USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Kansas Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Through EQIP, the NRCS provides financial assistance to producers to promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals and help farmers and ranchers meet Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental regulations.

Fiscal Year 2018 Funding

- For fiscal year 2018 – Kansas received $24 Million in Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Funds
- Additional funding will be requested starting April 23, 2018
- Projected need is $13.8 million
- Kansas has approximately $200,000,000 of active contracts across all programs.

2018 EQIP Funding Update

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP) KANSAS FISCAL YEAR 2018 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ALLOCATION		
	$	22,434,000
Conservation Innovation Grants	$	200,000
National On-Farm Energy Initiative	$	100,000
National Organic Initiative	$	50,000
National High Tunnel System Initiative	$	300,000
National Water Quality Initiative	$	683,000
Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative	$	518,000
Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Initiative	$	100,000
Ogallala Aquifer Initiative	$	1,100,000
Anderson Creek Wildfire Initiative	$	500,000
State Reserve	$	300,000
RANKING CATEGORY FUNDING	$	18,583,000

National On-Farm Energy Initiative

Producers work with an NRCS approved Technical Service Provider (TSP) to develop Agricultural Energy Management Plans or farm energy audits that assess energy consumption on an operation. NRCS may also provide assistance to implement various recommended measures identified in the energy audit through the use of conservation practice standards offered through this initiative.

National Organic Initiative

NRCS will assist producers with installation of conservation practices on agricultural operations related to organic production. Producers currently certified as organic, transitioning to organic, or National Organic Program exempt will have access to a broad set of conservation practices to assist in meeting their resource concerns and fulfilling many of the requirements in an Organic System Plan.

National High Tunnel System Initiative

NRCS helps producers implement high tunnel structures that extend growing seasons for high value crops in an environmentally safe manner. High tunnel benefits include better plant and soil quality, and fewer nutrients and pesticides in the environment.

National Water Quality Initiative

The National Water Quality Initiative will work in priority watersheds to help farmers, ranchers and forest landowners improve water quality and aquatic habitats in impaired streams. NRCS will help producers implement conservation and management practices through a systems approach to control and trap nutrient and manure runoff. Qualified producers will receive assistance for installing conservation practices such as cover crops, filter strips and terraces.

National Water Quality Initiative

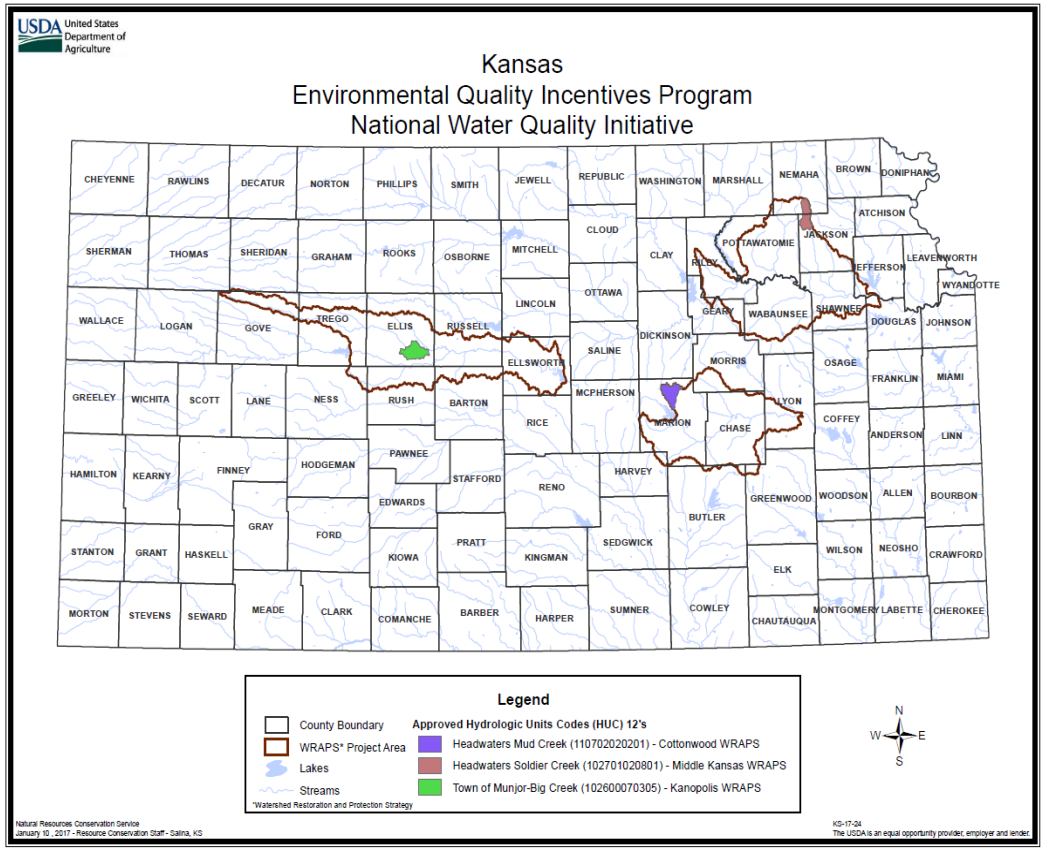
Primary Resource Concerns

- Water Quality Degradation – Nutrients in Surface Waters
- Water Quality Degradation – Excessive Sediment in Surface Waters
- Water Quality Degradation – Excessive Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Biossolids,

or Compost Applications in Surface Water

Approved Land Use

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture, Farmstead



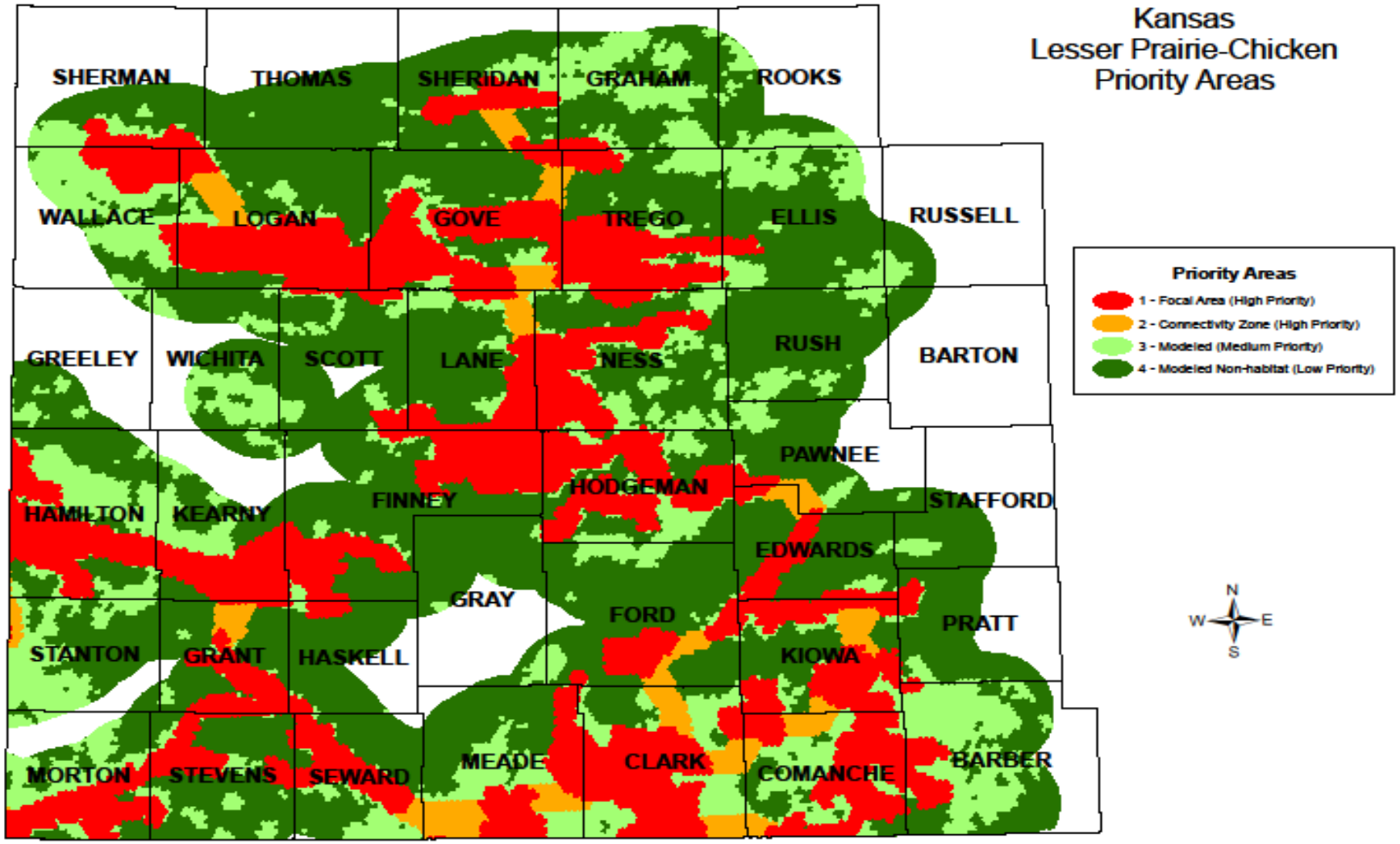
Lessor Prairie Chicken Initiative

The Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative is a national initiative designed to improve the lesser prairie-chicken habitat. This initiative will also simultaneously promote the overall health of gazing lands and the long-term sustainability of ranching operations.

NRCS

Attachment 1 to Bulletin KS300-17-20
dated 1/24/2017

Kansas Lesser Prairie-Chicken Priority Areas



Natural Resources Conservation Service
December 18, 2014 - Resource Conservation Staff - Salina, KS

KS-15-21
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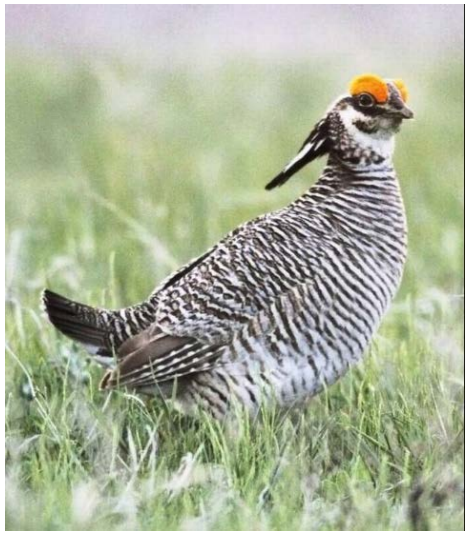
Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative

Primary Resource Concern

- Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife – Food
- Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife – Cover/Shelter
- Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife – Water
- Degraded Plant Condition – Undesirable Plant Productivity
- Degraded Plant Condition – Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
- Degraded Plant Condition – Wildfire Hazard

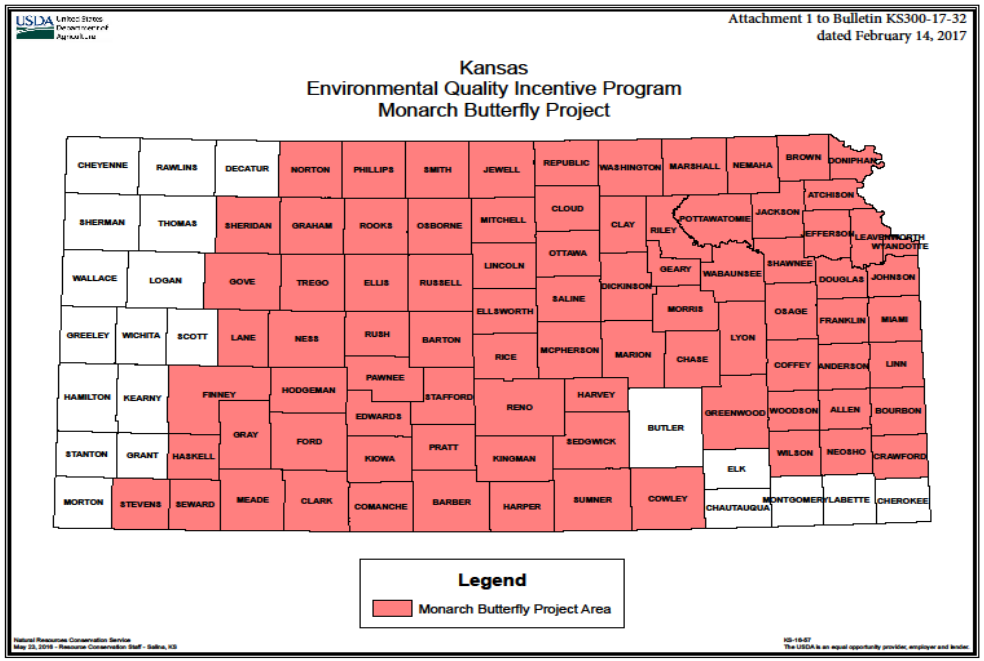
Eligible Land Use

- Crop, Range, Pasture



National Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Initiative

NRCS is working with agricultural producers to combat the decline of monarch butterflies by planting milkweed and other nectar-rich plants on private lands. Assistance is available for producers in 10 states in the Southern Plains and Midwest, including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas and Wisconsin.



Resources Conservation Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

National Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Initiative

Primary Resource Concerns

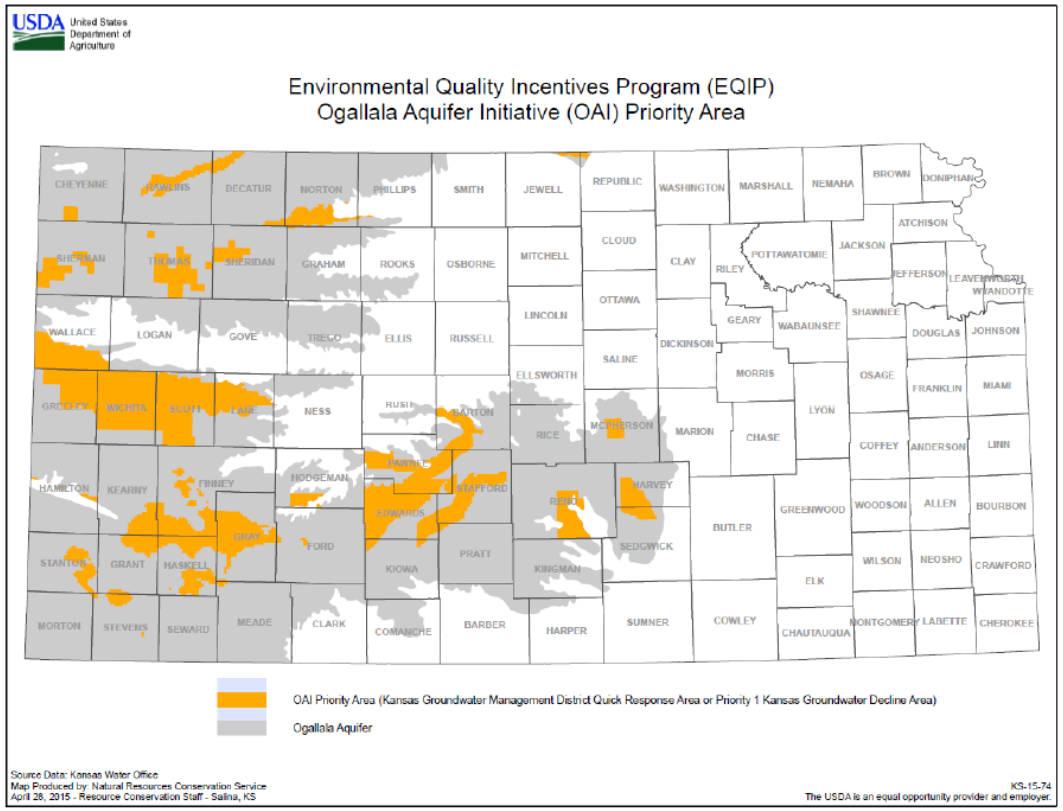
- Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife–Habitat Degradation
- Degraded Plant Condition–Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health
- Degraded Plant Condition–Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
- Degraded Plant Condition–Inadequate Structure and Composition

Approved Land Use

- Crop, Farmstead, Pasture, Range, Associated Agriculture Lands

Ogallala Aquifer Initiative

Using a comprehensive set of conservation practices, the Ogallala Aquifer Initiative (OAI) aims to reduce aquifer water use, improve water quality and enhance the economic viability of croplands and rangelands in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, New Mexico, Texas, South Dakota and Wyoming.



Ogallala Aquifer Initiative

Primary Resource Concerns

- Insufficient Water—Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water
- Insufficient Water—Inefficient Moisture Management

Eligible Land Uses

- Crop, Pasture

Anderson Creek Wildfire Initiative

This initiative is an effort to assist agricultural producers in remediating resource concerns resulting from the effects of a wildfire that occurred in March 2016.

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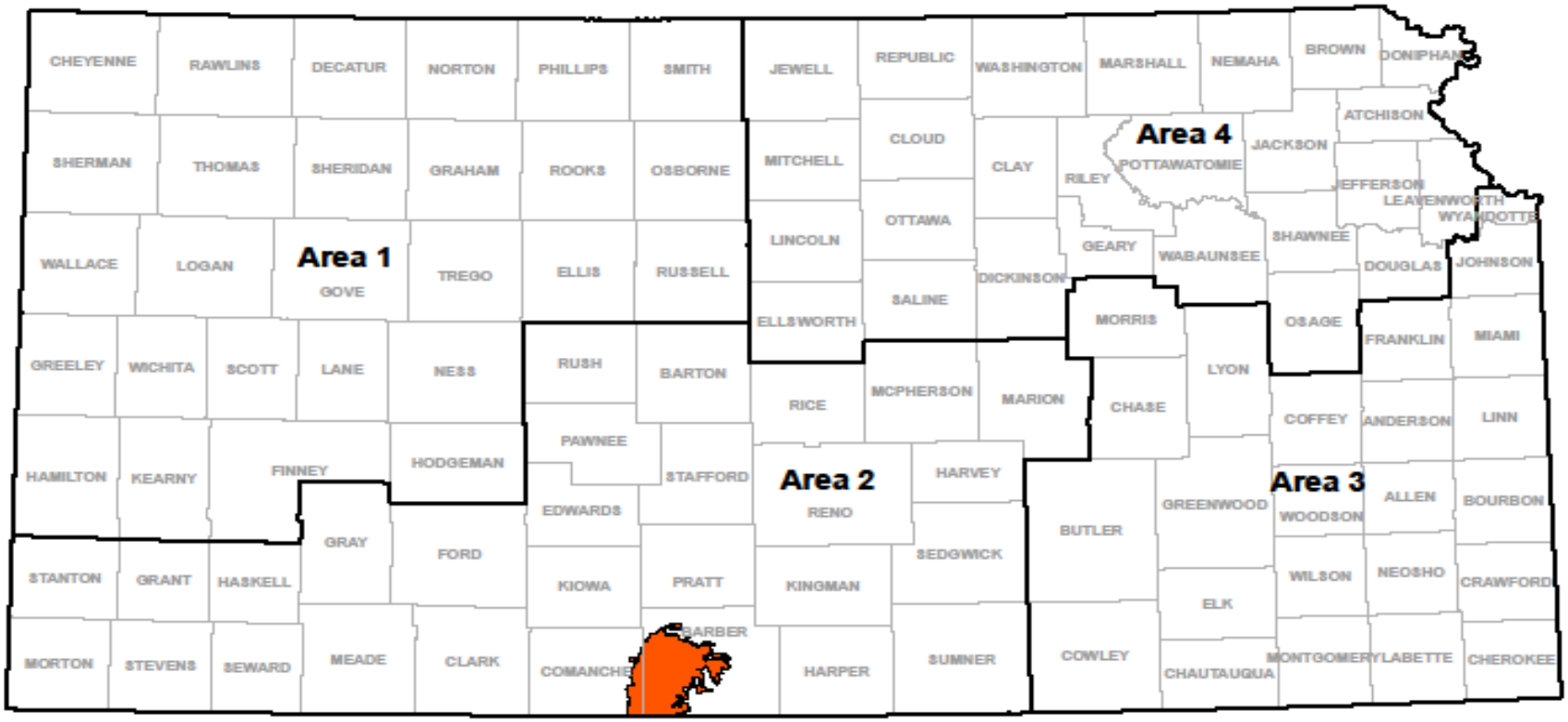
Attachment 1 to KS300-17-18
dated 01/12/2017

Kansas
Environmental Quality Incentives Program
Anderson Creek Wildfire Initiative



Anderson Creek Fire Extent

Natural Resources Conservation Service
December 1, 2016 - Resource Conservation Staff - Salina, KS

KS-17-21
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Anderson Creek Wildfire Initiative

Primary Resource Concerns

- Degraded Plant Condition—Inadequate Structure and Composition (Range)
- Degraded Plant Condition – Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
- Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife-Habitat Degradation

Eligible Land Uses

- Range

2018 EQIP Funding Update

RANKING CATEGORIES			
Forestland Health	1.0%		$ 185,830
Grazing Lands Health	19.0%		$ 3,530,770
Livestock Waste	20.0%		$ 3,716,600
Sedimentation Above Federal Reservoirs	5.0%		$ 929,150
Soil Health	10.0%		$ 1,858,300
Tribal	0.5%		$ 92,915
Water Quality	18.0%		$ 3,344,940
Water Quantity	11.5%		$ 2,137,045
Wildlife Habitat	5.0%		$ 929,150
Beginning Farmer/Rancher	5.0%		$ 929,150
Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher	5.0%		$ 929,150
	100.0%		$ 18,583,000

Forestland Health

Primary Resource Concerns

- Degraded Plant Condition—Undesirable Plant Productivity
- Insufficient Energy Use—Facilities
- Livestock Production Limitation—Inadequate Livestock Shelter
- Soil Erosion—Wind Erosion
- Water Quality Degradation—Excessive Sediment in Surface Water

Eligible Land Uses

- Crop, Forest, Range, Farmstead, Pasture

Requirements

- A Kansas Forest Service (KFS) Forest Stewardship/Management Plan must be developed and implemented.

Grazing Lands Health

Primary Resource Concerns

- Degraded Plant Condition—Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health
- Degraded Plant Condition—Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
- Livestock Production Limitation—Inadequate Water

Eligible Land Uses

- Range, Pasture

Livestock Waste

Primary Resource Concerns

- Air Quality Impacts—Objectionable Odors
- Water Quality Degradation—Nutrients in Surface Water
- Water Quality Degradation—Nutrients in Ground Water

Eligible Land Uses

- Crop, Range, Farmstead, and Pasture

Requirements

- Applications that include animal waste facilities must provide a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP). Practice won't be started without a CNMP in place.

Sedimentation Above Federal Reservoirs

Primary Resource Concern

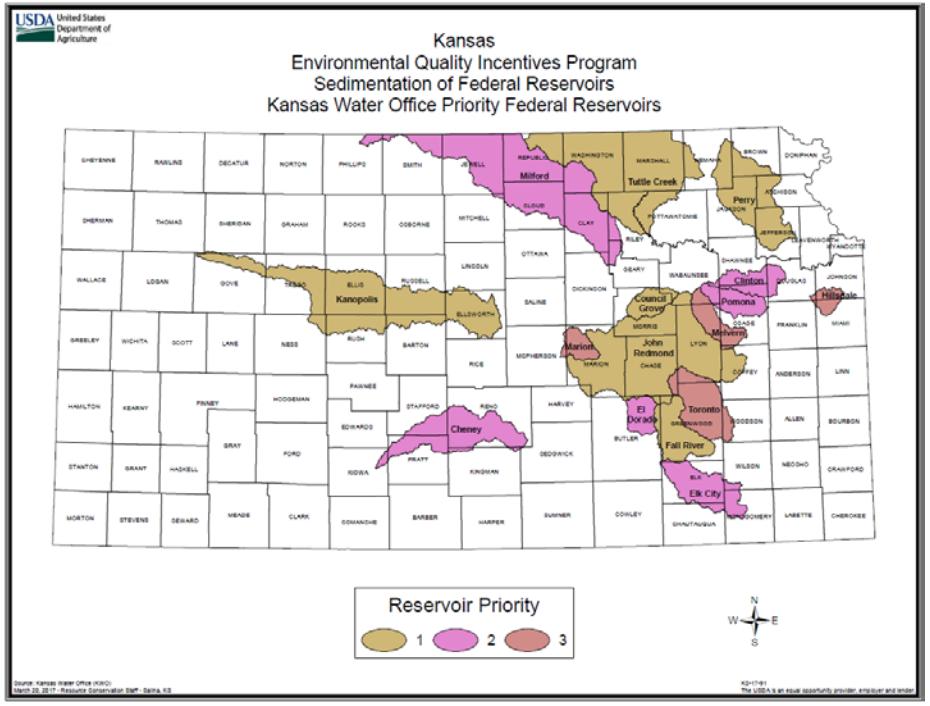
- Water Quality Degradation—Excessive Sediment in Surface Water

Eligible Land Use

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture

Requirement

- 50% of the application acres are within a federal reservoir priority watershed serving water supply needs designated by the Kansas Water Office.



Soil Health

Primary Resource Concerns

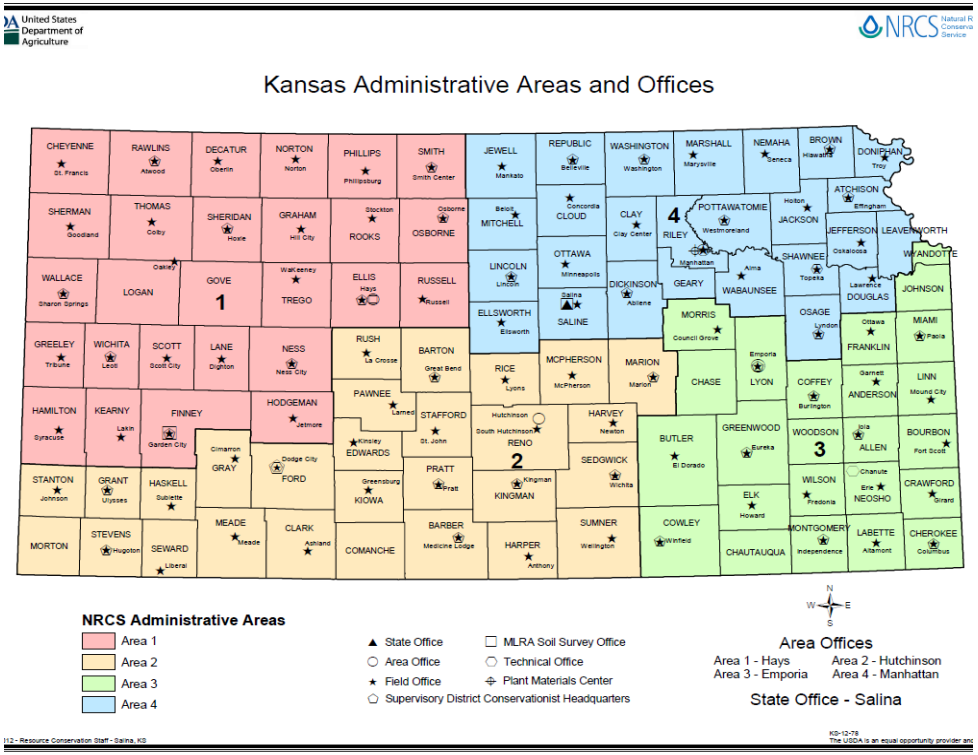
- Soil Quality Degradation—Organic Matter Depletion
- Soil Quality Degradation—Compaction
- Insufficient Water—Inefficient Moisture Management

Eligible Land Uses

- Crop

Requirements

- Conservation crop rotation, no-till, and cover crop practices are required when addressing organic matter depletion concerns
- Conservation crop rotation and no-till are required when addressing inefficient moisture management concerns



Tribal

Primary Resource Concerns

- Livestock Production Limitation–Inadequate Water
- Degraded Plant Condition–Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health (Forest, Range, Pasture)
- Degraded Plant Condition–Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
- Soil Quality Degradation–Organic Matter Depletion
- Soil Quality Degradation–Compaction
- Water Quality Degradation–Nutrients in Groundwater
- Water Quality Degradation–Nutrients in Surface Water
- Water Quality Degradation–Pesticides in Groundwater
- Water Quality Degradation–Pesticides in Surface Water
- Water Quality Degradation–Excessive Sediment in Surface Water
- Insufficient Water–Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water
- Insufficient Water–Inefficient Moisture Management

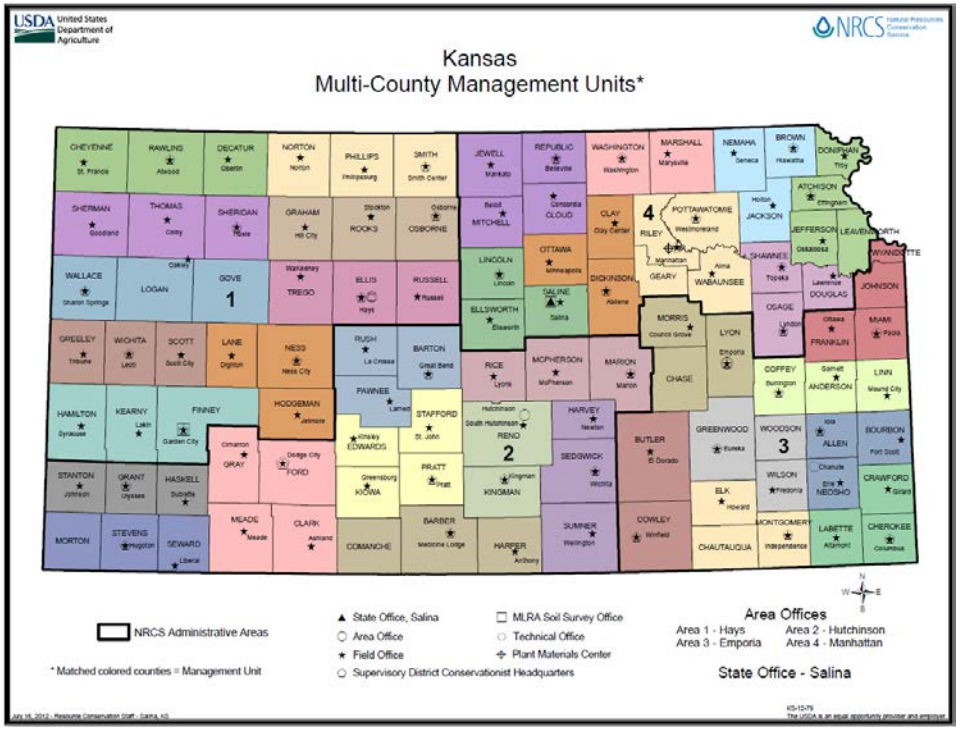
Eligible Land Uses

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture

Water Quality

Primary Resource Concerns

- Water Quality Degradation—Nutrients in Groundwater
- Water Quality Degradation—Nutrients in Surface Water
- Water Quality Degradation—Pesticides in Groundwater
- Water Quality Degradation—Pesticides in Surface Water
- Water Quality Degradation—Excessive Sediment in Surface Water



Eligible Land Uses

- Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture

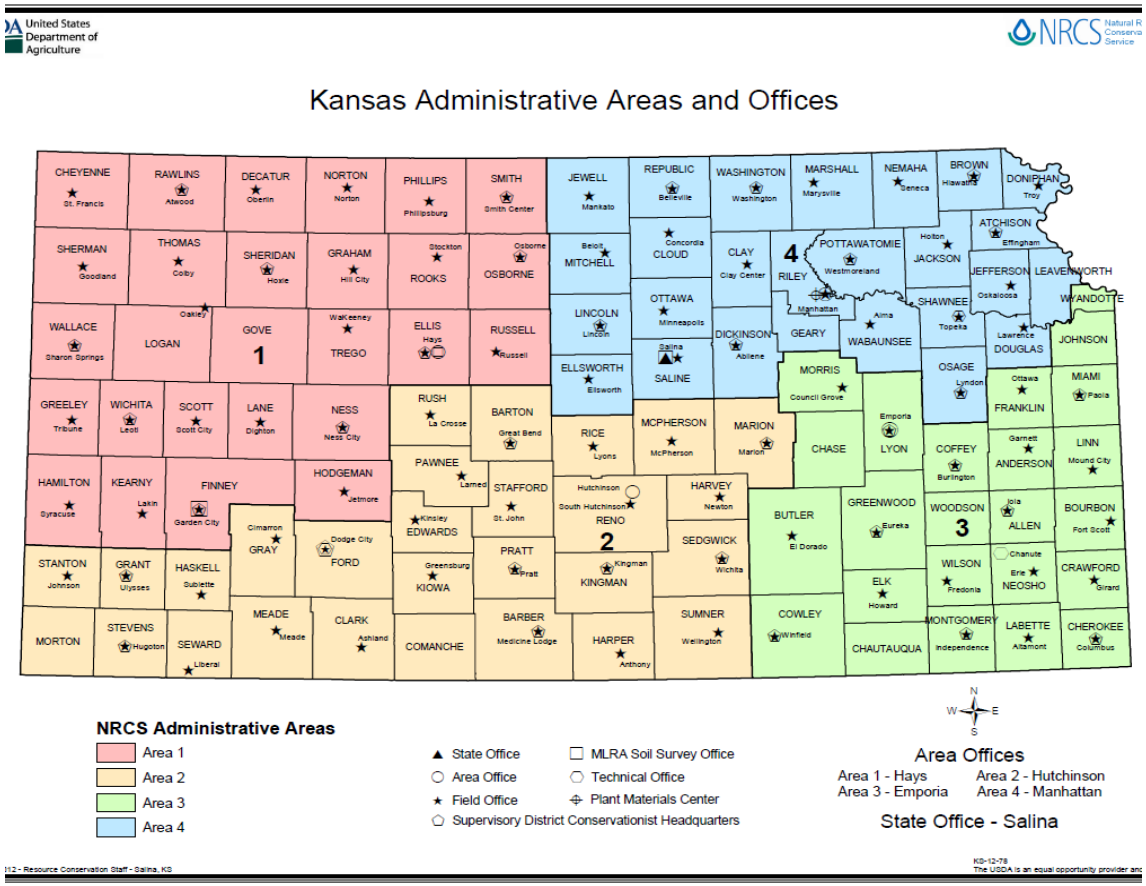
Water Quantity

Primary Resource Concerns

- Insufficient Water—Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water
- Insufficient Water—Inefficient Moisture Management

Eligible Land Uses

- Crop, Pasture



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Wildlife Habitat

Primary Resource Concerns

- Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife—Habitat Degradation
- Degraded Plant Condition—Inadequate Structure and Composition
- Degraded Plant Condition—Excessive Plant Pest Pressure

Eligible Land Uses

- Range, Crop, Pasture, Associated Ag. Land, Forest

Requirements

- Eastern Red Cedar is excluded from use in tree planting practices for this ranking category
- All financially assisted practices will meet NRCS practice standard for addition criteria for wildlife considerations

Socially Disadvantaged, Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers/Ranchers and Veteran Farmers/Ranchers

Socially Disadvantaged, Beginning, and Limited Resource Farmers/Ranchers, Veteran Farmers

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2014 (2014 Agricultural Act) continues to address the unique circumstances and concerns of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, as well as beginning and limited resource farmers and ranchers. It provides for voluntary participation, offers incentives, and focuses on equity in accessing U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs and services. Enhancements include streamlined delivery of technical and financial assistance; improved programs and services; and flexibility in decision making (with most decisions made at the Tribal, State, or local level).

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

- ✓ **The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements.**

  RCPP combines the authorities of four former conservation programs – the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program, the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative and the Great Lakes Basin Program. Assistance is delivered in accordance with the rules of EQIP, CSP, ACEP and HFRP; and in certain areas the Watershed Operations and Flood Prevention Program.

RCPP Agreements

- **Partnership Agreements**
  - Partner agreements must not exceed 5 years.
  - The Secretary may extend the agreement one time for up to 12 months.
  - Lead partner may request and extension prior to the end of the current agreement.
    - This request should be presented to the State Conservationist within 12 months of agreement expiring.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program Agreements

- **2015 Agreements**
  - Middle and Lower Neosho River Water Quality
  - Water Quality Through The Implementation of Forestry Practices
  - Advanced Irrigation Water Management
  - Grassland Birds and Grazing Land Enhancement Initiative
  - Kansas Pheasant Initiative
- **2016 Agreements**
  - Native Grazing Lands Protection in the Plains
  - Improving Working Lands for Monarch Butterflies
- **2017 Agreement**
  - Kansas Wetland Easements

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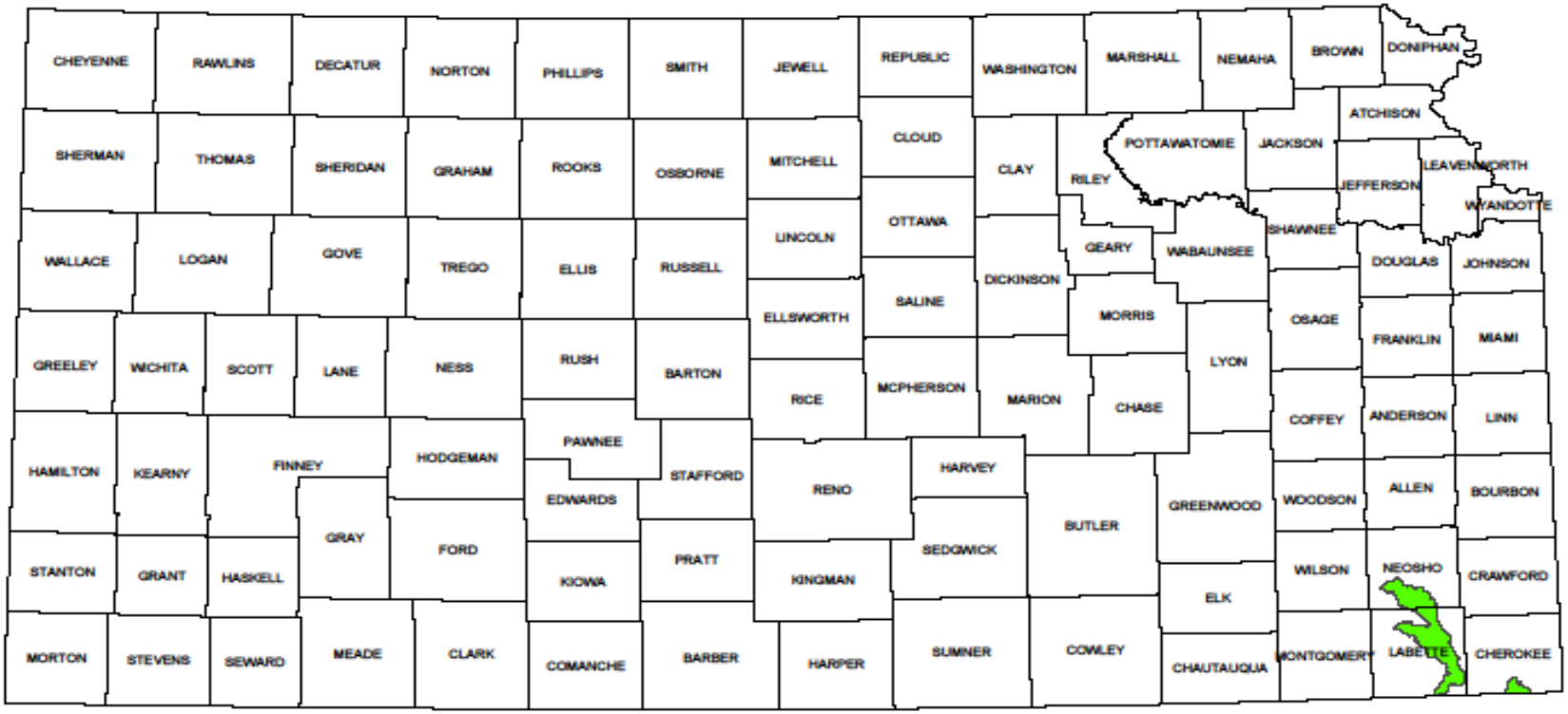
Kansas
Regional Conservation Partnership Program - EQIP
Middle and Lower Neosho River Water Quality Project



Natural Resources Conservation Service
December 18, 2015 - Resource Conservation Staff - Salina, KS

KS-15-15
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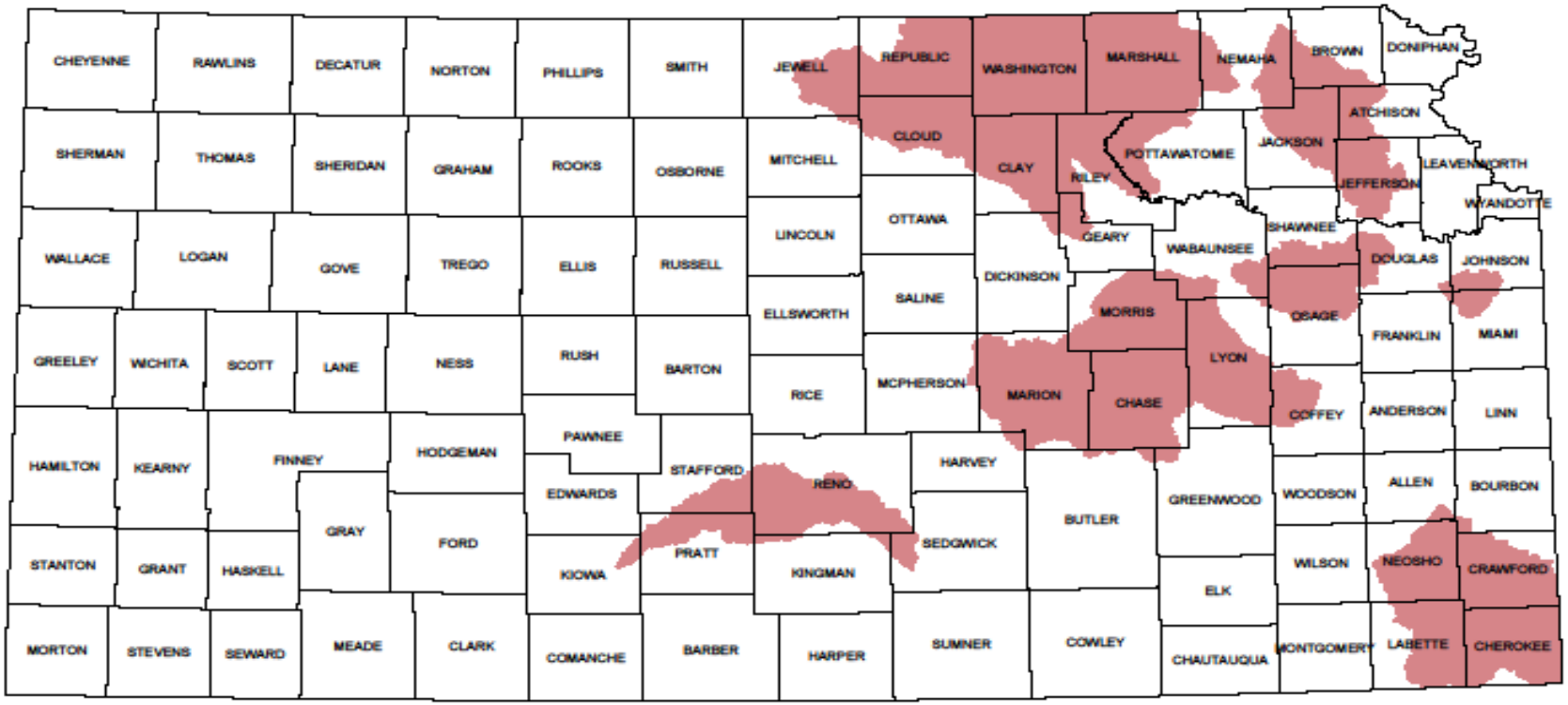
USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Kansas
Regional Conservation Partnership Program - EQIP
Water Quality Improvement through the Implementation of Forestry Practices Project



Source: Kansas Forest Service

Natural Resources Conservation Service
October 9, 2015 - Resource Conservation Staff - Salina, KS

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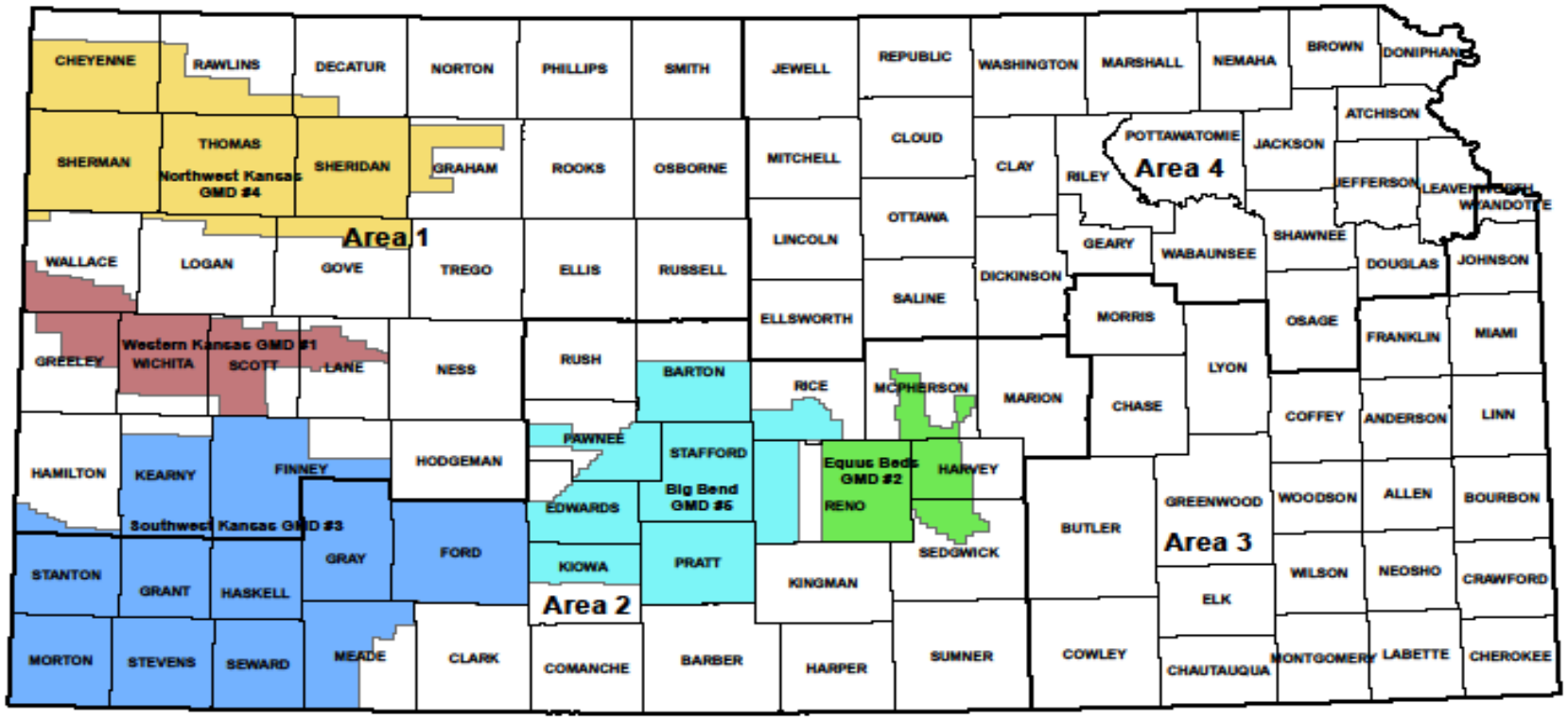
Kansas
Regional Conservation Partnership Program - EQIP
Advanced Irrigation Water Management Project



NRCS Administrative Areas

Groundwater Management District Areas

- Western Kansas GMD #1
- Southwest Kansas GMD #3
- Big Bend GMD #5
- Equus Beds GMD #2
- Northwest Kansas GMD #4

Natural Resources Conservation Service
August 25, 2015 - Resource Conservation Staff - Salina, KS

KS-15-79
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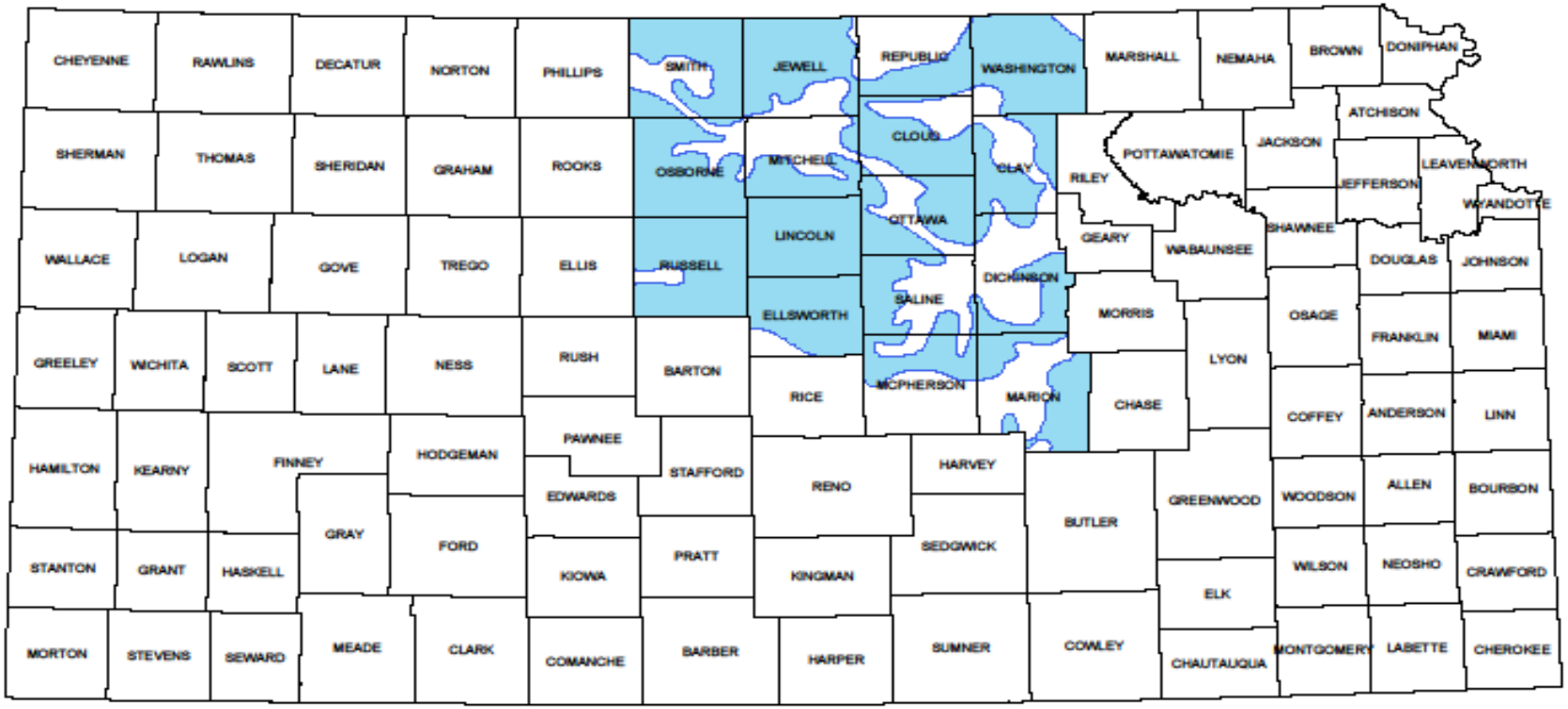
Kansas
Regional Conservation Partnership Program - EQIP/ACEP
Grassland Birds and Grazing Land Enhancement Initiative



Natural Resources Conservation Service
November 23, 2015 - Resource Conservation Staff - Salina, KS

KS-15-8
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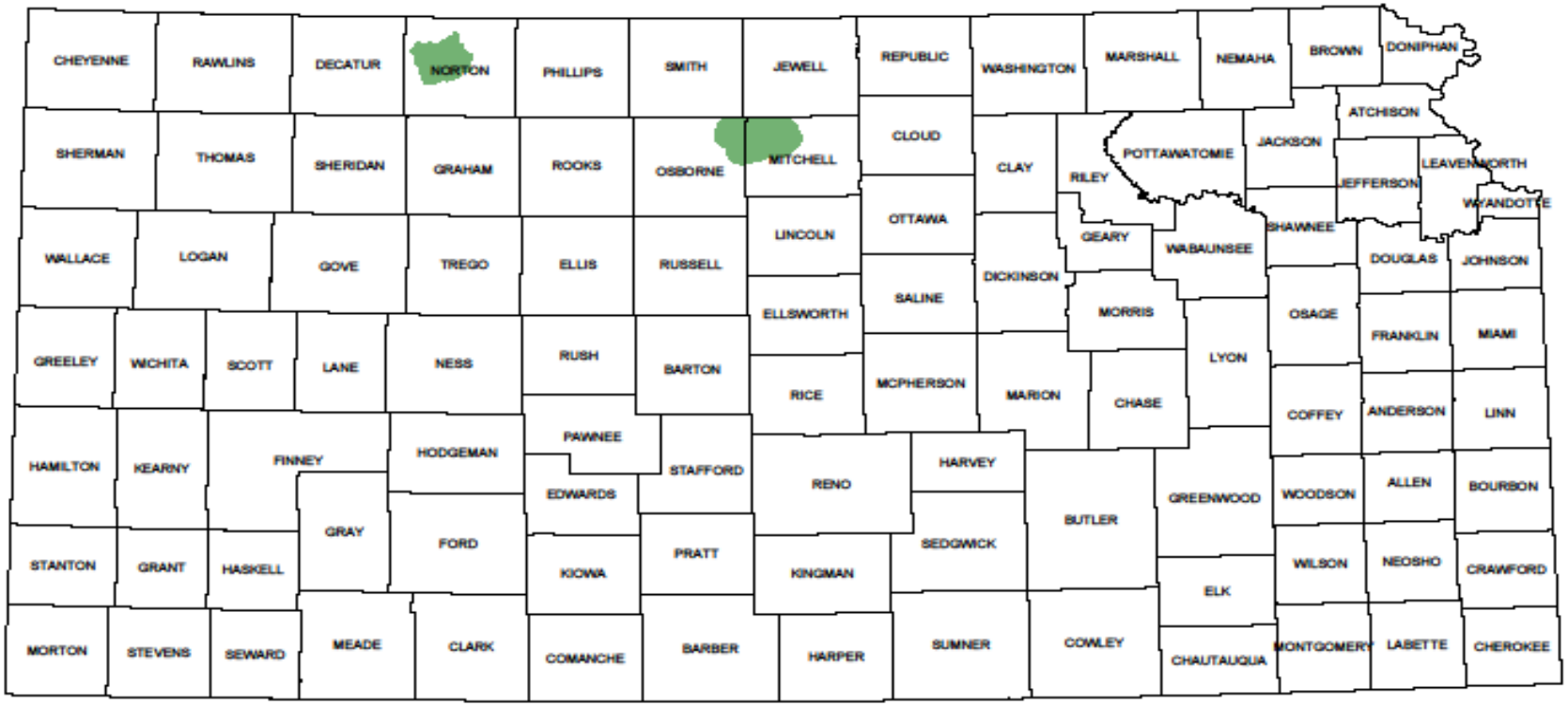
Kansas
Regional Conservation Partnership Program - EQIP
Kansas Pheasant Initiative Project



Source: Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks

Natural Resources Conservation Service
October 8, 2015 - Resource Conservation Staff - Salina, KS

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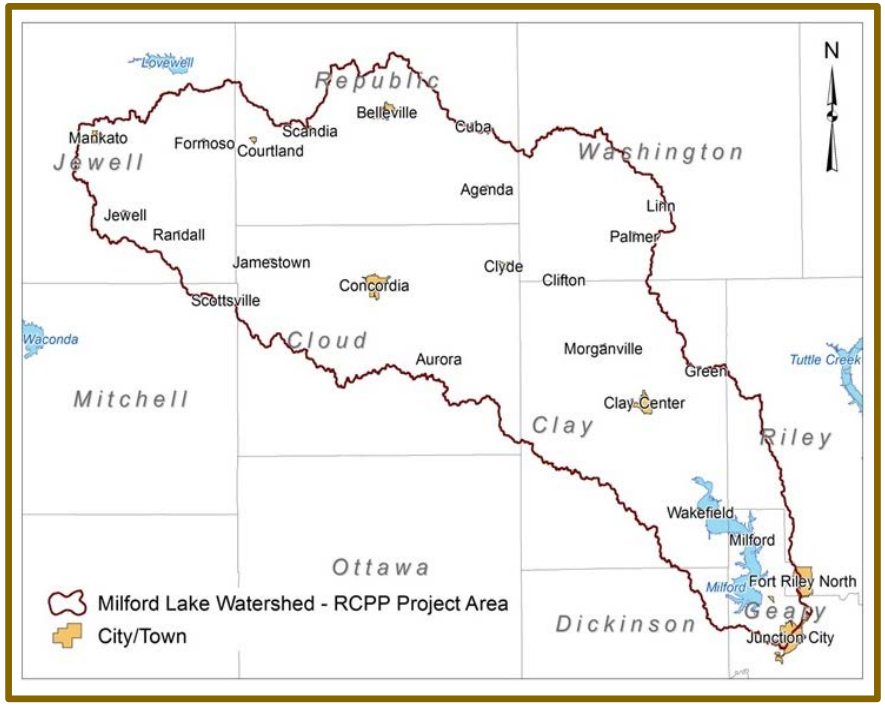
Milford Lake Watershed Project

- **Milford Lake Watershed Project**
  - Kansas Water Office – Lead Partner
  - Project has 28 Initial partners
    - Partnership efforts will help improve water quality by reducing the amount of nutrients entering Milford Lake.
    - Primary Resource concern is Water Quality degradation – nutrients in surface water.
  - RCPP Workgroup Concept
    - Working together to develop and implement project plan which addresses priority water quality concern of the project: Reduce watershed phosphorus loading by 30,857 lbs./yr. contributing to the formation of HABs in Milford Lake.

Milford Lake Watershed Project



Proposed NRCS investment = $2,880,000.00

Doniphan County Road and Fields Sediment Reduction Project

- **Current status of the project**
  - Adjustment of terms request
    - This consists of a focus on drainage areas effecting the road versus whole field treatment.
- **Proposed NRCS Investment = $250,000**

Doniphan County Road and Fields Sediment Reduction Project

- **Doniphan County Conservation District - Lead Partner**
  - This project has 7 additional partners.
  - The primary resource concern is water quality degradation - excess sediment and nutrients in surface waters.

Working Lands for Monarch Butterflies

- ✓ **The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements.**

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Kansas Wetland Easements

Ducks Unlimited – Lead Partner

Project was approved to provide technical and financial assistance to implement Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) in Kansas

Multiple outreach and education activities

Several projects currently in the works

Conservation Innovation Grants

- Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) is a voluntary program intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production.
- Under CIG, Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds are used to award competitive grants to non-Federal governmental or non-governmental organizations, Tribes, or individuals.

Conservation Innovation Grants

- CIG enables NRCS to work with other public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and adoption of promising technologies and approaches to address some of the Nation's most pressing natural resource concerns.
- CIG will benefit agricultural producers by providing more options for environmental enhancement and compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations.
- Kansas Currently has Four Active Agreements

Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3

Project: Demonstration and Evaluation of the Potential for Mobile Drip Irrigation (MDI) Technologies to Reduce Water Use and Extend the Usable Life of Groundwater Supplies.

Funded: Fiscal Year 2015 for $25,200

Project Expires: April 2020

Kansas State University

Project: Cover crops to Increase Water Infiltration in Dryland & Irrigated Systems in Western Kansas

Funded: Fiscal Year 2017 for $49,993

Project Expires: August 2020

Kansas State University

Project: Improving Soil Health & Profitability with Cover Crops and Precision Conservation

Funded: Fiscal Year 2017 for $49,990

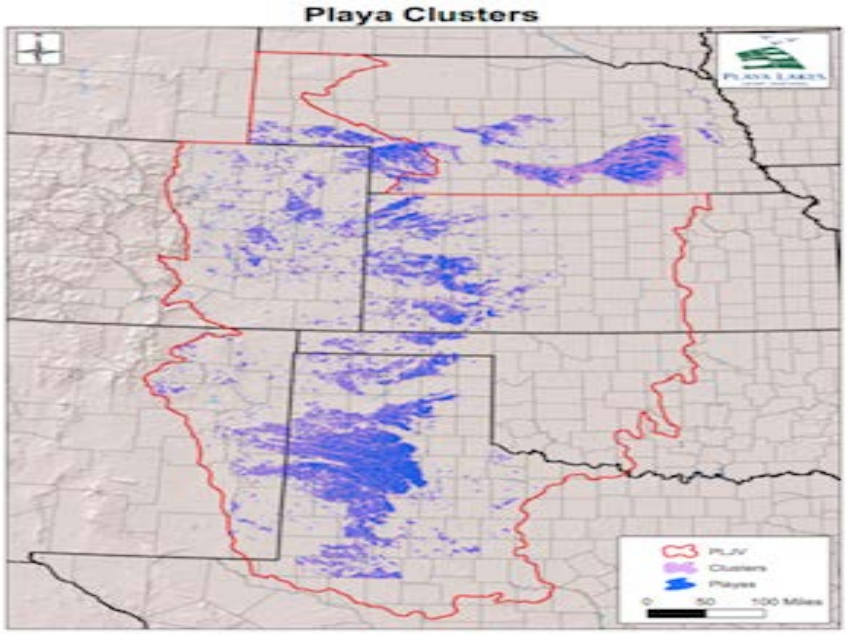
Project Expires: September 2019

Playa Lakes Joint Venture

Project: Kansas Dynamic Surface Water Application

Funded: Fiscal Year 2017 for $50,000

Project Expires: September 2018



CIG Priorities for Fiscal Year 2018

Cut-off for Applications: April 13, 2018

New for 2018: Up to $50,000 of the total funds available for CIG in FY 2018 will be set aside for eligible proposals submitted from historically underserved producers, veteran farmers or ranchers, or community-based organizations comprised of or representing these entities.

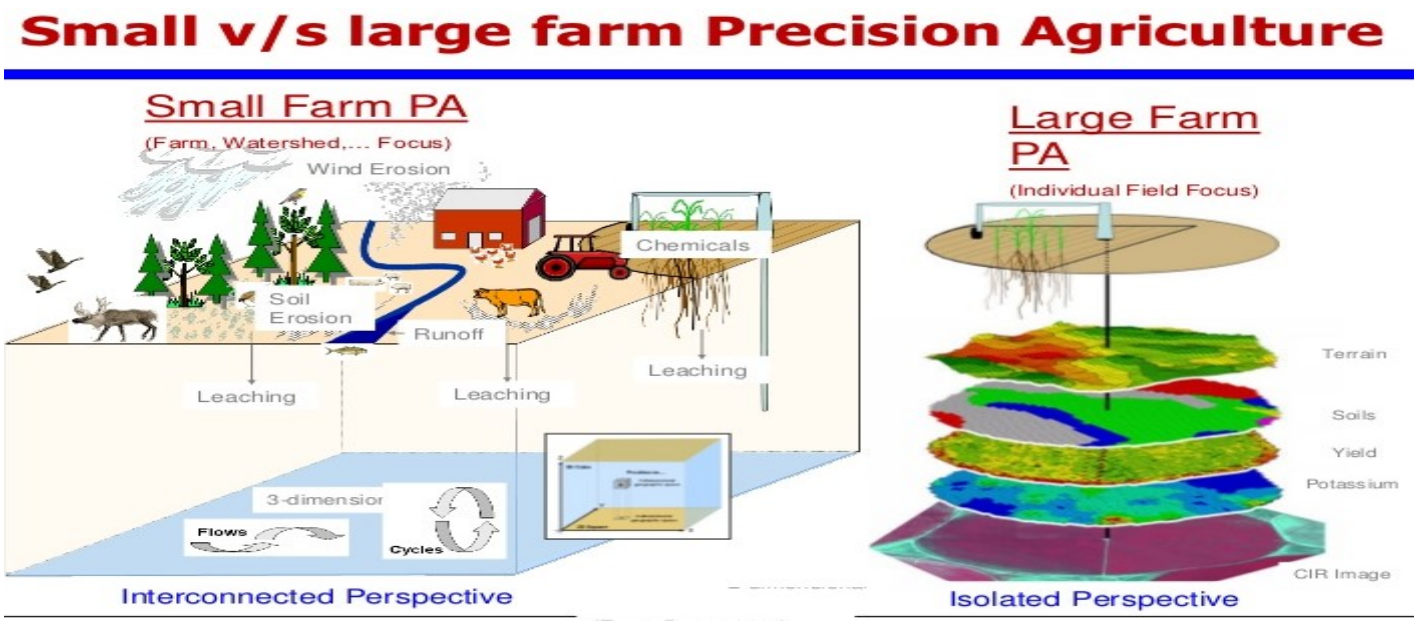
Kansas has 6 Priority Categories for 2018

Data Analytics for Natural Resources Conservation

- Tools developed for use in assisting agricultural producer to manage inputs (e.g. fertilizer, pesticides, fuel use) and increase yields through the use of precision agricultural techniques.
- Tools may be developed in the form of web-based software or mobile applications for use by a broad audience including farmers, ranchers and forest producers.

Precision Conservation Approaches

- Design and implementation of precision conservation approaches, with priority given to approaches that are coordinated with and complement precision agricultural and data analytics technologies and tools.
- Application of precision conservation techniques that support input management or address in-field vulnerabilities while improving overall profitability.



Grazing Lands (Invasive Species)

- Impacts of growing season and late season prescribed burns to control invasive plants (e.g. Serecia lespedeza, Old world bluestem, Salt cedar)
- Management practices to aid in the control/eradication of invasive species (Old world bluestem, etc.) from native grasslands
- Salt Cedar – management strategies to effectively control the reduction and spread, and recovery of invaded landscapes

Soil Quality/Soil Health

Crop, Range, Pasture

- Using new and innovative techniques to measure and quantify improvement in healthy soils
- Using common and unique soil health management systems/strategies to improve and/or measure improved environmental conditions (e.g. water quality, reducing erosion, etc.)

Cover Crops through aerial seeding and/or broadcast seeding into standing crops

- Evaluate aerial broadcast techniques, seeding rates, timing, and/or species to determine effectiveness of establishing cover crops and/or measuring cover crop performance on cropland
- Expand on existing aerial application techniques and strategies to demonstrate performance of cover crops in drier climates on Kansas cropland.

Water Quality and Quantity

Stream Health

- Using fluvial geomorphology principals and concepts to apply natural stream design/restoration to measure, analyze, restore stream function on small streams
- Developing innovative technologies to measure collect, analyze stream function to advance science and technology gaps.
- Analyze low-input (low cost) geomorphic stream restoration techniques

Water Quality and Quantity

Studies on underground outlets versus waterways;

- Effects on water quality and quantity
- Dissolved phosphorus effects
- Effects on wildlife (aquatic and terrestrial) when converting from grass to tile waterway systems

Urban Conservation

- Develop innovative strategies to address natural resource issues in urban/sub-urban landscapes (e.g. xeriscape, erosion control, pollinator habitat establishment, etc.)

Wildlife (Pollinator Conservation)

Impact of Crop Production on Pollinator Habitat

- Effective strategies to establish and manage pollinator habitat in agricultural areas to measure and/or understand the values, impacts, challenges for pollinators

Establishment and management of nectar sources

- Establishment techniques and determining adequacy of nectar source for pollinators
- Monitoring nectar sources for pollinators to determine effective size, best management strategies, and/or other services provided

Kansas Technical Committee

It is the responsibility of the State Technical Committee to –

(1) Provide information, analysis, and recommendations to USDA on conservation priorities and criteria for natural resources conservation activities and programs, including application and funding criteria, recommended practices, and program payment percentages.

(2) Identify emerging natural resource concerns and program needs.

(3) Recommend conservation practice standards and specifications.

(4) Recommend State and national program policy based on resource data.

Kansas Technical Committee

It is the responsibility of the State Technical Committee to –

(5) Review activities of the local working groups to ensure State priorities are being addressed locally.

(6) Make recommendations to the State Conservationist on requests and recommendations from local working groups.

(7) Assist NRCS with public outreach and information efforts and identify educational and producers' training needs.

To become a member, send request to State Conservationist

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Non- Discrimination Statement
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(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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