

THE SYLLABUS

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



MAB Students at Spring 2022 Commencement Ceremony.



Kansas State University
Department of Agricultural Economics
306 Waters Hall
1603 Old Clafin Place
Manhattan, KS 66506



mab@ksu.edu



mab.ksu.edu



785-532-4495



Dr. Allen Featherstone

Program Director
afeather@ksu.edu

Deborah Kohl

Managing Director
dkohl@ksu.edu

Mary Bowen

Communications Coordinator
mjbowen@ksu.edu

Sarah Tortella

Program Manager
stortella@ksu.edu



@ksumab



@ksumab



@kstatemab

What's inside:



PAGE 2

Welcome to the MAB Class of 2024

Meet our new students from August 2021 and January 2022.



PAGE 3

New MAB instructor & staff

Welcome new members of the MAB team.



PAGE 4

Alumni Spotlight

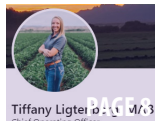
Jennifer McDonald, MAB Class of 2016.



PAGE 6

MAB Theses

Recent completed thesis projects.



PAGE 8

Add your MAB

to LinkedIn profile.



PAGE 9

Student & Alumni News

Read all the latest updates.



PAGE 10

Webinars and Events

#MABforLife and Calendar of Events.

WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2024

Animal Health - August 2021

Brandon Craighead

FieldTech Intern
Aqua Spy
Central Valley, California

Beverly Hampton

Stakeholder Relations Manager
National Milk Producers Federation
Arlington, Virginia

Sage Hofer

Inside & Digital Sales
Representative
Zoetis
Bridgewater, South Dakota

Jay Ostmeyer

Account Manager
AgroLiquid
Manhattan, Kansas

Alina Porta

Production Manager
The HANOR Company
Mooreland, Oklahoma

Amanda Smith

Product Development and Integrity
Manager
Outward Hound
Centennial, Colorado

Riley Smith

Credit Analyst
GreenStone FCS
Alma, Michigan

Mikhayla Zimmerman

Overland Park, Kansas

Manhattan Cohort - January 2022

Daniel Benjamin

Real Property Appraiser
County of Sonoma
Santa Rosa, California

Parry Briggs

Regional Vice President – Business
Development
Frontier Farm Credit
Northeast Kansas

Virginia Daly

Product Manager
Gowan USA
Kansas City, Missouri

Malinda Foster

Senior Production Planner
Cargill Animal Nutrition
Chillicothe, Missouri

Charles Hopkins

Relationship Manager
Rabo AgriFinance
Idaho Falls, Idaho

Lauren Hutchinson

Agriculturist
Spreckels Sugar
Brawley, California

Sean Johnstone

Ag Field Collateral Inspector
Rabo Agrifinance
Big Cabin, Oklahoma

Kerri Kistler

Alternative Protein Food Scientist
Cargill Protein
Wichita, Kansas

Steven Locke

Senior Associate
Frank AGI
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Anastasia Meyer

Marshall County Extension Agent
K-State Research & Extension
Marysville, Kansas

Taylor Mock

Science Educator and Coach
Miller County High School
Colquitt, Georgia

Sean Moore

Key Account Manager
Marel
Des Moines, Iowa

Ryan Pankoke

Food Inspector
USDA Nebraska
Grand Island, Nebraska

Samantha Schon

Operations Manager
Dairy Management LLC
Dryden, New York

Gunnar Strickland

Inside Sales Rep
Daikin TMI LLC
Kansas City, Kansas

Geoffrey Winning

Case Manager
Alexander Shunnarah Personal
Injury Lawyers
Birmingham, Alabama



MAB Class of 2024 students visit with MAB Class of 2000 Kurt David, President and CEO of Eagle Communications, during the March 2022 campus session banquet.

MAB alum teaching Applied Agribusiness Logistics



Leah Suellentrop ('02)

Dr. Keith Harris ('06) became the National Program Leader and Acting Division Director in the Division of Family and Consumer Sciences at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) over the summer of 2021. When he left K-State, it created an opportunity for another MAB alum to continue the practice of an industry professional teaching in the MAB program. Leah Suellentrop ('02) is sharing her more than 20+ years' experience of international trading and supply chain with current MAB students through teaching the AGEC 730 Applied Agribusiness Logistics course.

"Leah's professional track record speaks for itself with respect to supply chain management, and more importantly, building the relationships that support her career. She has consistently sought challenge in her roles, and selected opportunities where she knew she could provide value to a company, but also grow as a practitioner. The experience she brings to the AGEC 730 course is unique and I am thankful she has been willing to provide just-in-time assistance to the program at a critical stage for us," Deborah Kohl, MAB Managing Director said.

Suellentrop is a marketer and international business development professional with 20 years' experience marketing, trading and exporting dairy commodities/ ingredients to 80 different global companies. She has held a variety of positions, including managerial, directorial, and VP. Suellentrop earned a bachelor in Agricultural Economics, and a Master of Agribusiness at Kansas State University.

She spent the first portion of her career trading dairy commodities that involved developing and implementing an international business model for a branch office in Singapore including setting up a new business unit, hiring staff, and relocating to Singapore for three years before returning to Chicago. In 2019, Suellentrop joined Land O'Lakes to develop their business in Asia Pacific and is currently leading a cross-functional team to develop and maintain a supply chain network in Asia Pacific, which is utilized to produce specialty powders.

MAB hires program manager

Welcome to Sarah Tortella

Sarah Tortella joined the MAB team at K-State as a Program Manager/ Admissions Representative in August 2021. Sarah earned her Bachelor of Arts in Telecommunications at Ball State University, as well as her commission as an Army Signal Officer through Ball State's ROTC program. Sarah served in the military for 11 years. The Army brought Sarah and her family to Fort Riley, Kansas, several times during her tenure as an Army officer and military spouse.

Most recently, Sarah worked for Caterpillar supporting four Building Construction Products (BCP) facilities in Kansas, Texas, and Arkansas in talent acquisition and administrative support roles gaining knowledge and experience in the current operating environment of the construction industry.

Sarah is married to Frank; they have four children Callie, Eva, Frankie, and Jimmy, and two chocolate Labrador retrievers, Dutchess and KC. In their free time, they raise chickens, participate in activities with their church and 4-H, and spend time at their ranch just north of Manhattan.

Sarah can be reached at stortella@ksu.edu or 785-532-3918.



Alumni Spotlight: Jennifer McDonald

2016



Jennifer McDonald, a 2016 graduate of the Master of Agribusiness (MAB) program was selected as the 2022 K-State Global Campus Alumni Fellow. She was on campus April 19-22 to accept her award and talk with students and faculty.

"Anyone can have a dream to start a business and inspire others to the same. Having my name on a banner outside of Waters Hall [as the Alumni Fellow] means that if I can do it, others can do it," McDonald said.

McDonald is founder, CEO and head winemaker at Jenny Dawn Cellars. She founded the company in 2016, launched her first wine in 2017 and opened the Wichita urban winery in Union Station in November 2019.

Prior to starting the winery, McDonald worked as a human resource and recruiting professional for over 10 years for Wichita businesses, including Wolters Kluwer, Redguard, Cargill, Zerochoas and Koch.

"I enjoyed working with agriculture students helping them find careers in the companies I worked for. Then I started thinking about a career in agriculture for myself," McDonald said. "When I started the MAB program, I knew I wanted to one day open a winery. The MAB program allowed me to look at the business as a whole, helped me determine the financial structure I would need, and how I would develop and sell my products. It was a good fit for me with the classes online as well as in person."

McDonald started her career in winemaking at home and won a gold, three silvers and two bronze medals from the Kansas Winemakers and Grape Growers Association. As part of the MAB program, she developed research data on consumer wine preferences and developed a business plan for an urban winery for her thesis.

"My MAB thesis laid the foundation for my business plan. The research allowed me to create a business model working with growers in Kansas and building a supply chain in California to



produce wines," she said.

Her Kansas Chardonnay received a silver medal in the 2021 San Francisco Chronicle wine competition. McDonald won the 2017 and 2019 Chardonnay Best of Class in the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition and a bronze for her pinot noir in 2019. Her 2016 chardonnay and pinot noir won a silver and bronze medal in the New World International Wine Competition.

She is active in Urban Professionals, the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Leadership Kansas and Pipeline Entrepreneurs.

McDonald has received the Wichita Innovations in Business Award presented by Young Professionals of Wichita. She was recognized by the Wichita Business Journal in 2017 as one of Wichita's top 40 people in business under age 40 and received the publication's 2018 Innovation and Enterprise award, and the 2020 Women in Business award. In 2019, she received the Distinguished 400 Award by the African American History Commission and in 2021 received the Black Women Owned Business of Distinction from the Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce.

She has an undergraduate degree in public administration from Doane College. McDonald also completed Wichita State University e2e's collaborative start-up accelerator program, LaunchPrep, and has taken winemaking classes from UC Davis.

She and her husband, Matthew, have two children, Desmond and Emma.

Hear more of Jennifer's story at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGLf31tG5Os>.

Why Purple?



Why did Jennifer choose purple as the brand color for Jenny Dawn Cellars?

“Purple is the color of grapes. Purple is the color of royalty, and we are a premium wine brand. And I’m a K-State Alum!”



Jenny Dawn Cellars storefront in Union Station, Wichita, KS; McDonald presenting to a K-State Advanced Wine Class; and McDonald and Dr. Allen Featherstone, MAB Director, at the Alumni Fellow Award Ceremony.

— THESIS DEFENSES —



Shane Byers

Class of 2022

*Efficiency of Vehicle Usage:
A Look into the Adoption of
Telematics on Fleet Vehicles for
Maximum Optimization*



Jarod DeTurk

Class of 2022

*Marketing Analysis and
Value Perception of
Agronomic Services*



Tim Engel

Class of 2021

*The Feasibility of a DRP Margin
Private Product*



Cory Friedli

Class of 2022

*Five-Year Profitability Study
and Future Farm Growth
Analysis for Friedli Farms*



Cynthia Garlick

Class of 2022

*An Analysis of the Economic
Effects of Improper Electronic
Data Interchange Methods at a
Small Pennsylvania Foundry*



Emily Garwood

Class of 2020

*Demand and Willingness to
Pay for Risk Management
Executive Education in
the Food and Agriculture
Industry*



Haley Hunt

Class of 2022

*Significance of Select Key
Indicators on Farm Credit
System Merger Activity: 2002-
2020*



Chris Jorgensen

Class of 2021

*Cost Management on a
Large, Northern Plains Cow-
Calf Operation*



Kevin Kohls

Class of 2017

*Case Study on Customer
Demanded Technology
Feature*



Allison Jenkins

Class of 2022

*A Business Strategy for
Cultivated Advising*

— THESIS DEFENSES —



Jon LaPorte

Class of 2022

Evaluation of Farm Client Participation in Michigan State University TelFarm Program



Christa Milton

Class of 2022

Impact of Changes in the Federal Estate Tax and Stepped-Up Tax laws on a Representative Farm in Central Kansas



Sarah Niederee

Class of 2022

Company A Retail Optimization



Mary Scheffler

Class of 2019

Willingness to Pay for Biodiversity Fish Preservation in the Smoky Hill River Basin



Ryan Schiess

Class of 2022

An Assessment of Factors Influencing Technician Turnover Rates in John Deere Dealerships



Leighton Wasinger

Class of 2022

The Economic Benefits of On-Farm Grain Storage in Western Kansas



Steven Whittington

Class of 2022

Economic and Financial Feasibility of a Diversified Market Farm in West Michigan



James Williamson

Class of 2019

An Evaluation of Terminal Value Calculations and their Impact to the Return of a Sacramento Valley Almond Investment



Leigh Wilmes

Class of 2022

Antigen Batch Cycle Time Analysis in an Animal Vaccine Manufacturing Facility

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



Add MAB to your profile

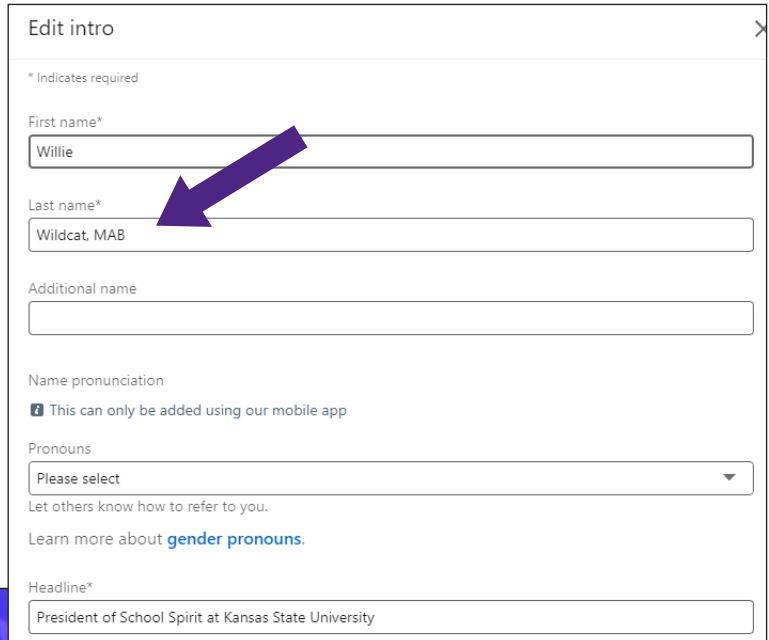
Did you know you can add your Master of Agribusiness degree to your LinkedIn profile?

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!



Edit intro

* Indicates required

First name*
Willie

Last name*
Wildcat, MAB

Additional name

Name pronunciation
This can only be added using our mobile app

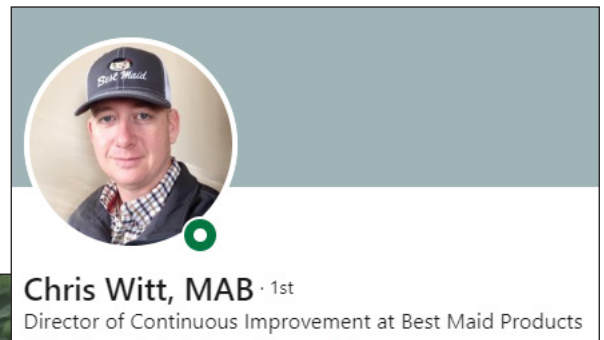
Pronouns
Please select

Let others know how to refer to you.
[Learn more about gender pronouns.](#)

Headline*
President of School Spirit at Kansas State University



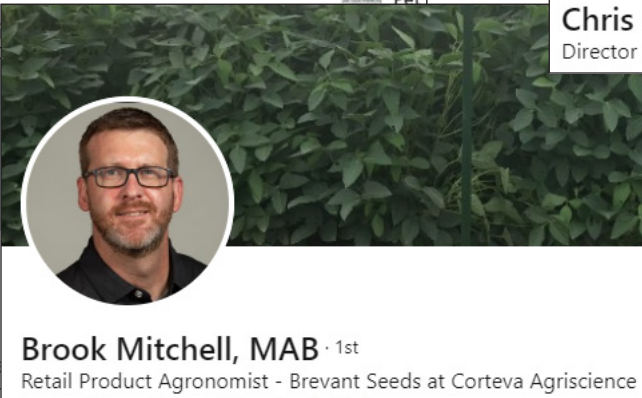
Dana Brooks, MAB · 1st
President and CEO at Pet Food Inst



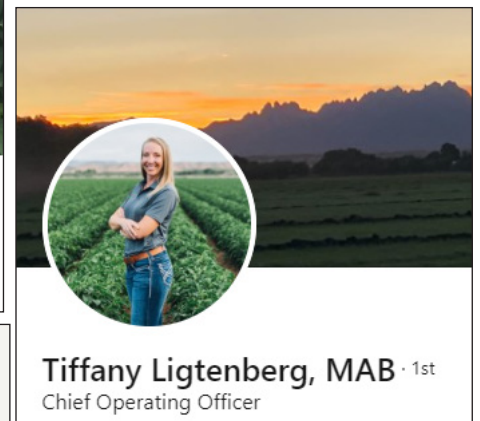
Chris Witt, MAB · 1st
Director of Continuous Improvement at Best Maid Products



Colin Peterson, MAB · 1st
West Region Manager at PFG America



Brook Mitchell, MAB · 1st
Retail Product Agronomist - Brevant Seeds at Corteva Agriscience



Tiffany Ligtenberg, MAB · 1st
Chief Operating Officer

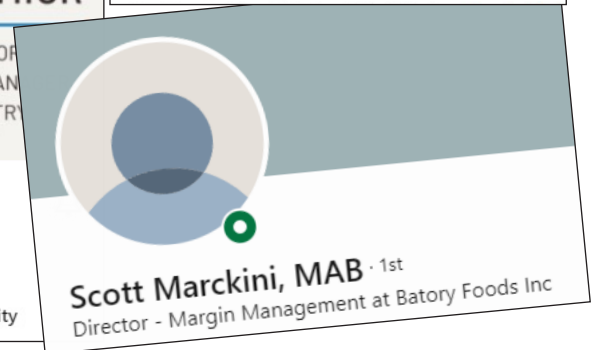


Cynthia R. Garlick
ACCOUNT COORDINATOR
SALES AND OPERATIONS MAN
AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

ACCOUNTS
PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT
PROCESS
OPERATIONS

Cynthia Garlick, MAB · 1st
Production Control Planner/Scheduler at Grede Holdings LLC -
Account Coordinator - Sales Consultant - Agricultural Industry

Grede Holdings LLC
Kansas State University



Scott Marckini, MAB · 1st
Director - Margin Management at Batory Foods Inc

Students and Alumni

Steven Brody ('01) started a new position as President and Chief Executive Officer at BioConnect Iowa.

Joel Karlin ('01) and his wife moved to Warwick, Rhode Island in June 2021, where he continues to work remotely as an Economist with Western Milling.

Carlos Piana Guarderas ('01) is now a Sales and Purchasing Manager at Laboratorios Rocnarf in Ecuador.

Sarah E. Velasquez ('07) finished her Ph.D. in Information Management at Emporia State University.

Jared Brown ('08) started a new position as head of Agriculture Business Development North America at AXA Climate, an entity of Group AXA.

Catia Jorge ('08) started a new position as Country Head/Grains Business Unit Leader at Olam Brazil.

Earl Biggers ('09) retired November 1st and has moved to NW Ohio with his wife, Dawn.

Chris Reeves ('09) is now an Agronomy Sales Manager at CHS Inc. in Holdrege, Nebraska.

Bill Davis ('10) retired after 40 years from CoBank on April 1. He and his wife, Tammy, have moved back to Omaha, NE.

Tim Ulrich ('10) was promoted to Senior Vice President, Colorado Markets for Points West Bank.

Audra Geiger ('11) is the Plant Manager at ADM in Topeka, KS.

Kevin Harper ('13) now DSM at WinField United.

Nathan Perry ('13) and his wife had their second child, Caroline Grace, on May 27, 2021.

Andrew and Lydia (Mtchotsa) Russell ('13) announced the birth of their first child, Fransisca Natasha, on March 16.

Sosthenes Mwansa ('13) recently started a new position as an Agriculture and Development Consultant in Zambia.

Kurt Anderson ('14) accepted a new position as Product Manager, Proactive Customer Service at AGCO Corporation.

Kyle Patten ('14) is now Vice President of Aftermarket- Ag Operations for C & B Operations, LLC.

Cretin Curtis ('15) has accepted a Writer Position for John Deere and moved to the Kansas City Metro area.

Jake Mauer ('15) is now the Product Marketing Manager for the Monitor and Analyze Products with CNH Industrial.

Andy Montgomery ('15) is now a Commercial Unit Head, NK Seeds at Syngenta.

Winnie Pele ('15) recently became a Research Associate for the International Water Management Institute in South Zambia.

Colin Peterson ('15) accepted a position as the West Region Manager with PFG America/Deutz-Fahr USA.

Darren Blew ('16) recently became the Senior Corporate Continuous Improvement Manager at Smithfield Foods.

Tiffany Ligtenberg ('16) was recently promoted to COO for Mitchell Investments in New Mexico. The company processes and sells green chiles and chile-based products.

Eric Putnam ('16) recently started a new position as Quality Assurance and Food Safety Manager at Andes Candies.

Ben Blue ('17) is now the Portfolio Leader at Darigold.

John Sachse ('17) and his wife, Kinsley, had their second son, Elliott, on June 3, 2021. He also was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Kansas Army National Guard in August.

Erin Clem ('18) and her husband, Derrick, welcomed their daughter, Kenlee Anne on April 27 who joins big brother, Carter.

Grant Gondell ('18) is now the Head of Global Commodities at United Dairymen of Arizona.

Kayla Lichty ('18) and her husband welcomed Henley Lynn, on October 25, 2021. She joins big sister and brother, Harper and Hayden.

Sydney (Van Ravenswaay) Schuck ('18) married Adam Schuck on July 17, 2021.

Brittni (Lamoreaux) Brown ('19) is now an Academic Program Specialist, Clerkship Coordinator at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. She also welcomed her second child, Parker Emery on June 9, 2021.

Sara Trattles ('19) was promoted to VP of Commercial Lending at GreenStone Farm Credit Services.

Logan Hooyer ('20) recently started a new position as a Fats and Oils Trader at Saint Paul Commodities.

Pierce Randall ('20) started a new position as Sales and Inventory Manager at Salem Farm Supply.

Dylan Romney ('20) has taken the role of CFO for Agricola de la Sierra Madre, the parent company of his family's farming and processing operation. He also moved to Texas.

Erin Stickel ('20) is now the Eastern Corn Belt Account Manager - Swine for DSM Nutritional Products LLC.

Cassie (Kniebel) Aherin ('21) and her husband, Dustin, announced the birth of their first child, Dane Gabriel, on January 16. She also accepted a Global Project Director position with Vytelle.

Crystal (Dau) Williams ('21) married Garrett Williams on May 22, 2021.

MAB students and alumni:

Have you moved or changed jobs? Scan the QR code below to update your information with us or email Mary at mjbowen@ksu.edu





LIVE

#TuesdayTalks MAB Webinar Series

#MABforLife

Join us for one of our upcoming Tuesday Talks MAB webinars. Learn how the MAB can help advance your career or pop in for one of our professional development topics:

Upcoming #TuesdayTalks Webinars:

- **June 28** - #MABforLife - Impacts of Changing Interest Rate with Dr. Brian Briggeman
- **July 12** - MAB Info Webinar
- **July 26** - #MABforLife - Carbon Credits with Dr. Nathan Hendricks
- **August 9** - MAB Info Webinar
- **August 23** - #MABforLife - Digital Ag with Dr. Terry Griffin and Alumni Panel
- **September 13** - MAB Info Webinar

- **September 27** - #MABforLife - TBA
- **October 11** - MAB Info Webinar
- **October 25** - #MABforLife - TBA
- **November 8** - MAB Info Webinar
- **November 22** - #MABforLife - TBA

MAB Alumni - you should've received a survey to get your input on hot topics/current issues/MAB skills refreshers to cover in our #MABforLife webinars. If you did not receive, send any ideas/suggestions to Sarah at stortella@ksu.edu.

For more info or register online:
mab.k-state.edu/webinars.html

SAVE THE DATE



July 11-13

MAB at IFT FIRST in Chicago, IL

July 30 - August 1

MAB at AVMA in Philadelphia, PA

August 7-11

Animal Health Cohort Campus Session

August 12

Defense ballot and final copy of thesis due to be Summer '22 graduate

August 16-17

MAB at Risk and Profit Conference, Manhattan, KS

September 26

MAB at KC Ag Outlook Forum in Kansas City, MO

September 26-28

MAB at Women in Agribusiness Summit

September 26-28

MAB at Urban Food System Symposium in Kansas City, MO

October 7

Last day to schedule Final Defense for name to appear in commencement program

October 23-27

Animal Health Cohort Campus Session

November 1

MAB at Chicago Section IFT in Chicago, IL

November 1

K-State Global Campus scholarship application due

November 11

MAB at AFA in Kansas City, MO

November 11

Defense ballot and final copy of thesis due to be Fall '22 graduate

December 1

Spring MAB/Ag Econ scholarship applications due

December 9

Fall Commencement at Bramlage Coliseum

January 8-11

MAB Campus Session in Manhattan, KS

January 15-18

MAB at VMX Expo in Orlando, FL