seven K-State Students On-The-Job Experience*

**MANHATTAN, Kan. (January 17, 2007)** — Cargill Meat Solutions recently awarded \$6,000 in scholarship funds to seven current Kansas State University students and invited the scholarship recipients to gain hands-on experience at the company's headquarters through its "Genuinely Better" Scholarship Program. The program is a part of Cargill Meat Solutions sponsorship of the Kansas FFA Foundation.

The "Genuinely Better" Scholarship Program awards scholarships to incoming college juniors and seniors who are actively involved in improving their school, community and the agricultural industry. The scholarship recipients completed their job shadowing experience Jan. 7-10 at Cargill Meat Solutions headquarters in Wichita.

Recipients of the scholarships and job shadowing opportunity were Justine Sterling, senior in agricultural communications and journalism from Hardtner, Kan.; Sarah Sexton, senior in agricultural economics from Chapman, Kan.; Jarrod Bowser, senior in agricultural economics from Mayetta, Kan.; Cortney Bowden, senior in food science from Baraboo, Wisc.; Melissa Hildebrand, senior in agricultural communications and journalism from Chapman, Kan.; Sharita Lacey, junior in animal science and industry from Kincaid, Kan.; and Cody Schneider, junior in animal sciences and industry from Smolan, Kan.

The students' experience included shadowing Cargill Meat Solutions employees in its marketing, technical services, operations, cattle feeders and pork departments, meeting with business leaders and touring the company's culinary center and Dodge City meat processing facility.

Sterling said the experience at Cargill Meat Solutions brought clarity to her career pursuits.

"As a communications major, I have a broad range of jobs that I could pursue, and I was struggling with what area to go into. This experience allowed me to see all of my potential job opportunities first-hand and have a chance to meet with the company's business leaders," Sterling said.

John Niemann, chair of the Kansas FFA Foundation Board of Trustees and assistant vice president, business manager for Cargill Meat Solutions, said the program is designed to give scholarship recipients a beneficial work experience and help the company understand how to better connect with college graduates.

“As a proud supporter of the Kansas FFA Foundation, we understand the need university juniors and seniors have for scholarship opportunities,” Niemann said. “This program is designed to give them valuable experience that will help them as they make decisions about their career and future plans, while giving us the opportunity to teach exceptional students about our company.”

Cargill Meat Solutions is a five-star sponsor of the Kansas FFA Foundation donating \$10,000 to the foundation in 2006. Sterling, who served as a National FFA Office in 2004-05, said the company’s support of agricultural education beyond high school is valuable.

Sterling said, “Cargill’s consistency of support of FFA members from high school through college graduation truly helps prepare agricultural students for success as professionals in the industry.”

To learn more about Cargill Meat Solutions, visit [www.cargillmeatsolutions.com](http://www.cargillmeatsolutions.com).

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#### **About the Kansas FFA Foundation**

The Kansas FFA Foundation supports the quality of agricultural education programs, rewards FFA members and advisors, and builds support from FFA alumni, parents, and friends. By developing and sustaining collaborative relationships that result in financial support and service opportunities, the foundation has established a vision to serve a purpose, give with passion, and grow the legacy. More information about the foundation is available at [www.ksffa.org](http://www.ksffa.org).