

Flinchbaugh Food & Agriculture *Policy Fellowship*

The premier leadership opportunity for
young leaders in Kansas agriculture.

The Flinchbaugh Food & Agricultural Policy Fellowship Program (Flinchbaugh Fellows) provides a premier leadership opportunity for Kansas undergraduate or graduate students studying a food, agricultural, or related field to serve the state's agricultural industry and gain valuable public policy experience at both the state and federal levels. Flinchbaugh Fellows will develop a deeper understanding for the legislative and regulatory processes and about how laws and regulations impact the entire food chain — from farm gate to consumer.

While this experience prepares students to enter the workforce serving Kansas agriculture, it also enhances their ability to advocate for laws and regulations that allow Kansas farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses to thrive and grow.

agpolicyfellows.com



Purpose & Goals

Agriculture is the largest economic driver and employer in Kansas. Like virtually all other segments of the economy, agriculture is affected by public policy decisions at the local, state and federal levels. Who makes those decisions, where and from whom they receive information, and the process under which these decisions are made are critically important to the future of the industry. Further, the challenges facing the entire agricultural industry are growing more complex and interconnected than ever. Flinchbaugh Fellows will gain a first-hand understanding of policy and regulatory challenges facing food and agriculture production, will be challenged to develop strategic solutions to these challenges, and will participate in the policy process during their experience in the program.

Flinchbaugh Fellows will complete two separate experiences— one at the state level and one at the federal level – with either a legislative or congressional office, a state or federal agency, or a food or agricultural membership organization or business. Upon completion of the program, Flinchbaugh Fellows will be equipped with necessary skills and knowledge to be productive leaders in the agricultural industry.

The goals of the program are:

- To develop undergraduate and graduate students studying an agriculture, policy, or related field to be prepared for careers in the food and agriculture industry.
- To provide valuable service to the agricultural industry and valuable support to policy makers.
- To establish a long-term, sustaining Flinchbaugh Fellows program that develops premier leaders in Kansas agriculture and the industries that support it.

Selection & Structure

Students applying for the Flinchbaugh Fellows program must complete the following application and selection process:

- Submit a completed application packet, including an application, a professional resume and cover letter, an issue essay, an official college transcript, and two letters of recommendation.
- Complete a first-round interview with the steering committee and attend a reception with program supporters.
- Students selected to advance to the final step in the selection process may have an opportunity to attend an agricultural issues briefing to become familiar with pending agricultural issues.
- Finalists will have the opportunity to connect with host office representatives. Host offices will make their selections based on the application packet, recommendations from the steering committee and additional interactions.

State & Federal Experience

Successfully completing the state level experience requires fellows to complete a fellowship experience with one of the following entities during the spring semester:

- Kansas State Legislature: Flinchbaugh Fellows may choose to work directly with a lawmaker in a leadership position (within his or her respective party or a committee chairman or ranking member);
- Kansas State Agency: Flinchbaugh Fellows may choose to work directly with a state agency during the legislative session.
- Kansas food and agricultural membership organization: Flinchbaugh fellows may choose to work with an agricultural membership organization providing support to the organization's policy team.

Successfully completing the federal level experience requires fellows to complete a 10 to 12 week fellowship experience with one of the following entities:

- United States Congress: Flinchbaugh Fellows may choose to work within an office of a member of the Kansas congressional delegation, or with a congressional committee;
- Federal Agency: Flinchbaugh Fellows may choose to work with a federal agency providing support to the agency's policy team;
- Food and Agricultural membership organization: Flinchbaugh Fellows may choose to work with a food and/or agricultural membership organization providing support to the organization's policy team.

Upon completion of the program, Flinchbaugh Fellows will be required to present significant learnings to the advisory board and to at least one student organization at K-State. They will also be required to draft a letter to the editor on a food or agriculture issue on which they worked during their fellow experience.

Eligibility & Benefits

To be eligible to apply for the Flinchbaugh Fellows program, candidates must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be a U.S. citizen; permanent residents are not eligible.
- Be a currently enrolled (undergraduate, masters or Ph.D.) student pursuing a degree in food and agriculture, policy, or a related degree at Kansas State University.
- There is no minimum required number of years of completed college academic experience, but it's recommended applicants wait to apply until at least their academic sophomore year.
- Be in good standing (academic and conduct) at Kansas State University.
- Be able to complete a minimum of two fellowship experiences, one at the state level and one at the federal level.
- Be able to serve the entire length of the Kansas Legislative Session (convenes the second Monday in January and typically concludes in early May but may extend into the summer months) for the state level experience, which may exceed K-State academic semester dates (minimum of 15 hours per week).
- Be able to serve a minimum of 10 to 12 weeks during the Washington, D.C., experience.
- Attend all preparatory events in Manhattan prior to Washington, D.C., experience.
- Have valid health insurance during the internship semesters.

The program offers benefits ranging from networking and resume building to paid fellowship experiences and the opportunity to build a strong working knowledge of the public policy process.

Program partners that host fellows will be expected to provide a competitive stipend as well as challenging and tangible work expectations for fellows.

During the state experience, Flinchbaugh Fellows will be provided a stipend to cover personal vehicle mileage, paid by the employer. Fellows are considered full-time students and may be eligible for federal financial aid. Fellows will also have the chance to work and network with top leaders in Kansas agriculture who will serve as mentors as the fellows finish their education and start careers in agriculture.