



Collaborate | Educate | Implement

This is the quarterly newsletter for October 2025 from the
Kansas Association of Conservation Districts.

Encourage others to [sign up!](#)

Early Bird Registration Deadline Approaching!

2025 Annual Convention "Embrace Change to Cultivate Growth"

Plans are well underway for the 81st Annual Convention, taking place **November 23–25, 2025, in Wichita** — and we hope to see you there! This year's theme, Conservation in Action: Partnerships, Practices, and Progress, reflects the critical work happening across Kansas to protect our natural resources through collaboration and innovation.

The convention will bring together conservation district leaders, state and federal partners, producers, and technical experts to learn, connect, and celebrate conservation successes statewide.

If you haven't registered yet, now's the time — early bird registration closes **November 1, 2025**, and hotel room blocks are expected to fill quickly.

This year's Exhibitor Hall will showcase some of the top names in conservation and agriculture, including ADM Grain, ITC Great Plains, Kansas Forest Service, Star Seed, Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Conservation, Sharp Brothers Seed Company, and many more. It's a rare opportunity to explore cutting-edge tools, programs, and seed and service providers all in one place.

Visit the [KACD Convention page](#) to register, view hotel information, and get updates as the agenda takes shape. Whether you're a returning attendee or it's your first time, the KACD Annual Convention is your front row seat to the people, partnerships, and practices shaping the future of conservation in Kansas.



[Registration Form](#)

[Agenda & Hotel Information](#)

Celebrating 29 years of Dedicated Service



Sandy Koontz

District Manager

Butler County Conservation District

Sandy Koontz has been a dedicated part of the Butler County Conservation District since 1996, bringing with her a strong background in agriculture and conservation.

As a Kansas State University graduate with a degree in Agriculture Education, Sandy's career has taken her from Washington State to Kansas, working with multiple conservation districts and the NRCS before settling into her long-standing role in El Dorado. Over the years, she has held numerous positions within BCCD, from Water Quality Coordinator to Riparian and Wetland Coordinator, and today serves as the District Manager.

Alongside her district leadership, she also provides administrative and technical support to five watershed districts, ensuring conservation programs, cost-share opportunities, and educational resources reach both landowners and producers.

Education has always been a passion for Sandy, and she has been instrumental in organizing water festivals, field days, summer camps, poster contests, and other outreach events for nearly three decades. She takes pride in helping people understand and care for natural resources, whether it's supporting landowners through cost-share programs or watching the positive impact of conservation practices across Butler County.

For Sandy, the most rewarding part of her career is seeing those practices in action and knowing they make a lasting difference in conserving local land and water for future generations.

Keep up the great work Sandy!

Need Help Getting Conservation on the Ground?

Consider a TSP

As we continue to navigate changes in federal staffing, it's more important than ever to take advantage of all available resources to keep conservation work moving forward. One of those tools is hiring a Technical Service Provider (TSP)—a certified professional approved by USDA-NRCS to design, layout, and inspect practices under both federal and state cost share programs.

Landowners can hire a TSP directly, and while the cost isn't reimbursed separately under state cost share, it can be included in the total project cost submitted with

receipts. Districts may also consider contracting with a local TSP to assist with projects on an as-needed basis, using available state aid funding to support technical needs without the added cost of hiring full-time staff.

Let's continue working together to get conservation practices on the ground—efficiently and effectively.

Find a TSP and filter by state and practice area at:

NRCS.USDA.GOV

A Big Year for the Kansans for Conservation Bill

Your Voice Matters

Momentum is building around the Kansans for Conservation Bill, and 2025 may be the year we finally see it cross the finish line. This landmark proposal would establish dedicated state funding to support voluntary, community-led conservation efforts across Kansas—protecting our natural resources, strengthening rural economies, and supporting outdoor recreation.

After years of planning and coalition-building, we're seeing unprecedented support from both sides of the aisle, but we need your help to keep the pressure on.

This fall, Kansans for Conservation is launching a major push to raise awareness and drive action across the state. Whether you're a landowner, outdoors enthusiast, educator, or local leader, your voice is vital. Visit [Kansans for Conservation](#) to learn more about the bill, explore how it benefits your community, and find tools to spread the word.

Share it, talk about it, and help us ensure Kansas invests in its land, water, and future—for all of us.

**Visit the Kansans for Conservation
Website**

Conservation in Action

New Videos Highlight Water Conservation Across Kansas

The Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) is excited to share five new videos now available on our [YouTube channel](#). These short features offer a firsthand look at conservation success stories and practical approaches being used by Kansas landowners, conservation districts, and partners across the state.

Whether you're curious about sustainable farming methods, water quality improvements, or the role of youth in conservation, these videos offer something for everyone.

These videos are part of KACD's commitment to education, collaboration, and

community-driven conservation. We encourage you to visit and subscribe to our YouTube channel for ongoing stories, practical insights, and inspiration from the field. It's a growing hub of knowledge for anyone invested in the future of Kansas land, water, and wildlife.

To read the full article visit [KACD News: Conservation in Action](#)



Learn More about
Water Quantity

KACD YouTube



Upcoming Events to Note

Governor's Water Conference

Registration is open for the 2025 Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas, which will be held November 12th and 13th in Manhattan at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center.

All attendees must register to attend!

Register and book your hotel before room blocks sell out!



Details &
Registration

Soil Health & Cover Crop Field Tours

A Conservation Field Day Tour in Kansas offers participants an engaging educational experience to explore sustainable land management, conservation, and agriculture.



FIELD TOURS

These events typically include educational workshops, guided tours of farms or conservation sites, hands-on conservation activities, and demonstrations of modern, sustainable agricultural practices.

Attendees have the chance to interact directly with experts, participate in Q&A sessions, and network with others interested in environmental stewardship. Materials and meals are often provided, and pre-registration is usually required.

For details on upcoming tours, [contact your local conservation district](#).

Farmer-to-Farmer Meetings



Farmer-to-Farmer Discussion

Collaborate & Discuss with Others!

Farmers, ranchers, and producers across the state are encouraged to attend the Farmer-to-Farmer meetings in their area. These casual meetings are focused on the conservation and preservation of our state's natural resources.

Many counties hold a morning coffee or gather at a local seed shed with neighbors just to talk conservation.

Learn more about your local Farmer-to-Farmer meetings by contacting your [local conservation district](#).



Have You Watched Our YouTube Channel?

Did you know that Kansas Association of Conservation Districts has a YouTube Channel?

Find a variety of informational and educational videos focused on conservation efforts, as well as producer Spotlight videos!

Don't wait, get subscribed today!



KACD YouTube

Educational Tools



Did you know that your county conservation district has Educational Tools available for programs in local classrooms?

Take a look at some of the resources available to educate your students about conservation of our natural resources on the kacd.net/educational-tools.

As you develop your lesson plans for the upcoming school year, be sure to contact your [local conservation district](#) to learn more about the educational programs they offer!



Job Opportunities

Interested in available jobs in Conservation? Check out kacd.net/jobs to stay up-to-date on open positions across the state!

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Upcoming Events



Oct. 1 [Ag Lenders Conference \(In-person/Virtual\)](#) - Manhattan

Oct. 16 [KFA Forestry Field Day](#) - Cherryvale

Oct. 20-21 [Celebrating 25 Years of Kansas Graziers!](#) - Salina

Oct. 22 [Livestock Grazing Roadshow with Jim Gerrish](#) - Riley

Oct. 29 [Women Landowners Leading Regeneration Training](#) - Manhattan

Nov. 6 [Rangelands: Protecting the Best, Reclaiming the Rest](#) - TBD

Nov. 8 [Livestock, Grazing & Work Management](#) - Riley

Nov. 11 [Grass & Grain Farm and Ranch Show](#) - Manhattan

Nov. 11-12 [Kansas Landowner Conference](#) - Manhattan

Nov. 12-13 [Governor's Water Conference](#) - Manhattan

Nov. 17 [Soil Health Event: Cover Crops](#) - Wellington

Dec. 3 [Regenerative Ranching](#) - Riley

Dec. 3-4 [Soil Health Institute 10th Anniversary Meeting](#) - Virtual

Jan. 20 [No-Till on the Plains](#) - Wichita

Feb. 14 [KS Rural Center's Annual Food & Farm Conference](#) - Lawrence

Kansas Soil Health Alliance provides a list of many of the [soil health events](#). If you are hosting a soil health event, please submit it to Jennifer at Kansas Soil Health Alliance!

For upcoming KACD events, visit [KACD Events](#) on our website!

Connect With Us!

Follow along with us on our Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, and website for information about upcoming events, program details, available resources, news and more!



Kansas Association of Conservation Districts

(785) 650-1330 | dan.meyerhoff@kacd.net | kacd.net



"Providing local leadership to protect and improve Kansas Natural Resources through collaboration, education and implementation"

**Visit KACD
Website**



Content and email marketing provided by **Marketing Angle** for KACD.

Funded through a grant with **USDA-NRCS Kansas**.

Kansas Association of Conservation Districts | 414 Autumn Lane | Hays, KS 67601 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!