



# KANSAS Soil Health ALLIANCE

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KSSOILHEALTH.ORG

*Improving and protecting Kansas soils through farmer and rancher led education and resources.*

## Upcoming Events

### **Kansas Soil Health Alliance Events Calendar**

Our website's events calendar contains all local and virtual events we find that are talking soil health. With upcoming educational opportunities ranging from pasture walks to multi-day conferences and conventions, there's certainly something that will catch your interest. Take time now to review the calendar and plan your next learning experience! Do you know of an event that isn't on the calendar? Contact [Jennifer@KSsoilhealth.org](mailto:Jennifer@KSsoilhealth.org) to get it added.

[Upcoming Events – Kansas Soil Health Alliance \(kssoilhealth.org\)](https://kssoilhealth.org)

### **Farmer to Farmer Discussions**

Many local conservation districts have been hosting Farmer to Farmer Discussions. These are designed to be casual, farmer led discussions about water and soil conservation practices and topics. Each conservation district's discussion schedule is different. To

learn more about your local conservation district's meeting schedule, you can contact the office and/or follow them on Facebook. Unsure which conservation district you are in? Look here: [Conservation Districts | Kansas Association of Conservation Districts \(kacd.net\)](#)

## **Summer Field Days Recap**

We had a busy summer helping coordinate field days across the state. It was wonderful to interact with so many great growers and work with many different organizations and conservation districts to host the events.

For those who missed out, we were able to record presentations from our July 24th and August 15th events. Check them out on our: [YouTube Channel](#).

The Ottawa County Conservation District also posted several videos from their summer field days on their [YouTube Channel](#).

# **Featured Farmers**



### **Roger Heier**

We worked with Roger Heier, a producer from Gove County, to host a Regenerating the Soil with Cover Crops and Rotational Grazing field day in July. This was a follow-up to a similar workshop held in Grainfield last December. Both events drew in crowds of over 75 to learn from Roger and other presenters.

Western Kansas presents unique challenges to farming for soil health. Check out this [video](#) featuring Roger to learn more about how he's navigating those challenges using cover crops and rotational grazing. Go [here](#) to watch presentations by Dr. Dave Rethorst and Jimmy Emmons as well as a western Kansas farmer panel from the July field day.



### **Darin Williams**

Darin Williams from Waverly hosted a Wildlife Habitat and Soil Health Management Field Day in August highlighting the impacts incorporating no-till, cover crops, and diverse rotations have had on soil and wildlife health. Darin is particularly keen on strategically using cover crops to provide wildlife habitat and nutrition making the ground he manages attractive to many different wildlife species. Check out the footage from a soil pit dug on Darin's farm as well as the day's presentations by Doug Peterson and Darin [here](#).



## **Nick & Johanna Vos**

Nick and Johanna Vos from Hugoton hosted a field day in August as part of a multi-year on-farm trial held in conjunction with their local conservation district and Kansas State University. Among the topics covered were the changes in bulk density and infiltration seen during the trial as demonstrated through a rainfall simulator and soil cores as well as the reduction in irrigation water usage through the incorporation of diverse rotations, sheep grazing, cover crops, and minimal or no-till. Learn more about how the Vos family is making soil health work in the "dust bowl" of southwestern Kansas [here](#).

# **Soil Health Opportunities**

## **Kansas Grazing Exchange**

The Kansas Grazing Exchange helps match available forage with livestock producers for mutually beneficial grazing relationships. If you have available grazing or you're looking for grazing, consider posting a listing. It's free and easy to use.

[Kansas Grazing Exchange – Kansas Soil Health Alliance](https://www.kssoilhealth.org)  
([kssoilhealth.org](https://www.kssoilhealth.org))

## **Cover Crop Planting Incentives**

The Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD), in partnership with Archer-Daniels-Midland Company (ADM), the Kansas Soil Health Alliance and the Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Conservation is once again sponsoring a program to financially reward producers across Kansas for planting cover crops and implementing other regenerative practices. Named the Kansas Climate Smart Initiative (KCSI), the partnership set a goal of planting 100,000 acres of cover crops in 2022 through this program. Kansas producers across the state stepped up and enrolled over that amount. In 2023 the KCSI has been expanded to plant 200,000 acres of cover crops as well as other regenerative practice activities for producers that have wheat in their rotation. To date, 117,000 acres of cover crops have been enrolled.

For more information about this opportunity, check out the “Producer Information” tab at: <https://www.kacd.net/producer-info-adm-climate-smart.cfm> All of the information needed to make application to the program is there. The entire signup process is online in 2023. Troy Munsch, KACD, is available to answer questions or assist in the signup process [troy.munsch@marketing-angle.com](mailto:troy.munsch@marketing-angle.com) or (785)577-5156.

Kansas conservation districts are also assisting with the signup process of the KCSI at the county level.

## **FarmTender**

This new service helps match farmers using regenerative practices with willing landowners. Go to [www.FarmTender.us](http://www.FarmTender.us) to learn more. It is free to browse, and, for a nominal annual fee, you can register and read the profiles of landowners and their land parcels, or of regenerative farmers, or post one yourself!

## **North Central SARE Grants**

North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) offers several grants throughout the year for farmers, students, and educators. Several grants are currently open. Go here to learn more about the different grant opportunities and projected call for proposal timelines. <https://northcentral.sare.org/>

## **Soil Serdem Research Project**

SoilSerdem is seeking participants to help with Phase II of their ongoing research project seeking to map soil informatics. Phase I concentrated on corn-soybean systems; Phase II is expanding to other cropping systems. Read below or go [here](#) to learn more.



**Soil Maps for Everyone**

SoilSerdem  
Research Park Building 2  
Ames, IA 50014

SoilSerdem is an R&D company that is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). We are demonstrating our digital soil mapping technology across the United States. We have successfully developed our innovation under rainfed corn-soybean systems between '21 and '22. Recently, we were awarded [further NSF funding](#) to expand our work to other row cropping systems across the United States.

We are looking for participants to work with us during our second phase project. **SoilSerdem will cover all of the research costs (sampling, lab analysis, and mapping costs).** We ask participants to have a brief conversation to qualify the fields (management, rotation, etc.) and when we work with the operation we will review the outcomes of the research (soil maps) and interpretations.

If you are interested in participating in our research project, you can reach us via email at [dinton@soilserdem.com](mailto:dinton@soilserdem.com) subject line: "Soil Map Research FARM NAME" or call/text at us at (347) 860-5443.

How it works:

We talk through your agronomy and fields



We collect samples and perform research on your soil



We present and discuss results (maps) with you



Thank you for your consideration,

**Yones Khaledian**  
President, CEO  
[ykhaledian@soilserdem.com](mailto:ykhaledian@soilserdem.com)  
(515) 686-7047

**Daniel Linton**  
Vice President, CTO  
[dinton@soilserdem.com](mailto:dinton@soilserdem.com)  
(347) 860-5443

## Regenerative Agriculture Study Announcement

Matthew Porter, PhD Candidate in Global Leadership at Indiana Tech, is looking for 5-10 participants for his research project: A Path to Sustainable Development Goal Two - Food Security:

## Understanding Enablers and Constraints of Adopting Regenerative Agriculture Practices.

Eligibility requirements include you have adopted or are moving towards adopting Regenerative Agriculture practices and produce wheat. If you meet both requirements and you would like to be a participant in this study, go [here](#) to submit your contact information. Questions can be directed to Matthew at 620-755-0584 or [mmporter01@indianatech.net](mailto:mmporter01@indianatech.net)

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