



# 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

Conference season is beginning to slow down, but that doesn't mean the events will stop. We're continuing to add events for this summer, and you may even find a webinar to listen to while you're in the tractor! 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](mailto: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:

- **March 11:** Soil Health Workshop in Dodge City. Candy Thomas will be speaking!

- **July 8:** Enhancing Soil Health in Native Grass and Cropland.  
We're co-hosting this event in Alma, Kansas!

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



KANSAS  
**Soil Health**  
ALLIANCE

To receive updates and registration information, email [joanna@KSsoilhealth.org](mailto:joanna@KSsoilhealth.org) or sign up for our newsletter at [KSsoilhealth.org](http://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!

## March 26<sup>th</sup> Webinar Spotlight

Practical Ag Tech  
on Your Operation

Ryan O'Neill

Farmer,  
Certified Crop Advisor,  
Watershed Coordinator

Ryan will talk about the technologies he has on his operation including  
Virtual Fencing, Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI),  
Loading Sheds and Satellite Internet. Ryan is a conservation expert  
specializing in soil health and water quality.

**March 26**



KANSAS  
Soil Health  
ALLIANCE



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:

- **Local Work Group meetings:** The purpose of annual local work group meetings is to gather information and make recommendation to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist, as well as other state and local leaders, related to addressing natural resource concerns identified at a local level.
- **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)

## Featured News

### Women Landowners Leading Regeneration (WLLR)



KSHA Executive Director, Jennifer Simmelink, recently participated in the Women Landowners Leading Regeneration conservation professional training, led by Drs. Jean Eells and Rebecca Christoffel. The program focuses on building facilitation and outreach skills to better support women non-operating landowners in adopting conservation practices in collaboration with their farmer tenants. Research shows that 70% of women who attend a Women Caring for the Land meeting take an action to improve conservation on their land, making this approach a powerful tool for conservation professionals!

The Women Landowner Series is being offered in a hybrid format this May. This series is ideal for women who own farmland in Kansas, Iowa, or Missouri, lease it to a farmer or farmers, and want to better understand conservation to engage more effectively with their tenants and take an active role in caring for their land. Participants will meet in-person on May 12th in Manhattan, Kansas. Three virtual sessions will take place following the in-person meeting.

You can learn more about WLLR at [mizzou.us/WLLR](http://mizzou.us/WLLR).

## Women Landowners Leading Regeneration

Event for Non-Operating Women Landowners



This gathering provides a unique learning community for women non-operating landowners renting farmland to tenants in Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri. You'll gain practical conservation knowledge and build confidence in connecting with your tenants.



This in-person meeting will be followed by three virtual meetings over Zoom. Need support? Go to our registration page.



**BLUE SAGE BARN**  
PHOTO CREDIT: PRAIRIEWOOD

**Tuesday, May 12, 2026**  
**9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CT**  
**Prairiewood - Blue Sage Barn**  
**1484 Wildcat Creek Road**  
**Manhattan, KS 66503**

**Register at:**  
[mizzou.us/WLLR-KS-26](http://mizzou.us/WLLR-KS-26)



**WOMEN'S LEARNING CIRCLE**  
PHOTO CREDIT: EMILY MAE PHOTOGRAPHY

Or contact Makayla Zimmerman at  
573-952-6498 | [vorism@missouri.edu](mailto:vorism@missouri.edu)



Center for Regenerative Agriculture  
University of Missouri

# Soil Health Opportunities

## SHAPE: Probing Our Country's Soil Health



A new national effort called **Probing Our Country's Soil Health** is focused on creating a free and user-friendly tool for farmers to benchmark the soil health of their fields.

The tool is called **Soil Health Assessment Protocol and Evaluation (or SHAPE)**. The tool will also provide insights of management practices that may improve crop yields when enhancing soil health.

### WHAT WILL YOU RECEIVE FOR PARTICIPATING?

- Compensation for your time (~1 hour)
- A personalized soil health report of your fields. The value of this lab work (at no cost to you) is about \$1200 per field.
- A copy of a book called "Probing Our Country's Soil Health." This will be a hard-copy photo book illustrating soil health across the country and project outcome. It will also include photos of many of the participating farmers on their own fields.

### WHAT IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE?

- Sign up for a one-hour Zoom Meeting where a facilitator will lead you through a management survey for 2 or 3 fields. This will take about an hour.
- Grant access to fields for hand-probe soil sampling from 2 or 3 sites from each field. Normally this will happen within 3-6 months after the survey. You will be notified beforehand.
- Fields must be 10 acres or more.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW VIDEO:



Click here: [Probing Our Country's Soil Health](#) or scan the code to watch a short video about the project.

### HOW TO ENROLL:



Click on this [Booking Page Link](#) or scan the code to schedule a meeting time with a facilitator.

Project Management by AGES LLC (Agronomic, Geologic, & Environmental Services).  
Questions? Contact us at [SHAPE.probingsoilhealth@gmail.com](mailto:SHAPE.probingsoilhealth@gmail.com).



**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](mailto: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](http://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  
\(kssoilhealth.org\)](http://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](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!

# **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 US DISCOVER THE NEEDS  
OF DIGITAL AG & AI IN KANSAS**

# Take our Survey

If you are a farmer and/or any of the following apply to you:

- Row crop production
- Specialty crop production
- Livestock/ranching operation

You qualify to take our survey



[https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bwoxVYFC5t10Wge](https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bwoxVYFC5t10Wge)

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

**Kansas**  
Department of Commerce

**DIGITAL AG  
NAVIGATORS**

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](mailto: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](http://usajobs.gov).

Featured openings:

- Conservation District Manager in Stanton County.
- Conservation District Manager in Wabaunsee County.
- Conservation District Manager in Shawnee 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, as well as Student Workers. Learn more at [kansasforests.org](http://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.
  - American Farmland Trust is hiring a Kansas Grazing Specialist. Learn more and apply [here](#).
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