



KANSAS Soil Health ALLIANCE

KSSOILHEALTH.ORG

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

Upcoming Events

Kansas Soil Health Alliance Events Calendar

Conference season is well underway! We hope you're taking advantage of the various upcoming learning opportunities around the state and beyond. Be sure to keep an eye on our event list in order to plan for future workshops. Many winter conferences have been added to our website, and additional dates and details will be added as they are announced. Our website's events calendar contains all local and virtual events we find that are talking about soil health. There are a variety of great conferences and workshops to help expand your soil health knowledge and grow your peer network. 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 Joanna@KSsoilhealth.org to get it added.

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

Where to Find Us

Board members and advisors will be speaking at these events:

- **February 10:** Whole Farm Health Series: Session 1 in Lawrence. Candy Thomas will be speaking.

- **February 24:** Whole Farm Health Series: Session 3 in Lawrence. Michael Thompson will be speaking.

- **February 26:** Cheney Lake Watershed Winter Workshop Series in Hutchinson.

Nick Vos will be speaking.

- **July 8:** Pioneer Soils Field Day in Alma, Kansas. We're co-hosting this event!

Save the dates for our first Soil Health School!



SAVE THE DATE

Soil Health School

Dig into the Fundamentals of Soil Health

Join KSHA for two days of hands-on soil health education and networking for beginners, offering practical tools and support to help guide the next steps for your farm and/or livestock operation.

EDUCATION TOPICS:

- Understanding the basics of soil function & biology
- Managed grazing tools & techniques
- Using crop rotations to build soil health
- Equipment modifications & considerations for soil health
- Hands-on learning
- And more!

WHEN:
September 16-17, 2026

WHERE:
BS Farms near Axtell, KS



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To receive updates and registration information, email joanna@KSsoilhealth.org or sign up for our newsletter at KSsoilhealth.org (found at the bottom of the homepage).

Kansas Soil Health Partnership Forum

Join us in 2026 as we continue our monthly webinar series. "The Kansas Soil Health Partnership Forum," is a monthly one-hour webinar hosted by the Kansas Soil Health Alliance featuring farmers, ranchers, educators, and ag professionals providing insightful views and sharing personal experiences on how they are working to improve and protect Kansas's soils. It will be held via Zoom on the last Thursday of the month from noon to 1pm.

[Register here using the updated link for 2026.](#)



KANSAS SOIL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP FORUM
1st Quarter 2026

Join Us for this Monthly Webinar Series

Last Thursday of each month
Noon - 1pm

Who should join?
Farmers, ranchers, students, government employees, researchers, anyone involved in agriculture.
Everyone is welcome!

FEB 26

February 26th Webinar Spotlight

Flickner Innovation Farm:
The Bleeding Edge

Ryan Flickner
Kansas Farm Bureau,
Senior Director of Advocacy



Ryan will spotlight the Flickner Innovation Farm, a family farming operation near Moundridge, Kansas. He'll discuss ongoing projects and research at the farm and provide an introduction to the NASA FIAT project, which will be explored in more detail in a future webinar.



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If you have a speaker or topic suggestion, please contact us.

Please note- We have updated the link for the new year, so be sure to register again for access and reminders for the full list of 2026 webinars.

In the meantime, you can find all of the 2025 webinar recordings by visiting the [Resources Section](#) of our website.

Conservation District Events

Many local conservation districts are planning a variety of events this year. Here are some events that may be in your area:

- **Annual Meetings:** These are held yearly to give a summary and an update about the Conservation District offices and to recognize Conservation District Award Winners. These meetings are generally held in January and February, so keep an eye out for news from your county.
- **Farmer to Farmer Discussions:** These are designed to be casual, farmer led discussions about water and soil conservation practices and topics.
- **Management Unit events:** These are collaborative events discussing soil health topics hosted by several conservation districts working together.

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 \(kacd.net\)](http://www.kacd.net).

Soil Health Opportunities

Attention Ag Lenders!



Are you an Ag Lender or do you know an Ag Lender who would like to connect with other Ag Lenders to discuss soil health topics? If so, contact us and we'll help you get in touch with others like you!

Soil Health Bucket Owners!

We have made some updates to the instructions that accompany our Soil Health Buckets. If you would like to be emailed an updated copy of the instructions, contact Jennifer at jennifer@KSsoilhealth.org.

Conservation Connector tool

The Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) has unveiled a new tool, the *Conservation Connector*. By providing transparent access to incentive opportunities and direct contact with local support, the *Conservation Connector* (Connector.ag) aims to be a trusted, one-stop shop for producers looking to implement or expand soil health and conservation management practices.

The tool features a searchable directory that allows users to filter programs by crop type, conservation practice, and geographic region, offering a customized experience that matches producers with programs that fit their operation.

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](http://kssoilhealth.org)
(kssoilhealth.org)

"No-Till Farmer" magazine subscription opportunity

The Conservation Ag Foundation, founded in January 2024 is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit focused on equipping farmers with the knowledge and tools to adopt conservation agriculture practices such as no-till, strip-till, and cover cropping. These practices enhance soil health, protect water quality, and ensure the long-term sustainability of agriculture.

As part of this initiative, Kansas Soil Health Alliance has been awarded a scholarship from the Conservation Ag Foundation (CAF) in partnership with "No-Till Farmer," providing our members a FREE 1-year subscription to "No-Till Farmer" magazine. To claim your complimentary 12-issue subscription, please complete [this form](#) to confirm your eligibility.

FarmTender

This new service helps match farmers using regenerative practices with willing landowners. Go to 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!

Voluntary Surveys- Your Input is Welcome

National Women in Agriculture Study



This survey is open October 15, 2025 - March 31, 2026 and is open to individuals age 18 and older in the U.S. and Puerto Rico who have an interest or involvement in agriculture, including those who work in production agriculture, agribusiness, education, advocacy, or related fields. The survey takes approximately 12 to 18 minutes to complete and will be available in English and Spanish.

Depending on background, participants may see different sets of questions:

- Women in agriculture will be asked about their work, leadership interests, challenges, and the kinds of engagement they find helpful.
- Others, including men in agriculture or individuals outside the industry, will be asked for their perspectives on women's roles and leadership in agriculture.

Results from the study will be shared at the International Year of the Woman Farmer ACE Summit to be held in Washington, D.C. in June 2026, and a public summary of results will be made available on the Farm Bureau website.

This study is sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee and is funded by CoBank and JBS. This survey is not associated with the Kansas Soil Health Alliance.

[Take the survey here.](#)

Digital Agriculture & Artificial Intelligence (AI): Educational

Needs Assessment Survey for Farmers and Producers

Help shape the future of Kansas agriculture-- farmers and producers are invited to take a short, confidential survey on digital agriculture and AI needs. The information collected will be used to develop a targeted curriculum designed specifically for the needs of Kansas Agriculture. This survey is not associated with the Kansas Soil Health Alliance.

[Take the survey here.](#)

Cornell University Survey on Rye

A team of researchers at Cornell University has created a survey to understand the many ways farmers are growing and using cereal rye, including for grain, forage, and as a cover crop. Their team is also developing new rye varieties and want to understand important breeding priorities for different end uses. Participation is voluntary. At the end of this project, research results will be shared through presentations, published in peer-reviewed publications, and shared with stakeholders via a white paper and farmer/industry publications.

For more information about the research, contact the project leader, Virginia Moore at vm377@cornell.edu. This survey is not associated with the Kansas Soil Health Alliance.

[Take the survey here.](#)

Job Opportunities

Conservation Jobs in Kansas

There are various open positions at county conservation districts around the state as well as positions with the Kansas Department of Agriculture. Currently, the USDA-NRCS is under a hiring freeze. Once lifted, all vacancy announcements for USDA positions can be found online at usajobs.gov.

Featured openings:

- Conservation District Manager in Stanton County.
- Conservation District Manager in Lyon County.
- Conservation District Manager in Wabaunsee County.
- Soil Conservation Technician in Scott/Finney County. Visit the Scott County Conservation District [Facebook page](#) or the link below for more information.

You can learn about additional positions here.

<https://www.kacd.net/jobs.cfm>

Additional Opportunities

- Kansas Rural Center website features a collection of educational and career opportunities curated to suit those in Kansas interested in agriculture, ecology, and community building. Visit the [KRC website](#) for more information.
- Kansas Forest Service is hiring a Fire Protection Specialist. Learn more at kansasforests.org.
- Visit the [Human Resources page](#) for employment opportunities at the Kansas Department of Agriculture.
- Kansas Department of Health and Environment has several job opportunities available. Visit their [website](#) for more information.
- Missouri Department of Agriculture is hiring for several positions. Visit their [website](#) to search for available opportunities.

Featured Stories

**Read the Kansas Grasslands Issue
Brief**



The Kansas Department of Agriculture and the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts are pleased to share a new foundational report on Kansas Grasslands that highlights the importance of grasslands to the state and identifies action steps to continue and enhance the conservation of those grasslands for the future of Kansas.

KDA has been working in partnership with the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, with the support of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, on a joint project to determine action steps to encourage and support efforts to assist Kansans in the conservation of their working grasslands. The initiative included a series of in-person discussions around the state and a public survey. The input received from ranchers, landowners and other interested Kansans was compiled into a final Issue Brief which was shared with project participants and posted on the KDA website.

Grasslands make up more than 15 million acres of agricultural land in Kansas. In addition to other ecological and economic benefits, these

grasslands serve a critical role as grazing land for cattle. As the state's largest agricultural industry, the beef industry provides income and economic prosperity to thousands of Kansas ranchers, businesses, and workers throughout the state.

The Kansas Grasslands Issue Brief outlines actionable steps to keep this valuable natural resource in healthy working condition. It includes information to help educate a broad audience about the importance of working grasslands, as well as action steps that could be taken to improve and conserve working grasslands for future generations. The final product has been reviewed by a technical team of researchers to make sure the science is strong, and it has been informed and reviewed by ranchers to make sure it is accurate and reflects their work and experience.

"This Issue Brief will be an important resource to make sure we can continue to help ranchers and landowners with their work to ensure the long-term sustainability of rangelands," said Dan Meyerhoff, executive director of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts. "It is a great example of what can happen when ranchers, researchers, state and federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations come together to pursue long-term change."

The contributors of this project encourage all Kansans to read the report and learn how we can all work together to ensure that grasslands continue to be a productive, valuable resource for generations of Kansans to come. Find the Issue Brief and other materials related to the Kansas Grasslands project on the [Kansas Department of Agriculture website](#).

Abundant Ogallala: Regenerative Agriculture for a Water-Scarce Future

**Conservation Planning in the Southern High Plains –
Project Framework and Planning Workbook**

Abundant Ogallala: Regenerative Agriculture for a Water-Secure Future in the Southern High Plains



This is a publication of the Abundant Ogallala: Regenerative Agriculture for a Water-Secure Future in the Southern High Plains project, supported by The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation under grant number 2008.24.01756. NCAT and NFWF are equal-opportunity employers and service providers.

National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) is here to provide free conservation planning and technical assistance to help farmers and ranchers foster conservation across the Southern Plains.

If you're farming or ranching in eligible counties in New Mexico, Colorado, or Kansas, the Abundant Ogallala program offers a practical path toward greater resilience and long-term sustainability. By participating, you'll gain access to expert support for conservation planning—at no cost and with no strings attached. This opportunity helps you tap into funding streams, improve water retention on your land, and unlock new value through ecosystem services—all while strengthening your operation against drought and rising input costs.

When it comes to the Southern Great Plains, conservation needs are diverse, the stakes are huge, and the outcomes will be dire if we fail to meet the challenges ahead. The Ogallala Aquifer supplies nearly all water for municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses in the region. The regional economy hinges on agriculture, yet at current pumping rates, more than a third of the Southern High Plains may be unable to support irrigation within the next 30 years. Playas, wetlands, and grasslands of the region support rare and declining wildlife such as the Lesser Prairie Chicken. **Rapid, widespread adoption of regenerative agroecological practices is the most promising pathway to simultaneously conserve precious groundwater resources,**