



Collaborate | Educate | Implement

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

Encourage others to [sign up!](#)



KDA Spotlight



Christy Koelzer

Administrative Specialist

Christy Koelzer is the Administrative Specialist for the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation. She started with DOC in April 2020. Christy is responsible for the administrative duties for the Division of Conservation and State Conservation Commission including organizing meetings and making travel accommodations. Other duties include editing the DOC District Update, maintaining the Division of Conservation website, and working with district managers to maintain supervisor information and annual meeting election results in the Cost-Share Information Management System (CSIMS).



Christy also serves as the Program Administrator for the Land Reclamation and Ag Lime Programs. She over sees the Land Reclamation Program activities of approximately 200 private and county aggregate operators mining 1,100 surface mining sites as well as 105 registered ag lime sites. Oversight includes licensing and site registration, collecting license renewal and annual tonnage report fees, coordinating with the program consultant to conduct reclamation approval and ag lime sampling visits, creation of ag lime analysis certificates, managing the Governor's Mined Land Reclamation Award, and assisting in the development and maintenance of the Reclamation and Ag Lime Information System (RALIS).

Read the Full Article on Christy Koelzer

KACD Feature

Daryl Donohue

Who's keeping watch over our beautiful prairies and native grasslands in Kansas? There are men and women in every state dedicated to conservation efforts.

In this newsletter, we are featuring Daryl Donohue, a conservationist of native grassland and self-proclaimed Cedar tree hater.

Daryl recently graduated a year-long program through the [National Conservation Foundation](#) that invests in the education and development of future conservation leaders to address the challenges facing our land and our environment. The program is designed to take conservation leaders to the next level by training individuals to rise to the challenge of understanding and directing national collaborative efforts in locally led conservation. It is a year-long leadership program designed to cultivate the next generation of locally led conservation leaders through professional and developmental training sessions.



National Conservation Foundation



Next Generation Leadership Institute

[Full Article](#)



We are excited to announce the upcoming 2024 KACD Annual Convention!

Kansas Conservation: Growing for 80 Years

Location: Wichita Hyatt

Date: November 24-26, 2024



Envirothon

Congratulations to St. John's Catholic School in Beloit on their big win at Envirothon 2024! This is the first-time win for a Mitchell County team. The St. John's team will travel to Geneva, New York, later this summer to participate in the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon. Good luck and safe travels to them as they represent our great state!

To read more about their win at the state level, visit kacd.net/newsrelease

Envirothon is an outdoor, natural resource education program for high school students that is organized and coordinated by Conservation Districts. Learn more about the program at kacd.net/Envirothon or by contacting your local conservation district for more information.

Reno County Soil Health Master Class



Reno County Conservation District is doing some important and inspiring work with the Cheney Lake Watershed Soil Health Advisor Master Class!

This is a comprehensive project that pairs a Master Class for Regenerative Agriculture and Expert Soil Health Mentorship for a focused group of local producers who will, in turn, engage and educate producers in the Cheney Lake Watershed through two years of peer-to-peer advising. The aim is to remove obstacles to practice change through mentorship, education, and peer-to-peer support. All efforts will increase our local capacity to plan and implement regenerative ag practices and build a community around core soil health principles.



Fundamentally, our goal is to further invest in local producers to create a persistent voice for Regenerative Agriculture practices across the watershed. It will also be an opportunity to provide a model and resource materials for further engagement for like organizations across the Southern Great Plains.

Kansas WRAPS



WRAPS partnership grant applications are open until June 30th (and then goes to a pool). Reach out to your [local conservation district](#) to see if they are in a [WRAPS](#).

The Kansas WRAPS process offers a framework that engages citizens and other stakeholders in a teamwork environment aimed at protecting and restoring Kansas watershed (any area of land whose water drains to a single point). The WRAPS process consists of 4 stages:

- Identifying the watershed restoration and protection needs
- Establishing watershed goals
- Creating actions steps/plans to achieve the established goals
- Implementing the plans

The WRAPS program is unique because the natural resource agencies of Kansas,

supported by the Environmental Protection Agency, are seeking citizen and stakeholder input on how to best manage and protect our watersheds. Through WRAPS, local, state, and federal program resources are being streamlined to do just that. Participation from stakeholders is essential to the success of the WRAPS program and the future of Kansas' waters.



ADM Climate Smart

KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (KACD) ENTERS 3RD YEAR OF CLIMATE SMART INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP

KACD is once again partnering with Archer-Daniels-Midland Company (ADM) to provide [Climate Smart](#) financial assistance to farmers and ranchers who plant cover crops in their crop rotation.

Payments will range from \$10 to \$25 per acre, depending on when the acreage was first planted to a cover crop. Additional payments are available for those that have wheat in their crop rotation.

Signup is all online and now open! It only takes 15-20 minutes to complete. Reach out to your local [Conservation District](#) for program details.

Farmers for Soil Health



Farmers for Soil Health (FSH) is a nationwide, farmer-led collaboration between the Soy Checkoff, Pork Checkoff, and National Corn Growers Association that assists farmers in implementing and maintaining soil health practices. Within Kansas, the project is led by the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, the Kansas Soil Health Alliance, and Heartland Soil Services with support from Kansas Soybean and Kansas Corn.

FSH has multiple avenues to assist growers: \$50 per acre financial incentive over three years of cover crop planting; access to a marketplace connecting farmers to supply chain partners; and local technical assistance to aid in transitioning acres to cover crops and other soil health practices.

FARMERS FOR SOIL HEALTH

Ready to get paid for cover crops?

ENROLL NOW!

Farmers for Soil Health is a collaborative initiative led by the Soy Checkoff, Pork Checkoff, and National Corn Growers Association.

[Full Article](#)

[Enroll](#)



Employee Organization Statewide Conference



The KACD-EO Statewide Conference offered 68 District Managers & District Employees an opportunity to network and learn about current updates from our partner agencies. It was held May 8th and 9th in Salina, KS at the Homewood Suites by Hilton.

Stephanie Royer gave a presentation on different educational tools that district managers can use for their field days.

Another great event was the Kansas Soil Health Alliance demonstration, using a soil health bucket that they had put together. Each of the 105 districts in Kansas received their own soil health bucket to use, free of charge, after the event.

There were many laughs, conversations, and a great group photo with those attending, wearing our EO shirts. The two-day conference was truly a great experience!



Upcoming Events to Note

Northeast Kansas Soil Health Field Days

Join the Kansas Soil Health Alliance for the Northeast Kansas Soil Health Field Days on August 12-13. This free event will feature crop-focused presentations and tours on August 12, followed by livestock and specialty crops on August 13. A BBQ dinner and discussion will be held on the evening of August 12. Register at [Kansas Soil Health](#). Lodging is available at the Best Western Plus in Hiawatha, KS, with reservations needed by July 28.

Highlights include discussions on soil health, field tours, hands-on soil assessments, cover cropping strategies, no-till equipment tips, and regenerative farming practices by the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska. Don't miss this opportunity to learn and network!

[Learn More](#)

[Register](#)

2024 Natural Areas Conference (NAC24): Where Science Meets Stewardship

REGISTRATION OPEN!

OCTOBER 7-10, 2024 | MANHATTAN, KANSAS



2024 Natural Areas Conference
Where Science Meets Stewardship

natural
areas
ASSOCIATION

Manhattan, Kansas is nestled in the heart of the scenic Flint Hills, a globally significant remnant of the once vast tallgrass prairie ecosystem. Located near the Konza Prairie Biological Center and Kansas State University, this ecologically significant landscape features nearly 11,000 acres of native tallgrass prairie for research and conservation.

For the past 50 years, NAA's Natural Areas Conference has gathered federal, tribal, state, regional, and local natural areas practitioners from national nonprofit organizations, private industry, and academic institutions in order to foster communication and collaboration that can lead to progress in connection to challenges in the management of natural areas.

Managing ecologically significant landscapes for the protection of biodiversity is a specialized segment of conservation and ecological science that includes management strategies to avert the permanent loss of or degradation of rare species and to preserve the unique functions of natural communities. Beyond the benefits to nature, well-managed natural areas increase resilience during catastrophic events and thus play an important role in the causes and consequences of climate change.

Registration is open!

Scholarships are available!

Registration ends October 1, 2024.

Learn More

Register

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

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](#).



Urban Ag

Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD), in cooperation with nine county conservation districts, recently hosted two specialty crop and urban ag workshops. The two workshops offered an agenda focusing on ag law and USDA services for specialty crop producers. The events were held on May 29 at the Sedgwick County Extension Office and June 3 at Neosho Community Colleges Ottawa Campus, drawing crowds of nearly 100 from 25 Kansas Counties and even one person from Missouri!

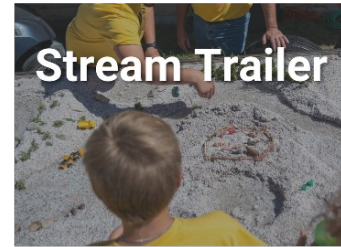
A [recap of the workshops](#) is available on the KACD website. Take a look at the outreach efforts and resources KACD and local conservation districts are providing specialty growers in our state.

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



>> July 11 - [Ecdysis Kansas Field Day - Hutchinson, KS](#)

>> July 15 - [Summer Pasture Walk – Restoring Native Warm Season Pastures & Overcoming Invasives - Berryton, KS](#)

>> Aug. 1 - [Ottawa County Conservation District's 3rd Annual Soil Health Field Day - Wells, KS](#)

>> Aug. 12 - [Summer Pasture Walk – Regenerate Human Resilience & Optimize Grass Productivity - Lawrence, KS](#)

>> Aug. 12-13 - [Northeast Kansas Soil Health Field Days - Hiawatha, KS](#)

>> Aug. 13 - [Mixed Grass Academy - Claflin, KS](#)

>> Aug. 19 - [Northwest Kansas Soil Health Bus Tour - TBD](#)

>> Aug. 20 - [Tallgrass Academy - Elmdale, KS](#)

>> Aug. 22 - [Bottom Line Conference - Lakin, KS](#)

>> Sept. 3 - [Shortgrass Academy - Scott City, KS](#)

>> Oct. 3 - [Fuller Field School "Soil to Soul" - Severy, KS](#)

>>Oct. 5 - [BBQ & Brew - 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



Content and email marketing provided by [Marketing Angle](#) for KACD.

Funded through a grant with [USDA-NRCS Kansas](#).

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