



Collaborate | Educate | Implement

**This is a quarterly newsletter from
Kansas Association of Conservation Districts.**

Encourage others to [sign up!](#)



Kansas Conservation: Growing for 80 Years

Location: Wichita Hyatt

Date: November 24-26, 2024

You're invited to discover the conservation efforts happening in Kansas. Since 1944, the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) has been a vital link, fostering essential partnerships among federal, state, and local entities dedicated to the responsible use and protection of our state's natural resources. These collaborations have proven to be highly effective and mutually beneficial, enabling the sharing of space, equipment, and expertise.

Join us as we celebrate Kansas Conservation, Growing for 80 Years at the [Annual Convention](#) with breakout sessions, keynote speakers, and the conservation symposium, all designed to equip you with the latest information to better serve and expand conservation across Kansas!

Other Important Dates to Know:

Sept. 27 - Exhibitor Registration Closes

Oct. 4 - Convention Award Nominations Due

Nov. 1 - Attendee Registration Closes

Agenda & Hotel Info.

**Attendee
Registration**

**Exhibitor
Registration**



KDA Spotlight



Dave Jones

Assistant Director

Kansas Department of Agriculture/Division of Conservation



Dave's career in conservation began in 1998 when he was hired by the Jackson County Conservation District as a part-time Water Quality Coordinator. He has also worked for the Nemaha County Conservation District, the Kansas Department of Agriculture, the Division of Water Resources, and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and he currently works for the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation.

His current role as Assistant Director allows him to work with all 105 Kansas Conservation Districts to implement the Water Resources and Non-Point Source cost-share programs at the local level. This role also allows him to work with partners such as NRCS, the Kansas Water Office, the State Conservation Commission, KACD, etc., to develop program policy and promote conservation practices throughout the State of Kansas.

He graduated with a degree in Animal Science from Kansas State University and is currently taking classes through Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University. When he is not working for the DOC, he serves as a supply pastor for the Potawatomi Community Church.

Dave lives in Holton, Kansas, with his wife Michelle, who is a 4th grade teacher. They have two adult sons, one in the school counseling field and one in the aerospace engineering field. He enjoys cooking BBQ in his spare time as well.

KACD Feature



District Spotlight:

Ottawa County Conservation District

The Ottawa County Conservation District has found a new and unique revenue source.... selling seed potatoes. District Manager Shannon Smith said, "One of our board members had the idea, and we decided to give it a try. The potato sales were a hit with 400 pounds sold and has led to contacts with many new customers."

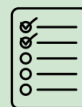


The Ottawa County Conservation District will offer seed potatoes again in 2025. Shannon also organized a seed swap for the public in conjunction with potato order pickups. Shannon said this has been a tremendous way for the district to "reintroduce themselves" to the community after some staff changes. Smith has only been with the district for about 17 months and is making some great

changes. Shannon said the commissioners have taken note of all the incredible outreach the district is doing, and that is always a plus! She loves to share her project details with others to inspire others to get more engaged. The district hopes to acquire some acreage and establish a research and demo plot to serve the community, but until that comes to fruition, they are focused on converting the landscape at the USDA office to pollinator plots.

Way to think outside the box and reach new customers with district services and programs, Shannon! Keep up the great work. Follow [Ottawa County Kansas Conservation District](#) on Facebook to keep up with their other great outreach efforts.

Conservation Planning with NRCS



The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is dedicated to supporting America's working lands. They deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world. NRCS envisions a world of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes, and thriving agricultural communities accomplished through voluntary conservation.

Kansas NRCS, in partnership with KACD and the local conservation districts, strive to connect people with conservation solutions through a 9-step conservation planning process, also known as technical assistance. This process ensures quality development and implementation of conservation plans by gathering data, applying science-based expertise, collaborating with partners, and prioritizing client objectives. NRCS prides itself on helping the folks who form the foundation of our country improve and protect their land's natural resources. In Kansas, NRCS provides planning on many ag-related land uses: cropland, pasture, range, forest, and even non-traditional and urban ag locations.

So, what comes next? [Continue reading...](#)



**BOTTOM LINE
CONFERENCE**

Bottom Line Conference Recap 2024

The 6th Annual Bottom Line Conference, held on August 22 & 23 in Lakin, Kansas, successfully brought together agricultural professionals dedicated to enhancing soil health and sustainable practices.

This year's event showcased the collaboration of local conservation districts, including a leadership role from the Kearny County Conservation District Board of Supervisors, which initiated discussions on pressing agricultural issues in the region. As the conference continued to gain momentum, it became evident that the objective was clear: to create a valuable, low-cost conference that mirrors the depth of larger events like No-Till on the Plains, but with a distinctly regional flavor.

The planning of the Bottom Line Conference was a collective endeavor, with Kearny County at the helm and significant support from Finney County and nine additional surrounding counties. This cohesive partnership enabled efficient organization and a commitment to fostering discussions that resonated with local agricultural concerns.

[Full Article](#)

Prescribed Burning & Burn Plans

Did you know that you can [boost pasture health with late-season prescribed burning?](#)

As a result of recent KSU research, interest in non-conventional approaches to prescribed fire has surged in Kansas.

Our friends at [Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition \(KGLC\)](#) have a variety of valuable [resources](#) and [educational videos](#) for you to utilize to develop an effective burn plan for your native and cultivated pastures.

What is a burn plan?

It is simply a document that lays out how the targeted burn area is going to be burned safely, not only ignited but extinguished, to accomplish a goal that is determined beforehand.

Learn more about prescribed burning on [KGLC's YouTube Channel!](#)

Get Your Legislators Involved



Get your legislators involved and keep them engaged in what your county is doing!

Engaging legislators in Kansas Conservation District activities is crucial for ensuring that conservation efforts are supported and sustained at the state level. By actively involving legislators, districts can secure necessary funding, promote relevant policies, and garner political support for conservation initiatives.

Regular interaction helps legislators understand the tangible benefits of conservation work, such as improved soil health, water quality, and wildlife habitat. This ongoing involvement also fosters a collaborative environment where legislators can advocate for conservation priorities, integrate them into broader legislative agendas, and address emerging environmental challenges effectively.

In essence, keeping legislators engaged ensures that conservation remains a prominent and actionable priority in Kansas' legislative landscape.



Grass Seed & Equipment Rentals



Conservation districts across Kansas offer more than just cost share programs and educational events. Many district own various equipment which they provided to local landowners for use in implementing conservation practices.

Some examples include:

- Drills
- Manure spreaders
- Drip torches
- Root plows
- Roller/crimpers

No-till drills tend to be the most common rental equipment owned by conservation districts. Most no-till drills have multiple seed boxes and have the capability to drill grains, grasses, forbs, and legumes making they popular times in the fall for seeding cover crops, food plots, CRP grasses and even wheat. Remember not all counties own equipment, and those who do generally only allow use within their county boundaries.

Counties should have their available equipment listed on their county webpage which you can find at kacd.net/conservation-districts

**Continue Reading about Grass Seed & Equipment
Rentals**



Employee Organization

**Calling all former Conservation District Board of Supervisors
and Conservation District Employees!**

KACD is celebrating 80 years of growing conservation in Kansas, and we want you to be part of the celebration! If you served on your county conservation district board or were an employee of a conservation district anywhere in the state, we would love to have you join us and celebrate this milestone.

The 80th Annual Convention will take place on November 24-26 in Wichita, with the awards celebration scheduled for Monday, November 25, at 7 PM. Register today to participate in the milestone event, reconnect with old friends and colleagues, and see what's new in Kansas conservation.

**Convention
Registration**



Serve Your Local Conservation District

Are you interested in serving your county on the local conservation district?

You can become a supervisor on your local board by being elected at the Annual Meeting in January or February!

Serving on your local county conservation district in Kansas is a rewarding way to make a meaningful impact on your community and environment. By joining, you'll help protect and enhance the natural resources that define our beautiful state, from vibrant prairies to crucial waterways. You'll collaborate with fellow residents passionate about sustainable practices, gain valuable insights into local conservation efforts, and contribute to projects that preserve Kansas' natural heritage for future generations. It's an opportunity to be a local hero, championing the land and fostering a legacy of environmental stewardship.

Learn more about [District Governance](#).



Upcoming Events to Note

Governor's Water Conference



Registration is open for the [2024 Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas](#), which will be held November 13th and 14th in Manhattan at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center.

All attendees must [register](#) to attend!

[Book your room](#) by Thursday, October 10, 2024 or until the room block is sold out- whichever comes first!

Soil Health & Cover Crop Field Tours

Continue to watch for upcoming Soil Health and Cover Crop Field Tours hosted by your local conservation district by watching their Facebook page or reaching out to your [local conservation district](#).

These are great opportunities to visit local properties to learn and see more about implemented soil health and cover crop practices.



Farmer-to-Farmer Meetings

Farmer-to-Farmer Discussion

Collaborate & Discuss with Others!



All local farmers, ranchers, and producers are encouraged to attend these regular Farmer-to-Farmer meetings focused on the conservation and preservation of our state's natural resources.

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!



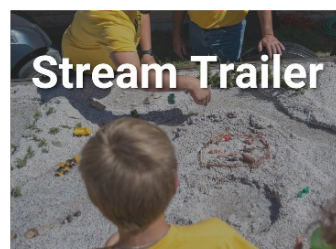
Educational Tools



Did you know that your local conservation district has Educational Tools available for your classroom?

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 at NRCS and KDA!

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

Upcoming Events



- >> Oct. 3 - [Fuller Field School "Soil to Soul" - Severy, KS](#)
- >> Oct. 5 - [Kansas Forestry Association - Forestry Field Day 2024 - Baldwin City, KS](#)
- >> Nov. 24-26 - [2024 KACD Annual Convention - Wichita, KS](#)
- >> Dec. 3-4 - [5th Annual Southeast Kansas Soil Health Conference - Iola, KS](#)
- >> Jan. 21 - [29th Annual No-Till on the Plains Winter Conference - Wichita, KS](#)

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! Or visit [KACD Events](#).

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!



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

Visit KACD Website



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