



Collaborate | Educate | Implement

September 2024 Special Release Newsletter

Time to Celebrate Conservation

Everyone appreciates a pat on the back for a job well done, but most agriculture producers would never admit to it. Now is the perfect time to give your friends and neighbors some recognition for a job well done. KACD has several awards we present annually to celebrate the outstanding stewards we have across the state.

Visit [KACD Awards](#) to learn more about the various conservation awards we are currently accepting nominations for. Don't wait; **nominations close Friday, October 4, 2024.**

The Kansas Bankers Award Program

The Kansas Bankers Award program is another great way to celebrate local conservation efforts. Many conservation districts present the annual banker's awards at their conservation district meeting each winter, and the time to submit nominations is now.

Kansas conservation districts join with the Kansas Bankers Association, K-State Research & Extension/KSU College of Agriculture, as well as the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in sponsoring and promoting the recognition of farmers, ranchers, and landowners who have completed projects designed to improve environmental quality or conserve natural resources.

Please consider landowners who have made efforts in the following categories: Energy Conservation, Soil Conservation, Water Conservation, Water Quality, Wildlife, and Windbreaks, and contact your county conservation district or extension office to see about making a local nomination today.

See Us at the Kansas State Fair



Headed to the [Kansas State Fair](#) in Hutchinson September 6-15?

Be sure to stop by the Pride of Kansas Building and tour the [Agriland Exhibit](#) to see the KACD Soil Tunnel Trailer. Conservation District representatives from across the state will be working every day and can visit with you about the Soil Tunnel Trailer, Conservation Programs, services of KACD and your local conservation district.

Agriland partners include:

- Kansas Corn
- Kansas Soybean
- Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association
- Kansas Wheat
- Kansas Dairy
- Kansas Beef
- Kansas Sunflower Commission
- Kansas Cotton Association
- Kansas Department of Agriculture
- Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom
- Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
- State Conservation Commission
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Division of Conservation at the Kansas Dept. of Agriculture
- Nutrients For Life Foundation Kansas

Producer Input Needed



HELP SHAPE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KANSAS WATER PLAN!

Join us for Round 2 of Local Consult.

Building on the feedback gathered during this summer's Local Consult and Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) meetings, work continues in setting strategies to implement the 2022 Kansas Water Plan.

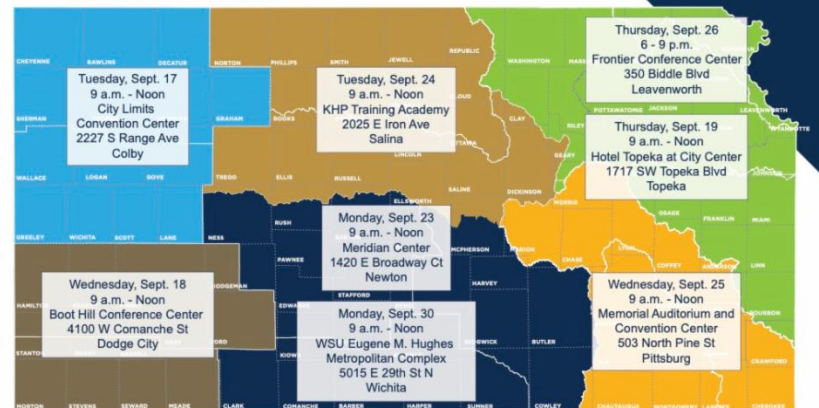
Join us for a second round of Local Consult meetings. Through facilitated group discussions, we'll seek your input on:

- Updated investment scenarios based on feedback we heard in round one.
- What criteria are most important as we evaluate investment strategies to achieve the Plan's long-term goals around aquifers, reservoirs and water quality;
- Setting objectives and identifying what Kansans think are reasonable actions to achieve them; and
- Preferred revenue sources to meet the objectives.

Let us know you're attending!

RSVP here: surveymonkey.com/r/WaterLC2

Questions? Email: kwo-info@kwo.ks.gov



Would an online meeting work better for you?

A virtual, on-demand meeting will also be offered. Fill out the RSVP form to receive information when the meeting is available: surveymonkey.com/r/WaterLC2

Presented by the Kansas Water Office, Kansas Department of Agriculture & Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Agriculture producers, conservation representatives, watershed district leaders, groundwater management district members and more should make plans to attend the next round of Kansas Water Office local consult meetings as they continue to gather public input for decisions that could shape water funding for the next ten plus years.

The Kansas Water Office has announced a second round of Local Consult meetings to discuss the implementation of the Kansas Water Plan. Through facilitated group discussions, the committee will seek your input on:

- Updated investment scenarios based on feedback we heard in round one
- What criteria is most important as we evaluate investment strategies to achieve the Plan's long-term goals around aquifers, reservoirs, and water quality
- Setting objectives and identifying what Kansans think are reasonable actions to achieve them
- Preferred revenue sources to meet the objectives

Meetings will be held across the state between **September 17 and September 30**. Attend the meeting that works best for you!

**RSVP to
Attend**

First Round of Climate Smart Applications Close Soon

Looking for incentive payments for cover crop acres?

There are several options available, and the time to apply is now. The climate smart commodities initiative through USDA encourages the voluntary implementation or adoption of various conservation practices or farming practices that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon, and in return, often lead to incentive payments or, on some occasions, higher commodity premiums.

KACD and local Conservation Districts are working to promote a variety of incentive programs for soil health improvement activities. One of the KACD partnerships is with Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) through the Climate Smart Commodities Initiatives.

ADM partners with farmers to adopt regenerative agriculture practices, incentivizing a more sustainable future. ADM's program provides financial rewards for regenerative practices as well as outcomes such as improved soil quality, giving producers the opportunity to sell crops with sustainable attributes at a premium. Incentive payments are available for cover crops planted in 2024 up to \$25 per acre through the ADM initiative. Enrollment deadline for planned practices is **September 13, 2024**.

This is the third year ADM and KACD have partnered together to promote the

ADM initiative and have set acreage goals for Kansas at 175,000 wheat acres and 200,000 cover crop acres. Producers are encouraged to visit the [KACD ADM Climate Smart Page](#) for a full program overview, a list of frequently asked questions, testimonial videos, and a link to apply online. Technical assistance is available through ADM, KACD, and your local conservation district; contact information is available on the KACD ADM Climate Smart Page.

KACD Annual Convention Registration is Open



Make plans to join us as we celebrate 80 years of conservation in Kansas at the 80th Annual Convention of the Kansas Association of Conservation District in Wichita **November 24 - 26, 2024**.

We invite producers, past conservation district supervisors, former conservation district staff, representatives from Kansas conservation partnership agencies and other conservation related organizations to attend.

Since 1944, KACD has helped forge key partnerships among federal, state, and local entities, all committed to a common goal: wise use and protection of our state's natural resources. These partnerships have been highly effective and mutually beneficial, allowing for shared space, equipment, and knowledge.

During the three-day convention, KACD will offer keynote speakers aimed at providing members with timely education and information to continue to move Kansas and Conservation into the next 80 years.

**Details &
Registration**

NRCS Seeks Feedback from EQIP Customers

Have you participated in NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in the last three years? If so, NRCS wants to hear from you!

EQIP is NRCS' flagship conservation program, helping farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners integrate conservation into working lands. To improve this program continually, NRCS has launched a survey seeking feedback from customers who have applied for EQIP assistance in the last three years.

EQIP customers who have an email on file with NRCS may have already received

this survey via email. If you received this survey via email, please only complete it once. Individual responses will not be tracked and will be kept confidential.

The survey will remain open through **September 10, 2024**.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and let us know how we can better support you!

Click the link below to complete the survey:

[EQIP Customer Survey](#)

Thank you for your valuable input!

Connect with KACD!



Follow along with us on our Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, and the KACD website for information about upcoming events, program details, available resources, news and more! Encourage your supervisors to subscribe and stay up to date on news and events too.



Kansas Association of Conservation Districts

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