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Kansas Association of Conservation Districts

**81ST ANNUAL CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 23 TO 25, 2025
HYATT REGENCY HOTEL**

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Growing Hope Globally
Kansas FFA Foundation
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Sedgwick County
Shawnee County
Sherman County
Thomas County
Wallace County
Washington County
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 to 2:00 p.m.

Endowment Committee Meeting – Oak Room

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

KACD Board of Directors Meeting – Enterprise Board Room

State Conservation Commission Meeting – Trail Rooms

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

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Conservation Education and Youth Committee Meeting – Osage Room

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Supervisor Engagement & Empowerment for New and Experienced Supervisors – Birch Room

4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Kansas Envirothon Meeting – Trail Rooms



7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Cornhole Tournament
Redbud C

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Convention Agenda Monday

6:30 to 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 to 9:45 a.m.

KACD Opening Ceremony – Grand Eagle
Ballroom

Presentation of Colors - Derby HS Color Guard

President's Report – Bevin Law, KACD
President

Kansas Legislative Update – Representative
Ken Rahjes, Chair, House Agriculture and
Natural Resources Committee

A New Vision for Delivering Conservation –
NRCS Chief Aubrey Bettencourt (Invited)

Soil Health in a California Vineyard – Greg
Pennyroyal, Wilson Creek Winery & Vineyard

9:45 to 10:00 a.m.

Coffee Break
Ballroom Foyer





Wednesday, January 7 | Hiawatha

Thursday, January 8 | Newton

Friday, January 9 | Iola

Tuesday, January 20 | Dodge City

Prepare for the 2026 growing season with:

- Nutrient & Fertility Discussions
- Corn & Soy Disease Update
- Fungicide Application Effect on Yields
- Herbicide Strategies
- Market Outlook
- Crop Insurance Updates

Featured at all sessions:

- Chris Kasten, Agrimodis
- Chris Perkins, Banded Ag
- Dr. Rodrigo Onofre, KSU Plant Pathology

**MORE DETAILS
& REGISTRATION
AT KSCORN.COM**



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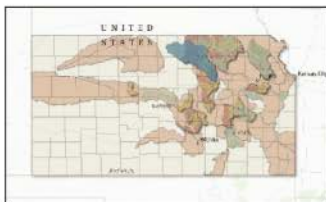
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Conservation Assistance Directory

The Kansas Conservation Assistance Directory showcases information on assistance programs from many governmental, non-profit, and private entities, including:

- Hundreds of financial and technical assistance programs across the state
- Conservation programs organized by region
- Conservation programs organized by goals
- Information on who to contact or how to apply



Visit the News & Events tab at kwo.ks.gov to find the Conservation Assistance Directory.
Don't see your program? Fill out this form: <https://arcg.is/1f8r9G>



10:05 to 11:00 a.m. - KACD Committee Meetings

- Grassland – Redbud B
Presiding - Daryl Donohue, Chair
- Natural Resources – Cypress B
Presiding - Baron Shively, Chair
- District Operations – Redbud C
Presiding - Wayne Lukert, Chair
- Wildlife, Recreation and Forestry – Redbud A
Presiding - Sam Sanders, Chair
- Finance and Development – Oak
Presiding – Allen Roth, Chair
- Urban and Rural Development – Osage
Presiding - Mark Lehman, Chair

10:05 to 12:00 p.m.

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

New District Employee Orientation – Birch

11:10 to 12:10 p.m.

Breakout Sessions (Choose one of three)

 ***AccessDOC and the Annual Work Plan –***
Redbud A

Marsha Setzkorn-Meyer, Conservation District
Program Manager, KDA-DOC

Dave Jones, Assistant Director, KDA-DOC

Madison Loder, Water Quality Program
Manager, KDA-DOC

AccessDOC, a web-based computer system, was introduced to districts in summer 2025. It is designed to assist conservation districts with non-state cost-share programs. A new format for the Annual Work Plan, housed in AccessDOC, was introduced this summer as well. Join DOC staff in this breakout session to see how

AccessDOC works, how supervisors will soon be able to utilize it, an annual work plan tutorial, and the reasoning behind the changes.

Building District Capacity Through Grant Opportunities – Redbud B

Sarah Diamond, Diamond Grants & Consulting,
Executive Director SAKW

Monica Wichman, Grants and Agreements
Coordinator, KDA-DOC

Explore the grants process, including research and funding sources, application development, and post-award management to successfully secure funding. This session will equip attendees with the tools to navigate the grants process more effectively.

Soil Health: Why Does it Matter? Changing Conservation at the Local Level – Redbud C

Michael Thompson, KSHA Board Chair

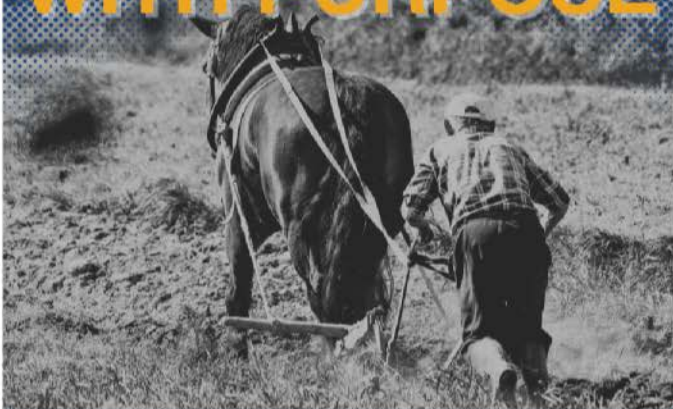
Candy Thomas, KACD Soil Health Specialist

Joanna Johnson, KSHA Education & Outreach
Coordinator

Jennifer Simmelink, KSHA Executive Director

This session is directed towards county conservation district board supervisors. It will demonstrate the importance of good soil health by presenting the economic benefits and in-field application of soil health indicators such as percent organic matter, nutrient cycling, infiltration, and water storage capacity. The session will also highlight ways a soil health focused approach to conservation can be implemented at the county level through conservation district activities, initiatives, and partnerships. Finally, a significant portion of the session will be reserved for Q&A and open discussion on ways the Kansas Soil Health Alliance can support conservation districts' soil health efforts and promotion.

EVOLVING WITH PURPOSE



From challenge to opportunity —
conservation evolves.



Conservation has always been about working with change — the seasons, the land, and the challenges we face. Today, innovation helps us turn those challenges into opportunities. By embracing new tools and approaches, we protect our natural resources and strengthen our communities for generations to come.



www.agriculture.ks.gov/Conservationfinancialassistance

12:15 to 1:45 p.m.

SCC Luncheon – Grand Eagle Ballroom

Presiding: Rod Vorhees, SCC Chairman

Leading Together: Partnerships for the Future of Kansas Water

Susan Metzger, Director, Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment, and Director of the Kansas Water Institute, Kansas State University

KACD State Speech Contest Winner Presentation



2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

NRCS Employee Meeting – Redbud C

2:00 to 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 to 5:15 p.m.

Business Meeting – Redbud B

Employee Organization meeting – Cypress Ballroom A

6:00 to 7:00 p.m. -
Ballroom Foyer Reception



Kansas Association of Conservation Districts

AWARDS CELEBRATION

*November 24, 2025
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 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.

Forest land

Grazing land

Cropland

Rangeland

NRCS

Pasture land

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Convention Agenda Tuesday

7:00 to 8:30 a.m.

Buffet breakfast – Riverview Ballroom

Conservation Symposium – Grand Eagle Ballroom

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. – From Hype to Help: Practical AI
Troy Tabor, Director of Innovative Intelligence,
Wichita State University

This hands-on workshop is designed to introduce you to the practical applications of AI using several popular AI tools. AI is integrated into nearly every software and hardware system we use. Participants will learn how to leverage AI tools to enhance communication, streamline workflows, and improve decision-making in organizational operations.

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. – Break





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A 501(c)3 nonprofit helping Kansas farmers and ranchers improve and protect their soils through farmer and rancher led education and resources.

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National Association of
Conservation Districts

NACD Stewardship Week 2026 is held from the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May, (April 26th - May 3rd) The theme is **Soil.**

Where It All Begins!. Educational materials will be available, and as well as National Poster and Photo Contests.



Farmers for Soil Health is a program created by farmers for farmers and is committed to enhancing soil health practices, like planting cover crops, to improve the environment and profitability of farmers. To learn

about the program, go to:

<https://farmersforsoilhealth.com/>.



10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. - ***KSU-TAPS Farm Duel: Where Farming Meets Competition!***

Daran Rudnick, Professor & Director of Sustainable Irrigation

Renee Tuttle, Associate Director of KSU-TAPS
Rayhaan Kabenge, KSU-TAPS Intern
Tumwesige 'Maxwell' Kabateraine, KSU-TAPS Visiting Scholar

Round out your convention experience with the high-energy Farm Duel simulation—a unique, hands-on experience that puts you in charge of your own virtual farm. Work with your team, make the tough calls, and see if you can outwit Mother Nature, the markets, and your fellow competitors. With prizes on the line and bragging rights at stake, this is your chance to experience the thrill of the TAPS farm management competitions and learn sustainable irrigation techniques in real time.

Born from the creativity of Kansas State University Testing Ag Performance Solutions (KSU-TAPS), the Western Kansas Research-Extension Centers, and the Carl & Melinda Helwig Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Farm Duel was designed to bring the energy of the in-field farm management competitions to you.

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SCAN ME

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.

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

Staff

Dan Meyerhoff, Executive Director
Amanda Scott, Assistant Director

Agreement Coordinator/Consultants

Troy Munsch
Matt Sprick
Steve Sprick
Candy Thomas
Bruce Wells

Advisory

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

David Doctorian
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Dana Schmelzle
President, Executive Committee
KACD Employees Organization

Employees Organization Representatives

Dana Schmelzle, President
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
Lori Siebert, Area V
Dustin Becker, Member-At-Large, Area I

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 - 2024	William Simshauser
2025 -	Bevin Law



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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



Adult Education



Notes

Be sure to stop by &
say hello to the
exhibitors!

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Districts/](https://www.facebook.com/KansasAssociationofConservationDistricts/)

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convention, please return your
nametag and lanyard
to the Registration Counter.**

Thank you for attending the
2025 KACD Convention

Next year's convention —
November 22 to 24, 2026

Dan Meyerhoff
KACD Executive Director
414 Autumn Lane, Hays, KS 67601
(785) 650-1330
dan.meyerhoff@kacd.net