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GROWING FOR 80 YEARS



Kansas Association of Conservation Districts

**80TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 24 TO 26, 2024
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Wilson County***

Thanks to the Maximum Club member districts for contributing an additional \$150 over the basic dues. KACD greatly appreciates their extra contribution which supports KACD's efforts, including promoting increased funding at the local, state and, federal levels for conservation districts and conservation programs.

Convention Agenda Sunday

9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

EO Board of Directors Meeting – Enterprise Board Room

12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Endowment Committee Meeting – Oak Room

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

KACD Board of Directors Meeting – Enterprise BD Room

State Conservation Commissioners Meeting – Walnut

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Conservation Education and Youth Committee Meeting
– Osage

2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Convention Registration -
Ballroom Foyer

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Supervisor Engagement & Empowerment for New and
Experienced Supervisors - Birch

4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Kansas Envirothon Meeting – Enterprise Board Room

6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Vespers Service – Trail Rooms

7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Cornhole Tournament - Redbud C



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THE WESTERN TIMES
Thursday, April 18, 1974
Sharon Springs, Kansas

TRACTOR SAFETY CLASS FOR WOMEN

Agriculture has increased its accident rate when the number of farms has decreased. This disturbing fact was presented to the group taking the Tractor Safety Class for Women last Wednesday, April 10th at the CS meeting room.

sored by the Wallace County Farm Bureau and the Homemakers EHU.

Those attending felt this was a valuable session for all women who live on the farm whether they drive a tractor or not. Much needs to be done to make farming safer.

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Convention Agenda Monday

6:30 – 8:00 a.m.

Sharp Brothers Seed Company Buffet Breakfast –
Riverview Ballroom

7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Convention Registration
Ballroom Foyer



8:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

KACD Opening Ceremony – Grand Eagle Ballroom

Presentation of Colors - Derby HS Color Guard

Presidents Report – KACD President Bill Simshauser

Capitol Hill Update – Senator Jerry Moran

NRCS Highlights – NRCS State Conservationist David
Doctorian

The Importance of Partnerships – NRCS Assistant
Chief Kenneth Walker

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Auxiliary Country Store Ballroom Foyer

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Coffee Break - Ballroom Foyer

10:05 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

KACD Committee Meetings

Grassland Committee – Redbud B
Presiding - Daryl Donohue, Chair

Natural Resources Committee – Cypress B
Presiding - Baron Shively, Chair

District Operations Committee – Redbud A
Presiding - Wayne Lukert, Chair

Wildlife, Recreation and Forestry – Redbud C
Presiding - Sam Sanders, Chair

Finance and Development – Oak
Presiding – Allen Roth, Chair

Urban and Rural Development – Osage
Presiding - Mark Lehman, Chair

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www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov

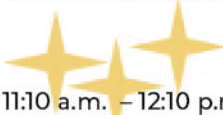
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Monday Agenda Cont'd.

10:05 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Youth and Education Committee Speech Contest
– Cypress A, Presiding - Dwayne Roux, Chair

New District Employee Orientation - Birch



11:10 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

Breakout Sessions



K-State's New Livestock Watering Handbook

– Redbud A

Ron Graber, KSU Watershed Specialist

Why should I be concerned about livestock water quality? In the last few years, many livestock producers have seen the effects of prolonged drought on quality water supplies for their livestock. In response to these conditions, the K-State Research & Extension (KSRE) publication "Waterers and Watering Systems: A Handbook for Livestock Producers and Landowners," has been updated and is now available. This handbook has been a popular resource, and its use is expected to grow. Join Ron as he highlights the changes and additions to the new handbook.



A New Approach to Reducing Water Use in the High Plains Aquifer – Redbud B

Matt Unruh, Assistant Director, KWO

Wes McCary, Tech Projects Coordinator, KWO

David Jones, Assistant Director, KDA-DOC

Katie Durham, Manager, GMD 1

Join us for a panel discussion from the perspective of the KDA/DOC, Kansas Water Office, and Groundwater Management District #1. Each partner will describe current cost-share and technical assistance programs ranging from local to federal projects. The panel will be available to answer questions.



Implementing a Successful Local Workgroup Meeting in Your Management Unit/ County – Redbud C

Chessa Ossefoort, Programs Manager, NACD

Matt Sprick, Agreement Specialist, KACD

The Local Work Group (LWG) process involves gathering diverse stakeholders to identify resource concerns and prioritize conservation efforts within a community. By aligning local needs with federal and state programs, LWGs enhance the effectiveness of conservation initiatives. This session will cover best practices for encouraging participation, fostering conversation, and learning how KACD will continue to support conservation districts in hosting these important meetings.

AT HOME ON THE RANGE



There are 17 pasture and rangeland management conservation practices available for state cost share to keep your rangeland healthy.



www.agriculture.ks.gov/Conservationfinancialassistance

Monday Agenda Cont'd.

12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

State Conservation Commission Luncheon – Grand Eagle Ballroom

Presiding: Rod Vorhees, SCC Chairman

Keynote Speaker: Governor Laura Kelly (invited)

KACD State Speech Contest Winner Presentation

The State Conservation Commission consists of five elected commissioners, two ex officio members representing the Agriculture Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service, Kansas State University, and two appointed members representing the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.



In addition to the high school student Speech Contest, two other scholarships are available through KACD for full time post-secondary junior or senior students.

The ***Caroline & Don Peterson Memorial Scholarship*** provides up to \$1,000 for the fall semester for a student majoring in Agronomy/Range Management, or closely related field.

A ***General Memorial Scholarship*** provides up to \$1,000 for the fall semester for a student majoring in a Natural Resource related field.

Both applications are due March 15 of each year.

For more information, go to:
kacd.net/youth-scholarships.cfm



Youth Scholarships

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future generations

Monday Agenda Cont'd.

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NRCS Employee Meeting – Redbud C

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

KACD Area Meetings

Area 1 – Cedar

Area 2 – Maple

Area 3 – Oak

Area 4 – Redbud A

Area 5 – Redbud B

3:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Business Meeting – Redbud B

Employee Organization Meeting – Cypress Ballroom A



21-206 - plowing out the terrace line - George Black file.
neg. 9-2-37 - January 1, 1938



Kansas Association of Conservation Districts

AWARDS CELEBRATION

*November 25, 2024
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Reception
Ballroom Foyer*

*7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Banquet
Grand Eagle Ballroom*



KANSAS
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Kansas Grasslands Merit Award

– highlights an individual, organization, or business providing exceptional service and support to the conservation management and/or education of the grasslands of Kansas.

Pollinator Conservation Award

– sponsored by Star Seed Company – spotlights a landowner who has developed significant pollinator habits on their land.

Conservation District Professional Award

– sponsored by the KACD Employee Organization – given to a district employee in good standing with KACD EO who has been employed with their district for a minimum of three years and demonstrated exemplary service to their district in the past year.

Pat Lehman Legacy Award

– recognizes a former supervisor who was an active advocate for conservation at the local and state level, and served as a board member for at least 15 years

Don Rezac Memorial Award

– recognizes a current board supervisor who actively promotes and participates in conservation activities, has served on their local board for at least six years, regularly attends KACD Convention, is involved and volunteers in other community activities.

Outstanding Supervisor Award

– given to a supervisor who has demonstrated exemplary service in their district and community over past year.

Kansas Leopold Conservation Award

– recognizes agricultural landowners actively committed to a land ethic, and celebrates extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation by private landowners.

A HISTORY OF GOOD STEWARDSHIP

"At ITC, we always want to do the right thing. With this program, we can make a difference in our communities by engaging in efforts to restore and protect the monarch butterfly population."

— ITC Environmental Manager Mike McNulty

In keeping with a longtime commitment to conservation efforts and good land stewardship for the communities it serves, ITC has enrolled 98,000 acres across six states in a federal program to protect and grow habitat for the threatened monarch butterfly.

In addition, our environmental team is involved in the design, installation and management of ITC Great Plains pollinator habitat located at the company's Thistle Substation in Medicine Lodge, Kansas. This nearly 14-acre pollinator habitat will improve stormwater quality via infiltration, reduce costs of turf-grass management, and serve an important larval host by providing nectar and pollen resources for pollinators. This habitat will also help save declining wildlife species like the monarch butterfly, native bumble bees, and grassland-nesting birds.



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Convention Agenda Tuesday

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Buffet Breakfast – Riverview Ballroom

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

KACD Auxiliary Meeting – Enterprise Board Room

Conservation Symposium (Two-Part) – Grand Eagle Ballroom

Improving Range Health and Reducing Woody Encroachment in Kansas is a pivotal event designed to address the critical challenges land managers, ranchers, and conservationists face in maintaining and enhancing the health of rangelands across the state. As woody encroachment threatens the ecological balance of these vital landscapes, this symposium aims to provide actionable strategies, share cutting-edge research, and foster collaboration among stakeholders to promote sustainable land management practices.

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Defending and Restoring Our Rangelands for the Future

David Kraft – Executive Director, Kansas
Grazing Lands Coalition (Moderator)

Mike Beam, Secretary of Agriculture,
Kansas Department of Agriculture

Dr. Dirac Twidwell, Associate Professor,
University of Nebraska

Cade Rensink, District Extension Director,
Kansas State University

10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Coffee Break – Ballroom Foyer

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Tuesday Agenda Cont'd.

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Conservation Symposium (cont'd) – Grand Eagle
Ballroom

Finding Effective Communication Strategies, Locally and Regionally

Dean Krehbiel – State Resource

Conservationist, NRCS (Moderator)

Luke Westerman, Supervisory District

Conservationist, NRCS

Adrian and Abbey Vogel, Greenwood

County Ranchers

Laura Goodman, Professor, Oklahoma

State University

Lindsay Shorter, Grassland Conservation

Marketing Manager, PLJV

Ryan Roberts, Social Science Specialist,

PLJV,

*"Preservation of our environment
is not a liberal or conservative
challenge, it's common sense."*

~Ronald Reagan





Photo courtesy of <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/>



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KACD-EO



To provide professional assistance with the development and delivery of conservation district programs aimed at preservation, conservation, and enhancement of our natural resources.

- KACD Employees' Organization (KACD-EO) provides education, training and a support network to help conservation district employees in meeting their district's goals and objectives of getting conservation on the ground.
- KACD-EO was formed in Dodge City at the KACD Convention in December 1973. The bylaws were approved on December 3, 1973.
- One area EO representative from each KACD area is elected each year and a member at-large every three years.
- An election of area KACD-EO representatives is held at the KACD Annual Meeting.
- The Executive Committee is made up of two elected representatives per KACD area, plus one committee member selected by the general membership. Advisors will include a representative from NRCS, DOC and KACD.



Kansas Forest Service



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Adult Education

KACD and local conservation districts partner with various agencies and organizations to sponsor and promote a broad range of educational opportunities for adults.



Adult Education

KACD Organization

Board of Directors

The Kansas Association of Conservation Districts is governed by a five-member Board of Directors. Each director represents one of five multiple-county geographical areas of the state.

William Simshauser, President, Kearny County
Bevin Law, Vice President, Clay County
Allen Roth Secretary/Treasurer, Ellis County
Daryl Donohue, Director, Wilson County
Jerry Clasen, Director, Reno County
Bryttni Miller, Advisor, Pawnee County
Trent Winter, Advisor, Washington County

Staff

Dan Meyerhoff, Executive Director
Amanda Scott, Assistant Director
Rhonda Coffman, Leadership & Field Services Coordinator

Agreement Coordinator/Consultants

Troy Munsch
Matt Sprick
Steve Sprick
Bruce Wells
Robert Wimer

Advisory

Steve Frost
Director of Conservation, Division of Conservation
Kansas Department of Agriculture

David Doctorian
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Dana Schmelzle
President, Executive Committee

Employees Organization Representatives

Dana Schmelzle, President, At Large
Gayla Speer, Vice-President, Area IV
Donna Fay Major, Treasurer, Area I
Mandy Shoemaker, Secretary, Area V
Janel Odle, Area I
Carmen Rhodes, Area II
Stephanie Royer, Area II
Diana Harden, Area III
Pam Hays, Area III
Molly Schmidt, Area IV



Auxiliary

Diane Simshauser, President
Beverly Brown, Vice President
Ireta Schwant, Secretary
Sharon Schroeder, Treasurer

Breakout Session Moderators

KACD Employees Organization
Executive Committee

Convention Assistance

De Roth, Earth Team Volunteer
KDA - Division of Conservation Staff



KACD Presidents

1946	Fred Prell
1947	George J. Furman
1948 - 50	Donald Christy
1951 - 52	Emil Heck
1953	C. C. Cunningham
1954	Stanley Mart
1955	Nathan Babcock
1956	L. L. Trumbull
1957	Howard Elro
1958	W. H. Painter
1959	Ellis Stackfleth
1960	Leslie Hunter
1961	Thad Kinnaman
1962	Carl Nelson
1963	Wilson
1964	Mason Flora
1965 - 66	Raymond Schemm
1967 - 68	Lyle Bauer
1969 - 70	Harold Johnson
1971 - 73	Nathan B. Hayse
1974	Lynn Buerki
1975	Wendell Eggerman
1976 - 77	Robert A. Paris
1978 - 80	Robert J. Binder
1981 - 82	Clinton Lunquist
1983 - 84	Robert Edwards
1985 - 86	Wilbur White
1987 - 88	Sheila Leiker Page
1989 - 90	John Brown
1991 - 92	J. D. Cameron
1993 - 94	T. Kim Goodnight
1995 - 96	Don Paxson
1997 - 98	Dennis Youk
1999 - 2000	Carl Jordan
2001 - 02	Sandra Jones
2003 - 04	Don Rezac
2005 - 06	Jon Starns
2007 - 08	LaVern Wetzel
2009 - 10	Gene Albers
2011 - 12	Ronald Brown
2013 - 14	Bevin Law
2015 - 18	William Simshauser
2019 - 20	Allen Roth
2021 - 22	Jerry Clasen
2023 -	William Simshauser



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Thank you for attending the
2024 KACD Convention

Next year's convention —
November 23 to 25, 2025

Dan Meyerhoff
KACD Executive Director
414 Autumn Lane, Hays, KS 67601
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DAN.MEYERHOFF@KACD.NET