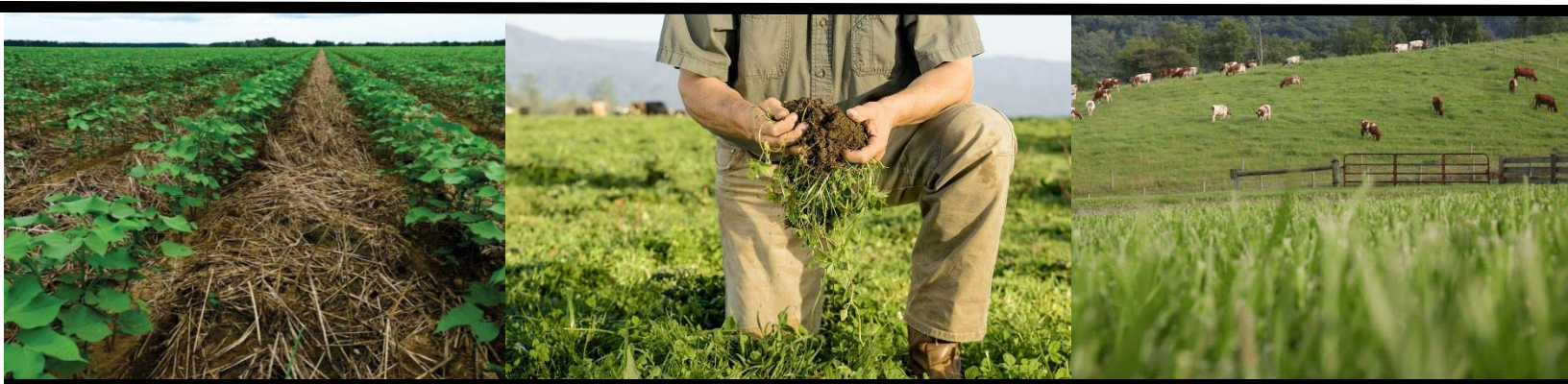


# A Producer's Guide and Directory to Agricultural Conservation Assistance Programs in Kansas

2022



*Kansas Regional Advisory Committee  
and  
Kansas Department of Health and Environment – Watershed Management Section*



This directory details financial and technical assistance available to producers and landowners interested in implementing conservation practices on their property. The information provided is limited to counties within the Kansas River planning region. A map of this region is shown below.

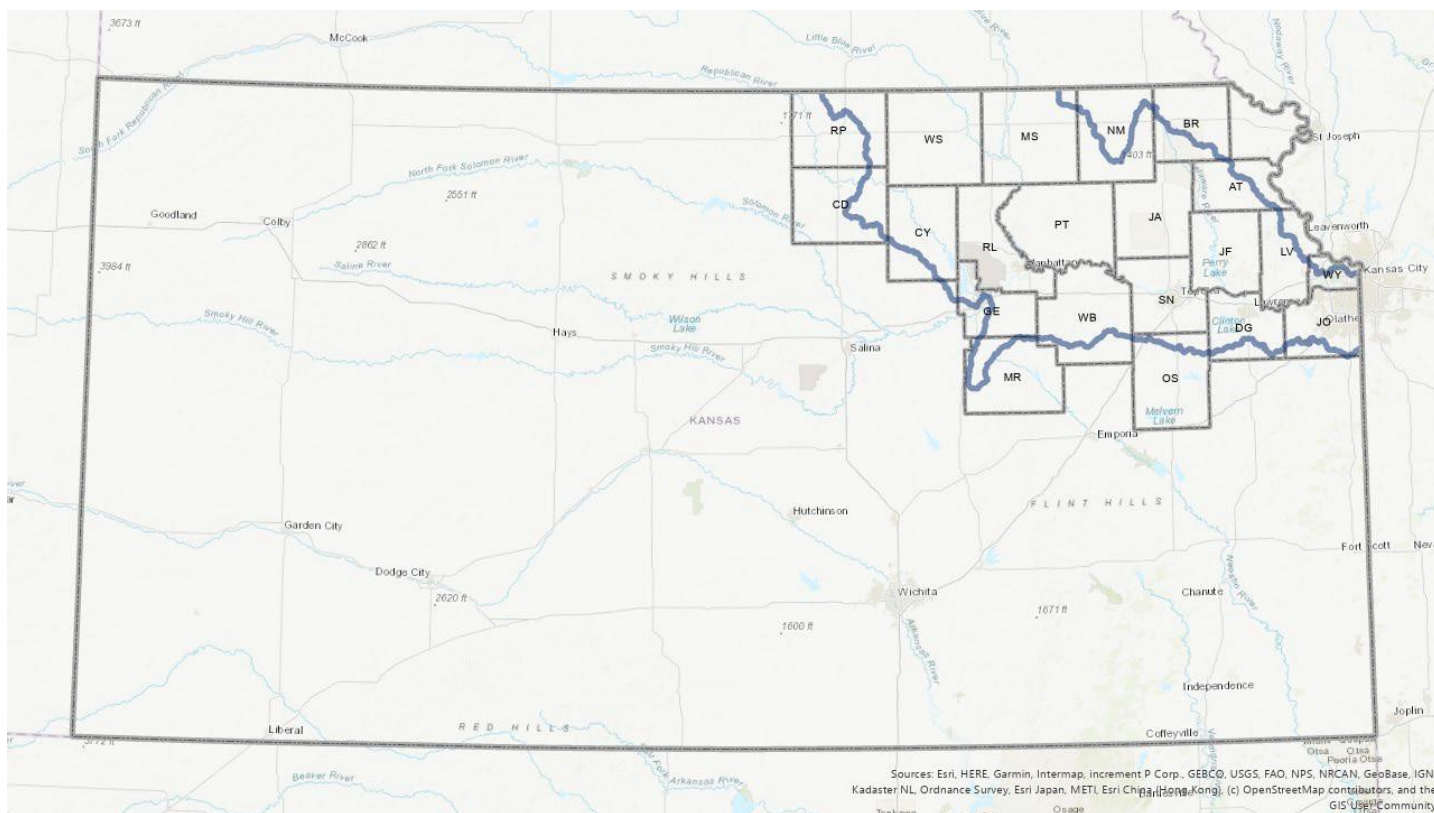


Figure 1. KS RAC planning area outlined in blue

This document was developed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) - Watershed Management Section (WMS) and the Kansas Regional Advisory Committee (Kansas RAC). For information about KDHE – WMS, visit: [www.kdhe.ks.gov/974/Watershed-Management-Section](http://www.kdhe.ks.gov/974/Watershed-Management-Section). For information about the Kansas RAC, visit: [Regional Advisory Committees \(ks.gov\)](http://RegionalAdvisoryCommittees.ks.gov).

*Cover Photos Credit from left to right: Stephen Kirkpatrick, USDA NRCS; Alexandre Family Farm; Shay Frey*

# Getting Started

Implementing conservation practices on your land can be a daunting task. Conservation practices can be expensive and require expertise or planning that you may not have. Luckily, there are many governmental, non-profit, and private entities that can assist you.

This guide has two main sections. The **first section** provides basic information about programs and resources available to assist with Best Management Practices (BMP) implementation and planning. Each resource page has a quick identifier in the upper right corner to indicate if the assistance is Financial (\$) or Technical (TA). Many resources are both. The information provided includes links to other resources where more details can be found.

The **second section** provides agency and resource contacts, including phone numbers, email addresses or website links that can be used to obtain more information, enroll in a program or get technical assistance.

**HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:** Use the prompts and the page numbers in the colored circles below in the **‘What are your conservation goals?’** section to find the resources that are likely to be helpful to you for carrying out your conservation goals. Keep in mind that many BMPs will address multiple conservation goals because they provide numerous benefits. A great example of this is cover crops which can increase soil health, reduce erosion and increase water infiltration. You can quickly jump to an information page by holding down the Ctrl key and clicking on the number in the circle.

## What are your conservation goals?

→ Increase soil health on your farm or ranch



© Jason Johnson, USDA NRCS

**Example practices:** reduced tillage, cover crops, crop rotations, nutrient management, conservation plantings

[1](#)

[2](#)

[3](#)

[4](#)

[5](#)

[6](#)

[7](#)

[8](#)

[16](#)

[21](#)

[23](#)

[24](#)

[25](#)

→ Reduce soil erosion and increase water infiltration



**Example practices:** soil health practices, grassed waterways / filter strips, field borders, terraces, conservation plant cover

[1](#)

[2](#)

[3](#)

[5](#)

[6](#)

[7](#)

[8](#)

[12](#)

[14](#)

[16](#)

[21](#)

[25](#)



→ Protect and improve wetlands and water quality on your property



**Example:** wetland restoration and maintenance, old water well plugging, pond management

[1](#)

[5](#)

[6](#)

[7](#)

[9](#)

[10](#)

[21](#)

→ Improve riparian areas and streams on your property



**Example practices:** timber stand improvements, streambank stabilization, tree plantings, covercrops, forest buffers

[1](#)

[5](#)

[6](#)

[14](#)

[15](#)

[25](#)

→ Improve your livestock operation and water quality



**Example practices:** fencing streams and ponds, install a watering facility, stream crossings

[1](#)

[2](#)

[3](#)

[5](#)

[6](#)

[7](#)

[13](#)

[22](#)

[25](#)

## → Improve grassland and rangeland quality



**Example practices:** prescribed grazing, prescribed burning, range plantings, resting overgrazed or unproductive pastures

[1](#)

[2](#)

[3](#)

[5](#)

[7](#)

[12](#)

[13](#)

[23](#)

## → Getting paid to increase wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities



**Example practices:** restoring habitat, cover crops, providing hunting access

[10](#)

[16](#)

[17](#)

[18](#)

[19](#)

[20](#)

## → Get assistance with organic production



**Example practices:** getting certified, adding conservation practices to organic production plan, urban ag

[11](#)

[22](#)

[23](#)

→ Get help with innovative or research-oriented conservation projects



**Example:** developing and participating in experimental conservation practices, implementing innovative conservation practices

[7](#)

[22](#)

→ Get help with forest health, timber stand improvement, windbreaks and other forestry practices



**Example:** forest plantings, forest assessment and stewardship plans, Timber stand improvement, tree planting, windbreak renovation

[1](#)

[13](#)

[14](#)

→ Handling livestock waste



**Example:** manure storage and treatment, manure application

[1](#)

[2](#)

[3](#)

[7](#)

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**\* indicates that the program is only available in specific counties.**



## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

**Agency:** Kansas Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

**Overview:** The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural and forestry producers to address various natural resource concerns that deliver environmental benefits, such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat.

**Benefits and Potential BMPs:** Eligible resource concerns, land use and conservation practices are grouped by fund pools in which applications compete for funding. Detailed information regarding conservation practices, fund pools and payment rates are found on the Kansas NRCS website (see side bar at right). Implementing practices through EQIP leads to cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat while improving agricultural operations.

**How to Apply:** Apply at your local NRCS office. EQIP applications are accepted on a continuous basis. However, NRCS establishes application “cut-off” or submission deadlines for evaluation, ranking and approval of eligible applications. EQIP is open to all eligible agricultural producers and has multiple funding pools available.

The 2018 Farm Bill continues to address the unique circumstances and concerns of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, as well as beginning and limited resource farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers. It provides for voluntary participation, offers incentives, and focuses on equity in accessing USDA programs and services.

Enhancements include increased payment rates and advanced payments of up to 50% to purchase materials and services needed to implement conservation practices included in an EQIP contract.

Applicants must:

- Control or own eligible land
- Comply with adjusted gross income (AGI) limitation provisions
- Be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements
- Develop a NRCS EQIP plan of operations. Additional restrictions and program requirements may apply

**Payments:** Provides financial resources and one-on-one help to agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers to plan and implement conservation practices. Payment levels vary by resource concern.

**Contact:** NRCS District Conservationist, see page 26



### Who is eligible?

Agricultural producers and owners of non-industrial private forestland and Tribes. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland and other farm or ranch lands where financially assisted conservation practices address a natural resource concern.

### Learn more:

Program Website

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ks/programs/financial/eqip/>

NSAC's Grassroots Guide to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program

<https://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassrootsguide/conservation-environment/environmental-quality-incentives-program/>

Use [Service Center Locator](#) to find the nearest NRCS office.

## Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

**Agency:** Kansas Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

**Overview:** The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is for working lands. It is the largest conservation program in the U.S. allowing enrollees to improve their business operation while improving natural resources.

**Benefits and possible BMPs:** CSP helps producers improve existing conservation efforts while strengthening their farm operations. NRCS identifies natural resource problems in the farm operation, designs a custom CSP plan to meet the producer's goals, and provides the technical and financial assistance to solve those problems or attain higher stewardship levels in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. Producers who are already taking steps to improve the condition of their land can benefit from additional opportunities to meet higher conservation and operational goals. Broad categories the program addresses include water quality, insufficient water, excess water, soil quality/health, soil erosion, energy efficiency, air quality, livestock limitations, wildlife habitat and plant condition.

**How to Apply:** Apply at your local NRCS office. CSP applications are accepted on a continuous basis. However, NRCS establishes application "cut-off" or submission deadline dates for evaluation, ranking and approval of eligible applications. CSP is open to all eligible agricultural producers and has multiple funding pools available.

The 2018 Farm Bill continues to address the unique circumstances and concerns of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers as well as beginning and limited resource farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers.

**Payments:** CSP contracts are for five-year periods with the opportunity to compete for additional contract renewal after the initial contract is fulfilled. Contract payments are made annually based on the following components:

- **Existing Activity Payment** – payment to maintain existing conservation based on land uses and NRCS assessment of existing stewardship at the time of enrollment
- **Additional Activity Payment** – payment to implement additional conservation activities
- **Supplemental Payment** – payment for adopting one of two systems: adopting or improving a resource-conserving crop rotation or adopting Advanced Grazing Management (AGM)

NRCS may provide a minimum annual payment of \$1,500 in any year the total contract amount is below a rate NRCS determines is equitable, based upon the effort required by a participant to meet contract requirements.

**Contact:** NRCS District Conservationist, see page 26



### Who is eligible?

Any farmer or rancher who controls the land, takes on risk of production and has met or exceeded stewardship thresholds for at least two priority resource concerns. You can be an owner-operator, a renter with permission from the landlord to enroll, or an owner who crop shares with a renter.

### Learn more:

Program Website

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ks/programs/financial/csp/>

NSAC's Farmers' Guide to CSP

<https://sustainableagriculture.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/CSP-2020-draft3-interactive-1-1.pdf>

Enhancements and Bundles

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/csp/?cid=nrcseprd1708431>

## ***K-State Research and Extension***

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**Agency:** Kansas State University

**Overview:** K-State Research and Extension is a statewide network of educators sharing unbiased, research-based information and expertise on issues important to Kansas. It is dedicated to safe, sustainable, competitive food and fiber systems and to strong, healthy communities, families and youth through integrated research, analysis and education. In addition, extension runs many research and education facilities, including two environmentally focused centers: Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE) and Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops (KCSAAC).

**Benefits and possible BMPs:** Technical assistance, education, and planning related to farm management, horticulture, livestock and crop production and natural resources.

**Application:** Not applicable

**Payments:** Not applicable

**Contact:** District or County Extension Agent, see page 27

**TA**

### **Who is eligible?**

Any Kansas resident interested in conservation activity addressing a resource concern.

### **Learn more:**

Program Website

<https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/>

KCARES website

<https://www.kcare.k-state.edu/>

KCSAAC website

<http://kansassustainableag.org/>

## KCARE Watershed Specialist

**Agency:** Kansas State University

**Overview:** The Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE) is a K-State Extension program to assist producers in addressing agricultural environmental issues. A team of Watershed Specialists focus on water quality and provide technical assistance and education to producers in their watershed areas. They can also help producers locate financial resources to implement projects.

**Benefits and possible BMPs:** Technical assistance, education, and planning related to farm management, horticulture, livestock production and natural resources.

**Application:** Not applicable

**Payments:** Not applicable

**Contact:** Will Boyer  
Northeast Kansas Watershed Specialist  
(785) 587-7828

KCARE  
Headquarters – Manhattan, KS  
(785) 532-0393

### TA

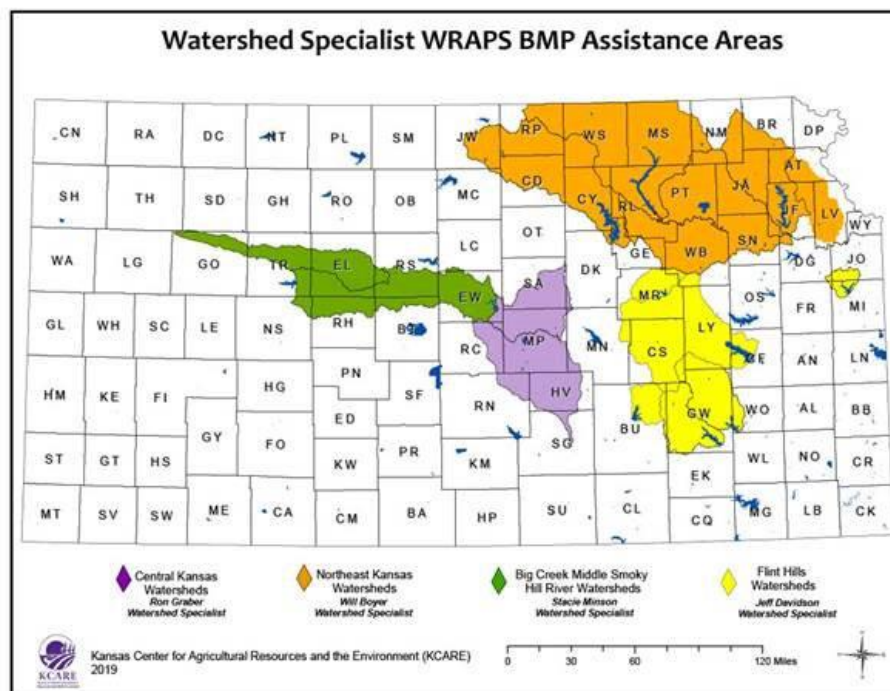
#### Who is eligible?

Any Kansas resident interested in conservation activity addressing a resource concern.

#### Learn more:

Program Website

<https://www.kcare.k-state.edu/>



## ***Division of Conservation Cost-Share Programs***

**Agency:** Kansas Department of Agriculture –  
Division of Conservation (DOC)

**Overview:** The DOC cost-share programs are administered locally by county Conservation Districts and are tailored to local resource concerns. Two main cost-share programs are:

- Water Resources Cost-Share Program
- Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program

**Benefits and Potential BMPs:** Erosion and sediment control, water quality protection, water quantity enhancement, range and pasture management, fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resource management.

**How to Apply:** Contact your local Conservation District. Each Conservation District accepts applications during a specified sign-up period. Sign-up periods vary by county and program. Applications are funded based on priority ranking criteria.

**Payments:** Cost-share assistance is based on county average cost, availability of funds, and program limits. Projects cannot be started prior to contract agreement with DOC.

**Contact:** County Conservation District Manager, see page 28



### **Who is eligible?**

Agricultural producers and owners of cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial forestland and Tribes within each respective Conservation District.

### **Learn more:**

Program Website  
<https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/division-of-conservation/financial-assistance>



## Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Initiative (SNRI)\*

**Agency:** Kansas Department of Agriculture –  
Division of Conservation (DOC)

**Overview:** This initiative is an effort to reduce sediment and nutrients entering water bodies, which lead to harmful algae blooms, by offering incentive payments to landowners who install eligible CRP practices.

**Eligible Practices:** Grassed waterway, shallow water areas for wildlife habitat, filter strips, riparian forest buffer, wetland restoration, improvements to farmable wetlands, wetland buffers and bottomland hardwood timber establishment.

**How to Apply:** Contact your local County Conservation District

**Payments:** Cost-share paid per acre depending on target area

- Tier 1 area (yellow) = one-time payment of \$225/acre
- Tier 2 area (grey) = one-time payment of \$162.50/acre

**Contact:** County Conservation District Manager, see page 28

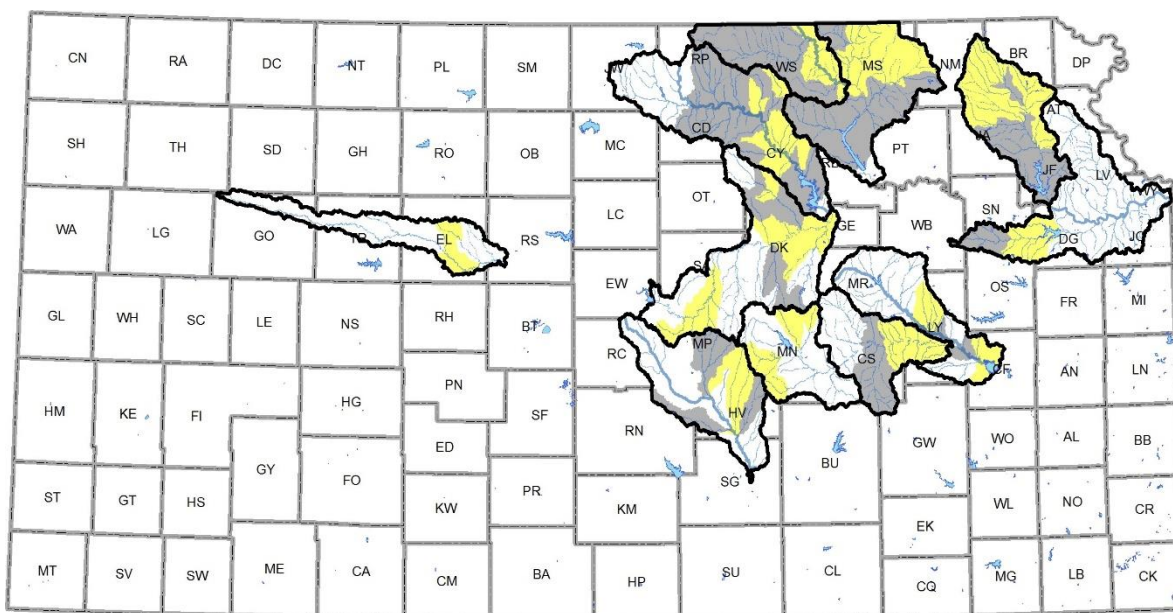


### Who is eligible?

Producers with property that lies within the targeted watersheds. See map on this page.

### Learn more:

Program Website  
<https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/division-of-conservation/riparian-wetland-streambank>



 Kansas Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Targeted Areas

 Tier 1     Tier 2

## Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS)\*

**Agency:** Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)

**Overview:** Local program aimed at improving water quality within targeted watersheds by providing financial resources for producer's voluntary implementation of conservation practices.

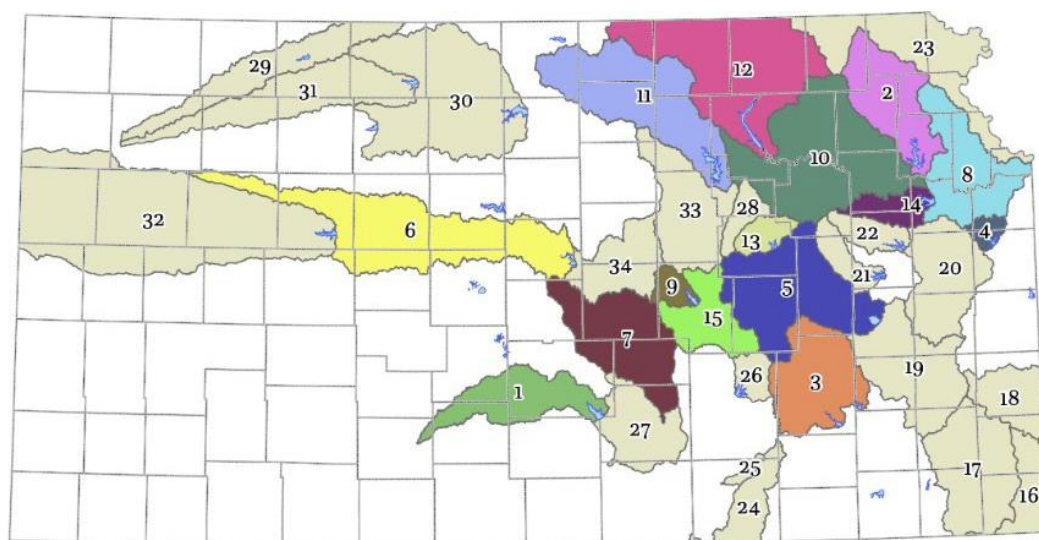
**Benefits and Potential BMPs:** Various practices to facilitate soil health, protect water, enhance livestock and crop production.

**How to Apply:** Contact WRAPS watershed coordinator

**Payments:** Cost-share, incentives, and technical assistance

**Contact:** WRAPS watershed coordinator<sup>1</sup>

Project # on Map	Project Name	Watershed Coordinator	Phone Number
2	Delaware	Ted Hinton	(785) 284-3422
4	Hillsdale Lake	Kaitlin Knauss	(913) 294-3751
8	Lower Kansas	Megan Rush	(402) 813-7691
10	Middle Kansas	Megan Rush	(402) 813-7691
11	Milford Lake	Adam Bauer	(719) 691-9919
12	Tuttle Creek Lake	Ryan O'Neill	(785) 340-2524
14	Upper Wakarusa	Andrew Rutter	(785) 764-9362
28	Partnership Project	Angela Beavers	(785) 238-4251



\$

TA

### Who is eligible?

Farmer or rancher who owns or rents property that falls within a WRAPS targeted area.

### Learn more:

Program Website  
<https://kswraps.org/>

Individual WRAPS plans  
<https://kswraps.org/watershed-plan/approved-plans/>

KDHE WRAPS Website  
<https://www.kdheks.gov/nps/wraps/>

<sup>1</sup>only watersheds and watershed coordinators within the KS RAC planning area are shown

## Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative (KRPI)\*

**Agency:** Kansas Water Office in partnership with Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment (KDHE) and Kansas Dept. of Agriculture – Division of Conservation. Implementation advice and support also provided by Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) representative for regions with participating watersheds, local WRAPS projects and Conservation District staff.

**Overview:** Targeted initiative to reduce sedimentation in select reservoirs by implementing best management practices in areas above federal reservoirs.

**Benefits and Potential BMPs:** Protect water supply storage and improve water quality in reservoirs using various BMPs such as cover crops, sediment control basins, waterways, nutrient management and others.

**How to Apply:** Contact County Conservation District managers or WRAPS watershed coordinator for information and signup periods. Applications are reviewed by Regional Advisory Committees (RACs).

**Payments:** Eligible BMPs can receive \$50 per ton of sediment estimated to be reduced/saved through implementation of eligible BMPs. This is an efficiency payment rather than a traditional cost-share payment. An alternative payment schedule for cover crops is currently in place with first year participants eligible for up to \$45/acre for cover crop seeding. The rates transition to \$30/acre for 2<sup>nd</sup> year cover crop participants and \$15/acre for 3<sup>rd</sup> year cover crop participants.

**Contact:** County Conservation District Manager (see page 28) or WRAPS watershed coordinator (see page 7)



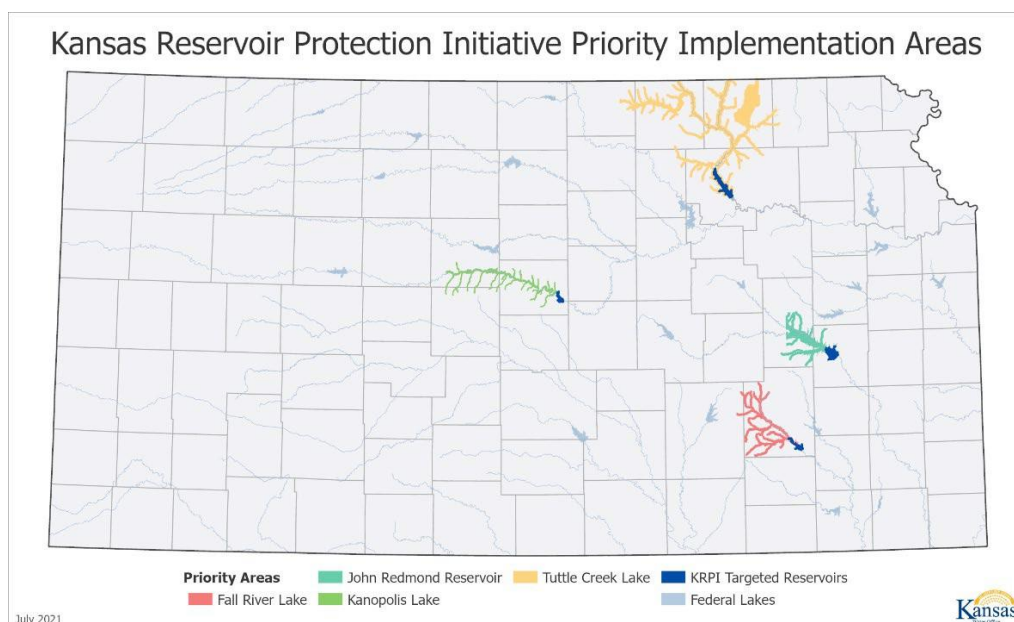
### Who is eligible?

Producers in the priority areas above Kanopolis, Fall River, John Redmond, and Tuttle Creek reservoirs (see map).

### Learn more:

Program Website

<https://kwo.ks.gov/projects/kansas-reservoir-protection-initiative>



## ***Farmable Wetlands Program***

**Agency:** USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)

**Overview:** Voluntary restoration program that pays producers to restore the function and values of previously farmed wetlands and wetland buffers to the maximum extent possible as determined by USDA; participants must agree to forgo using enrolled land for commercial purposes. Farmable Wetlands Program is a sub program of CRP (see page 21).

**Benefits and Potential BMPs:** Wetland restoration, restored hydrology, vegetative cover, wetland buffers.

**How to Apply:** Sign up at FSA office is on a continuous basis; check with your local FSA office for more details.

**Payments:** Annual rental payments and cost-share assistance for contract durations of 10-15 years. Signup Incentives, Practice Incentive Payments & Inflationary Soil Rental Rate Adjustment.

**Contact:** FSA Office, see page 29



### **Who is eligible?**

Farmer or rancher who has wetlands that have been used for agricultural purposes for at least 3 of the past 10 years.

These include man-made wetlands that were used for crop drainage, aqua farming, and prairie overflow. Acreage restrictions may apply.

### **Learn more:**

Program Website

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/farmable-wetlands/index>

Use [Service Center Locator](#) to find the nearest FSA office.

## ***Ducks Unlimited Landowner Assistance***

**Organization:** Ducks Unlimited (DU)

**Overview:** Ducks Unlimited offers programs to help interested Kansas landowners restore wetlands and associated habitats for waterfowl. Benefits of this work extends to numerous other wildlife species, water quality and quantity improvements and reduction of flooding. DU provides technical and financial assistance for wetland restoration projects and facilitates long-term habitat protection via conservation easements and fee title land acquisitions.

**Benefits and Potential BMPs:** Wetland projects (sediment removal, invasive plant control, fencing and livestock water, etc.), designing/developing wetland habitat, land protection and more.

**How to Apply:** Contact DU of Kansas

**Payments:** Cost-share assistance that varies by region, project type and funding availability

**Contact:** Matt Hough  
Manager of Conservation Programs, KS  
(308) 850-2717  
mhough@ducks.org

Jim Pitman  
Biologist - Eastern Kansas  
(620) 704-4758  
jpitman@ducks.org



### **Who is eligible?**

Landowners interested in restoring or enhancing wetlands on their property.

### **Learn more:**

Program Website

<http://www.ducks.org/ka/nsas>

- [List of fundraising events](#)
- [State contacts](#)
- [Habitat projects](#)
- [Annual conservation reports](#)
- [More](#)

Interactive Project Map showing sample DU projects:

<https://www.ducks.org/k>



## ***Organic Certification Cost-Share Program (OCCSP)***

**Agency:** USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)

**Overview:** Provides cost share assistance to producers and handlers who are obtaining organic certification for the first time or renewing their previous certification.

**Benefits and Potential BMPs:** Organic certification cost share assistance for each eligible category or scope; includes crops, wild crops, livestock and processing/handling.

**How to Apply:** Applications accepted and processed on a first-come first-served basis at local FSA county offices or Kansas Department of Agriculture.

**Payments:** Reimbursement for 50 percent of the organic certification, up to a maximum of \$500 for each category or scope. Eligible costs include application fees, administrative fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement/arrangement requirements, travel/per diem for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage.

**Contact:** FSA office, see page 29



### **Who is eligible?**

Producers, ranchers, and handlers who are certified organic through a USDA-accredited certifying agent.

### **Learn more:**

Program Website

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/occsp/index>

National Sustainable Agricultural Coalition (NSAC) Grassroots Guide to Organic Certification Cost-Share

<https://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassrootsguide/organic-production/organic->

## **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands Program**

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**Agency:** USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)

**Overview:** Landowners receive annual rental payments through the Voluntary Grassland CRP program on lands which contain existing and/or introduced grasses which may include forbs, legumes or shrubland for which grazing is the predominant use. FSA also provides cost share payments if fencing (no boundary fence) or livestock water facilities are needed to facilitate grazing distributions. Producers may graze and harvest hay (restricted during primary nesting season) or use for seed production while maintaining the existing permanent cover.

**Benefits and Potential BMPs:** Soil erosion control, water quality, wildlife habitat, land retirement. Also support grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and provide an incentive for grassland under the greatest threat of conversion.

**How to Apply:** Producers can contact their local FSA service center to submit an offer during an announced signup period.

**Payments:** Annual rental payments for contract durations of 10 or 15 years with cost-share assistance up to 50%.

**Contact:** FSA Office, see page 29



### **Who is eligible?**

Producer who has owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the end of the enrollment period with land that is currently planted to a grass cover.

Owners of land under expiring CRP-1 contract if all other eligibility requirements are met.

### **Learn more:**

**Program Website**  
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/crp-grasslands/index>

## **Conservation Stewardship Program – Grassland Conservation Initiative (CSP-GCI)**

**Agency:** Kansas NRCS

**Overview:** This new initiative assists producers in protecting grazing land uses while also conserving soil, water and wildlife resources through grassland conservation contracts.

**Benefits and Potential BMPs:** Enrolled acreage must be managed with a grassland conservation plan.

**How to Apply:** NRCS does not announce a sign-up. Instead, potential applicants are identified based on the farms that the FSA determines have met the potential eligibility requirements for CSP-GCI. NRCS will contact owners and operators by letter to notify them of the opportunity to enroll in CP-GCI. Producers will have a single opportunity to enroll land in a five-year contract.

**Payments:** Approved contracts receive a single annual conservation activity payment of \$18 per acre to retain crop base acres in perennial vegetation.

**Contact:** NRCS District Conservationists, see page 26



### **Who is eligible?**

Producers with cropland for which base acres have been maintained under FSA's Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and planted to grass or pasture, including idle or fallow land, during a specific period.

### **Learn more:**

Program Website  
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/>

## Riparian Quality Enhancement Initiative (RQEI)

**Agency:** Kansas Department of Agriculture - Division of Conservation in partnership with Kansas Forest Service

**Overview:** Targeted cost-share and technical assistance program to improve riparian health, land profitability and wildlife habitat.

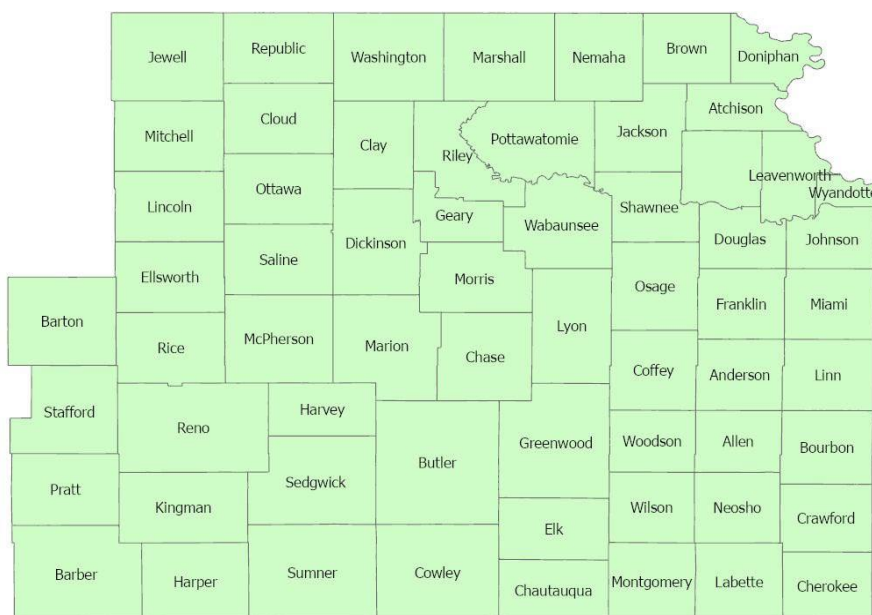
**Benefits and Possible BMPs:** Forestry practices, streambank stabilization, channel bed stabilization and others.

**How to Apply:** Applications accepted within eligible counties on continuous basis and ranked at the end of every month (see map below).

**Payments:** 80% cost-share up to annual landowner limit of \$10,000.

**Contact:** County Conservation District Manager, see page 28

Map of Eligible Counties:



### Who is eligible?

Landowners with eligible riparian area as identified by Kansas Forest Service.

### Learn more:

Program Website

<https://www.agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/division-of-conservation/riparian-wetland-streambank>

## Kansas Forest Service

**Agency:** Kansas Forest Service (KFS)

**Overview:** The Kansas Forest Service provides technical assistance and other resources to landowners, communities, fire districts, and forest industries across Kansas on all things forest related. They also work with other agencies to deliver technical assistance for forest related cost-share assistance. KFS also manages the Conservation Tree Planting Program that offers tree and shrub seedlings and other items for conservation, windbreak, timber and wildlife plantings.

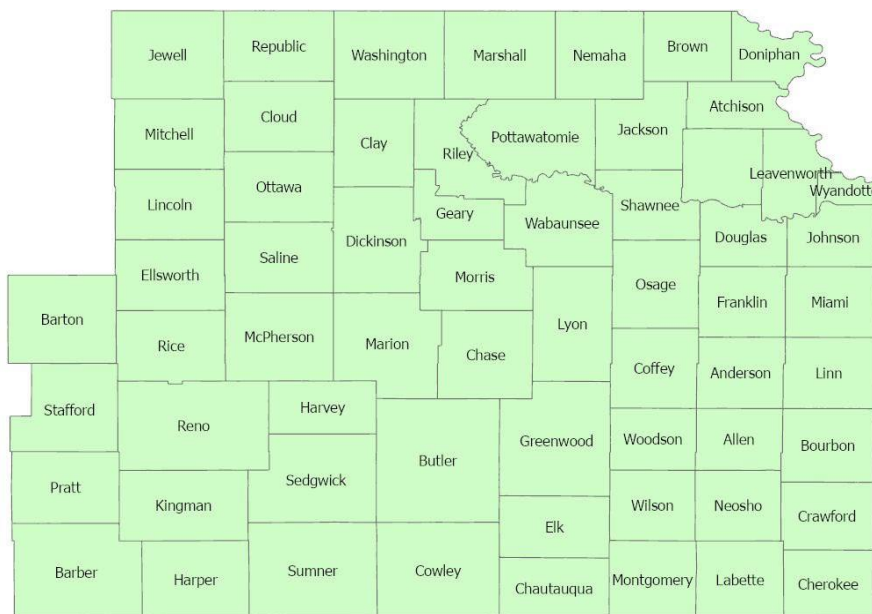
**Benefits and Potential BMPs:** Forest assessment and inventory, upper watershed streambank stabilization, stewardship plans insect and disease control, education, timber harvest assistance, timber stand improvement, windbreak renovation and new tree planting.

**Application:** Not applicable

**Payments:** Not applicable

**Contact:** District Forester, see page 30

Map of Eligible Counties:



### TA

#### Who is eligible?

Farmers, ranchers, and other private landowners with forest, woodland, riparian areas, and windbreaks.

#### Learn more:

Program Website

[https://www.kansasforests.org/rural\\_forestry/servicesandlandownerassistance.html](https://www.kansasforests.org/rural_forestry/servicesandlandownerassistance.html)

Contact Form

[https://www.kansasforests.org/kansas\\_forest\\_services/contactus.html](https://www.kansasforests.org/kansas_forest_services/contactus.html)

Conservation Tree Planting Program

[https://www.kansasforests.org/conservation\\_trees/](https://www.kansasforests.org/conservation_trees/)



## ***Habitat First Program***

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**Agency:** Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks (KDWP)

**Overview:** Conservation program aimed at helping landowners increase and improve wildlife habitat on private lands.

**Benefits and Potential BMPs:** Technical and financial assistance and equipment loans for practices like cover crops, native grass and forb plantings, invasive species control, patch burn grazing system and more.

**How to Apply:** Contact District Wildlife Biologist for information.

**Funding and Payments:** Dollar/unit depends on practice.

**Contact:** District Wildlife Biologist, see page 31



### **Who is eligible?**

Any rural landowner who is interested in improving habitat for wildlife.

### **Learn more:**

Program Website  
<https://ksoutdoors.com/Services/Private-Landowner-Assistance/Wildlife-Biologists/Habitat-First-Program>

Practice Descriptions and Specifications  
<https://ksoutdoors.com/Services/Private-Landowner-Assistance/Wildlife-Biologists/Habitat-First-Program/Payment-Rates-Practice-Descriptions/Practice-Descriptions-Specifications>

## ***Walk-In Hunting Access Program (WIHA)***

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**Agency:** Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks (KDWP)

**Overview:** Successful program established in 1995 in which private individuals allow public access to property for hunting. Landowner in turns receives annual access payments and immunity from liability. Most acreage is for upland game bird hunting, deer, turkey, waterfowl and small game.

**Benefits and Potential BMPs:** Public hunting access and increased incentives for habitat improvements.

**How to Apply:** Contact KDWP Regional Office or District Wildlife Biologist for information.

**Payments:** Payments vary by the habitat quality, number of acres enrolled and length of contract period.

**Contact:** KDWP Regional Office or District Wildlife Biologist, see page 31



### **Who is eligible?**

Almost anyone who owns or leases land can qualify. Most land is already enrolled in CRP, but native rangeland, weedy wheat stubble, milo stubble, and riparian and wetland areas may qualify.

### **Learn more:**

Program Website  
<https://ksoutdoors.com/Services/Private-Landowner-Assistance/Wildlife-Biologists/Walk-in-Hunting-Access-Program>



## ***Voluntary Public Access Program***

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**Agency:** Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks (KDWP)

**Overview:** Focuses on enrolling landowners who have CRP, WRE and other quality land into long-term public hunting access agreements.

**Benefits and Potential BMPs:** Public hunting access and increased incentives for habitat improvements.

**How to Apply:** Contact KDWP Regional Office or District Biologist.

**Payments:** Access payment ranging from \$2-15/acre/year for the duration of the CRP contract with payments made up front.

**Contact:** KDWP Regional Office or District Wildlife Biologist, see page 31



### **Who is eligible?**

Landowners who are enrolled in CRP, continuous CRP, ACEO-WRE or own land with high quality wildlife habitat.

### **Learn more:**

Program Website

<https://ksoutdoors.com/Services/Private-Landowner-Assistance/Wildlife-Biologists/Voluntary-Public-Access-VPA-Program>

## ***Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist***

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**Organization:** Pheasants Forever (PF)

**Overview:** Pheasants Forever is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving upland bird habitat across the country. Through a partnership with USDA-NRCS, they have created the Working Lands for Wildlife and Farm Bill Biologist Program to educate and assist landowners with finding the right conservation programs to meet their goals.

**Benefits and Potential BMPs:** Accelerated enrollment in Farm Bill conservation programs, technical assistance related to planning, implementing and monitoring wildlife projects and pollinator enhancement programs. PF Biologists can assist landowners with locating financial resources to meet their goals.

**Application:** Not applicable

**Payments:** Not applicable

**Contact:** Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist, see page 32

**TA**

### **Who is eligible?**

Any farmer, rancher, or landowner interested in upland habitat.

### **Learn more:**

Program Website

<https://www.pheasantsforever.org/Habitat/Why-Habitat.aspx>

Find a biologist

<https://www.pheasantsforever.org/Habitat/findBiologist.aspx>

Contact form if there is no biologist in your area

<https://pheasantsforever.org/Contact-Us.aspx>



## Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

**Agency:** USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)

**Overview:** Voluntary program that pays annual lease payments to landowners/operators to establish new or maintain existing cover on eligible cropland in exchange for retiring environmentally sensitive agricultural land from production. Cost-share assistance is provided to implement conservation plantings such as native and introduced grasses, grass waterways, windbreaks, filter strips and trees.

**Benefits and Potential BMPs:** Practices to mitigate soil erosion while improving water quality, wildlife habitat through land retirement.

**How to Apply:** Apply at your local FSA service center. There are two types of signup periods: (1) General (defined date) and (2) Continuous (any time). The General signup period is announced each year.

**Payments:** Cost share assistance for establishment of vegetation and annual rental payments for contract durations between 10 and 15 years. Several practices include additional incentives.

**Contact:** FSA Office, see page 29

### Interaction with other programs:

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP on page 22): If your land is enrolled in an ACEP Agricultural Easement, it can also be enrolled in CRP. However, if you have acres enrolled in an ACEP Wetland Reserve Easement, then those acres are not eligible for CRP.
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP on page 2): Acres enrolled in CRP are not eligible for CSP unless they are in the last year of a CRP contract. If enrolling expiring CRP acres in CSP during the last year of the contract, CSP payments will begin the following year.



### Who is eligible?

Cropland producer who has owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the end of the enrollment period or to submitting the offer for continuous enrollment, with exceptions.

### Learn more:

Program Website  
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program>

Use [Service Center Locator](#) to find the nearest FSA office.

## ***Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)***

**Agency:** Kansas Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

**Overview:** ACEP provides financial and technical assistance through two types of easements: agricultural land easements that limit nonagricultural uses on productive farm or grasslands and wetland reserve easements that protect and restore wetlands.

**Benefits and Potential BMPs:** Wildlife habitat, water quality, groundwater protection, etc. through easements.

**How to Apply:** Applications can be downloaded or requested from your local NRCS Field Office. They may be submitted year-round, but check the NRCS website for the application cut-off date which is typically posted between December and January each year.

### **Payments:**

- Agricultural Land Easements: Up to 75% for easements in perpetuity
- Wetland Reserve Easements: Up to 75% and 100%; there are two types – in perpetuity and 30 years

**Contact:** NRCS District Conservationists, see page 26



### **Who is eligible?**

Agricultural Land Easements: Owners of cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland and nonindustrial private forest land. Must have an agricultural land easement plan that promotes the long-term viability of the land (formerly Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)).

Wetland Reserve Easements: Owners of farmed wetlands or converted wetland that can be successfully and cost-effectively restored (formerly Wetland Reserve Program).

### **Learn more:**

Program Website

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/acep/>

# Projects, Grants and Special Programs

## ***North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (NCR-SARE) Farmer Rancher Grant***

**Agency:** United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

**Overview:** Competitive grants for farmers and ranchers who want to explore sustainable solutions to protect natural resources, enhance communities, and boost farm profitability.

**Eligible practices:** Broad range of practices. Practices in the past that have been funded include pest/disease management, crop, and livestock production, education/outreach, networking, quality of life issues, marketing, soil quality, energy and more.

**How to Apply:** “Call for proposals” normally occur mid-August; project proposals are reviewed, and grants awarded annually. It is important to get assistance with developing a project proposal – see contacts below.

**Payments:** Grants may be awarded to individuals or groups and can last for up to 23 months. Approximately 50 projects per year have been awarded grants in the North Central SARE region.

**Contact:** Kerri Ebert  
Olathe Horticulture Research and Extension Center  
KSU  
(785) 456-4629  
kebert@ksu.edu

Joan Benjamin  
Farmer Rancher Grant Program Coordinator  
Associate Regional Coordinator  
(573) 681-5545  
BenjaminJ@lincolnu.edu



### **Who is eligible?**

Nearly any producer that has a well-designed project proposal that meets grant guidelines.

### **Learn more:**

2022 Farmer Rancher Webinar

<https://northcentral.sare.org/news.ncrsare-frg-webinar/>

Map of past Farmer Rancher Projects

<https://batchgeo.com/map/cf12b87233044ee74f1f410c10c7c07e>

Webinar on a SARE Farmer Rancher Grant Proposal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jbcy2w3yswY&feature=youtu.be>

## ***Cultivate KC Mini Grants\****

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**Agency:** Cultivate Kansas City in partnership with Health Forward Foundation

**Overview:** Cultivate KC is a local non-profit that supports and actively enhances food production, farms and community in the KC metro area. The purpose of the mini grants is to help existing urban farmers expand their capacity to produce food for KC metro area residents.

**Eligible practices:** Expansion costs, structures needed for expansion and projects that will increase services.

**How to Apply:** Applications are accepted once per year and can be found on the website. Application forms can be downloaded from website and sent to Brien Darby, Executive Director.

- Suggested that producers meet/talk with Brien Darby, Executive Director, prior to applying
- Preference will be given to growers who serve low-income communities

**Payments:** Grant sizes are typically between \$500 and \$3,000

**Contact:** Brien Darby  
Executive Director  
(816) 824-2176



### **Who is eligible?**

Urban farmers in the KC Metro that sell food within the region, OR non-profits with 501(c)3 OR farms with 501(c)3 sponsorship.

In Kansas, grants are only available to farmers based in Johnson or Wyandotte County.

### **Learn more:**

Program Website  
<https://www.cultivatekc.org/farmers/grants/>

## ***Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)\****

**Agency:** NRCS and various partners

**Overview:** RCPP is a collaborative effort between NRCS and public and private partner organizations to address resource concerns at the farm, watershed, and regional level. Funding is provided for targeted areas and is typically available for 5-year periods. Projects are selected based on proposals from partnering organizations and partnership agreements.

Currently there is one active RCPP project that has target areas in the KS RAC planning area: Improving Water Quality Through the Implementation of Forestry Practices and the Assessment of Riparian Systems in Kansas' Priority Watersheds (Lead Partner: Kansas State University – Kansas Forest Service). The primary resource concerns for this RCPP are concentrated erosion, bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels, and degraded plant condition, plant productivity and health in riparian areas.

**Eligible BMPs for this RCPP:** Implementation of forestry BMPs (Brush management, cover crops, fencing, timber stand improvement, stream crossing, tree establishment and more).

**How to Apply:** Apply at local NRCS offices in the targeted area. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis.

**Payments:** Cost-share depends on the conservation practice and availability of funds.

**Contact:** NRCS District Conservationists in the targeted area, see page 26

**Related Program:** Riparian Quality Enhancement Initiative (RQEI on page 14)



### **Who is eligible?**

Agricultural producer who owns land within a RCPP geographic target area and areas where implementation of a conservation practice would help achieve the RCPP's goals.

### **Learn more:**

Program Website

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ks/programs/farmbill/rcpp/>



# Agency Organization Contacts

## NRCS District Conservationists



### State Office Address:

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
760 South Broadway Boulevard  
Salina KS 67401-4604  
(785) 823-4500

### [Service Center Locator](#)

County	Phone Number
Atchison	(913) 833-5460
Brown	(785) 742-3161
Clay	(785) 632-3550
Cloud	(785) 243-1509
Douglas	(785) 843-4260
Geary	(785) 776-7582 x303
Jackson	(785) 364-3329
Jefferson	(785) 863-2221
Johnson	(913) 294-3751
Leavenworth	(785) 863-2221
Marshall	(785) 562-5343
Morris	(620) 767-5111
Nemaha	(785) 336-2164
Osage	(785) 828-4631
Pottawatomie	(785) 457-3661
Republic	(785) 527-5573
Riley	(785) 776-7582 x303
Shawnee	(785) 266-9053
Wabaunsee	(785) 765-3329
Washington	(785) 325-2253
Wyandotte	(913) 294-3751

## K-State Extension Agents



### Main Office

Kansas State University  
123 Umberger Hall  
Manhattan, KS 66506  
(785) 532-5820

### Area Offices

Northeast Area Office (Manhattan)  
(785) 532-5833

Northwest Area Office (Colby)  
(785) 462-6281

Southeast Area Office (Parsons)  
(620) 421-4826

Southwest Area Office (Garden City)  
(620) 275-9164

County	Phone Number	County Website
<b>Atchison</b>	(913) 833-5450	<a href="https://www.atchison.k-state.edu/">https://www.atchison.k-state.edu/</a>
<b>Brown</b>	(785) 742-7871	<a href="https://www.brown.k-state.edu/">https://www.brown.k-state.edu/</a>
<b>Clay</b>	(785) 632-5335	<a href="https://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/">https://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/</a>
<b>Cloud</b>	(785) 243-8185	<a href="https://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/">https://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/</a>
<b>Douglas</b>	(785) 843-7058	<a href="https://www.douglas.k-state.edu/">https://www.douglas.k-state.edu/</a>
<b>Geary</b>	(785) 238-4161	<a href="https://www.geary.k-state.edu/">https://www.geary.k-state.edu/</a>
<b>Jackson</b>	(785) 364-4125	<a href="https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/">https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/</a>
<b>Jefferson</b>	(785) 863-2212	<a href="https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/">https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/</a>
<b>Johnson</b>	(913) 715-7000	<a href="https://www.johnson.k-state.edu/">https://www.johnson.k-state.edu/</a>
<b>Leavenworth</b>	(913) 364-5700	<a href="https://www.leavenworth.k-state.edu/">https://www.leavenworth.k-state.edu/</a>
<b>Marshall</b>	(785) 562-3531	<a href="https://www.marshall.k-state.edu/">https://www.marshall.k-state.edu/</a>
<b>Morris</b>	(620) 767-5136	<a href="https://www.flinthills.k-state.edu/">https://www.flinthills.k-state.edu/</a>
<b>Nemaha</b>	(785) 336-2184	<a href="https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/">https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/</a>
<b>Osage</b>	(785) 828-4438	<a href="https://www.frontierdistrict.k-state.edu/">https://www.frontierdistrict.k-state.edu/</a>
<b>Pottawatomie</b>	(785) 457-3319	<a href="https://www.pottawatomie.k-state.edu/">https://www.pottawatomie.k-state.edu/</a>
<b>Republic</b>	(785) 527-5084	<a href="https://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/">https://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/</a>
<b>Riley</b>	(785) 537-6350	<a href="https://www.riley.k-state.edu/">https://www.riley.k-state.edu/</a>
<b>Shawnee</b>	(785) 232-0062	<a href="https://www.shawnee.k-state.edu/">https://www.shawnee.k-state.edu/</a>
<b>Wabaunsee</b>	(785) 765-3821	<a href="https://www.wabaunsee.k-state.edu/">https://www.wabaunsee.k-state.edu/</a>
<b>Washington</b>	(785) 325-2121	<a href="https://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/">https://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/</a>
<b>Wyandotte</b>	(913) 299-9300	<a href="https://www.wyandotte.k-state.edu/">https://www.wyandotte.k-state.edu/</a>

## County Conservation District Managers



### State Office

Division of Conservation  
Kansas Department of Agriculture  
1320 Research Park Drive  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502  
(785) 564-6620

County	County Conservation District Manager Phone Number	County Website
Atchison	(913) 833-5460	
Brown	(785) 742-3161	
Clay	(785) 632-3550	
Cloud	(785) 243-1509	<a href="http://www.cdcoconservation.com/">http://www.cdcoconservation.com/</a>
Douglas	(785) 843-4260	<a href="http://www.douglasccd.com/">http://www.douglasccd.com/</a>
Geary	(785) 238-4251	
Jackson	(785) 364-3329	
Jefferson	(785) 863-2221	
Johnson	(913) 715-7022	
Leavenworth	(785) 863-2221	
Marshall	(785) 562-5343	
Morris	(620) 767-5111	<a href="http://www.morriscountyconservationdistrict.com/">http://www.morriscountyconservationdistrict.com/</a>
Nemaha	(785) 336-2164	
Osage	(785) 828-4631	
Pottawatomie	(785) 457-3661	
Republic	(785) 527-5573	
Riley	(785) 537-8764	<a href="https://www.rileycountyks.gov/1014/Conservation-District">https://www.rileycountyks.gov/1014/Conservation-District</a>
Shawnee	(785) 266-9053	<a href="http://www.sccdistrct.com/">http://www.sccdistrct.com/</a>
Wabaunsee	(785) 765-3329	
Washington	(785) 325-2253	
Wyandotte	(913) 334-6329	

## FSA Offices



### State Office

Farm Service Agency  
Kansas Department of Agriculture  
3600 Anderson Avenue  
Manhattan, KS 66503  
(785) 539-3531

### Service Center Locator

County	Phone Number
Atchison	(785) 833-5460
Brown	(785) 742-3161
Clay	(785) 632-3550
Cloud	(785) 243-4438
Douglas	(785) 843-4260
Geary	(785) 776-7582
Jackson	(785) 364-3329
Jefferson	(785) 863-2221
Johnson	(913) 294-3751
Leavenworth	(785) 863-2221
Marshall	(785) 562-5343
Morris	(620) 767-5111
Nemaha	(785) 336-2164
Osage	(785) 828-4631
Pottawatomie	(785) 457-3661
Republic	(785) 527-5573
Riley	(785) 776-7582
Shawnee	(785) 266-9053
Wabaunsee	(785) 765-3329
Washington	(785) 325-2253
Wyandotte	(785) 863-2221

## ***KFS District Foresters***



### Main Office

Kansas Forest Service  
2610 Claflin Road  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
(785) 532-3300

County	District #	Phone Number
<b>Atchison</b>	6	(785) 410-0399
<b>Brown</b>	6	(785) 410-0399
<b>Clay</b>	3	(785) 560-3967
<b>Cloud</b>	3	(785) 560-3967
<b>Douglas</b>	6	(785) 410-0399
<b>Geary</b>	3	(785) 560-3967
<b>Jackson</b>	6	(785) 410-0399
<b>Jefferson</b>	6	(785) 410-0399
<b>Johnson</b>	6	(785) 410-0399
<b>Leavenworth</b>	6	(785) 410-0399
<b>Marshall</b>	3	(785) 560-3967
<b>Morris</b>	3	(785) 560-3967
<b>Nemaha</b>	3	(785) 560-3967
<b>Osage</b>	5	(785) 473-6037
<b>Pottawatomie</b>	3	(785) 560-3967
<b>Republic</b>	3	(785) 560-3967
<b>Riley</b>	3	(785) 560-3967
<b>Shawnee</b>	6	(785) 410-0399
<b>Wabaunsee</b>	3	(785) 560-3967
<b>Washington</b>	3	(785) 560-3967
<b>Wyandotte</b>	6	(785) 410-0399

## ***KDWP District Wildlife and Fisheries Biologists***



### Pratt Operations Office

512 SE 25th Avenue  
Pratt, KS 67124-8174  
(620) 672-5911

### Regional Offices

Northeast (Region 2)  
(785) 273-6740

South Central (Region 3)  
(316) 683-8069

Southeast (Chanute Office)  
(620) 431-0380

County	KDWP Wildlife Biologist Phone Number	KDWP Fisheries Biologist Phone Number	KDWP Region
<b>Atchison</b>	(785) 945-6615	(785) 246-4514	NE
<b>Brown</b>	(785) 945-6615	(785) 246-4514	NE
<b>Clay</b>	(785) 259-2474	(785) 461-5402	NE
<b>Cloud</b>	(785) 545-3345	(785) 545-3345	SE
<b>Douglas</b>	(785) 273-6740	(785) 887-6882	NE
<b>Geary</b>	(785) 259-2474	(785) 461-5402	NE
<b>Jackson</b>	(785) 945-6615	(785) 246-4514	NE
<b>Jefferson</b>	(785) 945-6615	(785) 246-4514	NE
<b>Johnson</b>	(913) 422-1314	(913) 422-1314	NE
<b>Leavenworth</b>	(913) 422-1314	(913) 246-4514	NE
<b>Marshall</b>	(785) 560-3962	(785) 539-7941	NE
<b>Morris</b>	(316) 772-2706	(316) 461-5402	S Central
<b>Nemaha</b>	(785) 560-3962	(785) 539-7941	NE
<b>Osage</b>	(785) 273-6740	(785) 887-6882	NE
<b>Pottawatomie</b>	(785) 560-3962	(785) 539-7941	NE
<b>Republic</b>	(785) 545-3345	(785) 545-3345	SE
<b>Riley</b>	(785) 560-3962	(785) 539-7941	NE
<b>Shawnee</b>	(785) 273-6740	(785) 887-6882	NE
<b>Wabaunsee</b>	(785) 273-6740	(785) 539-7941	NE
<b>Washington</b>	(785) 259-2474	(785) 539-7941	NE
<b>Wyandotte</b>	(913) 422-1314	(913) 422-1314	NE



## ***Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologists***



The bolded counties in the table below are within the KS RAC planning area. Not all counties in the KS RAC planning area have a designated biologist. If you do not see your county listed, contact the biologist that covers the county nearest you.

Counties	Farm Bill Biologist	Phone Number
Rush, Pawnee, Edwards, Kiowa, Pratt, Stafford, Barton	Vacant	(620) 617-9187
Butler, Cowley, Greenwood, Elk, Chautauqua, Woodson, Wilson	Brandi McCoy	(785) 285-2356
<b>Nemaha, Brown, Jackson</b>	Amanda Lang	(785) 259-2474
Comanche, Barber, Harper, Sumner, Sedgwick, Harvey, Reno, Kingman	Jack Kingsley	(316) 217-5049
Stanton, Grant, Haskell, Gray, Ford, Morton, Stevens, Seward, Meade, Clark	Vacant	(316) 210-8517
Norton, Phillips, Smith, Graham, Rooks, Osborne, Trego, Ellis, Russell	Camdon Sweet	(620) 931-8073
Lincoln, Ottawa, <b>Clay</b> , Ellsworth, Saline, Dickinson, Rice, McPherson, Marion	Brent Haverkamp	(785) 825-8269
<b>Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan, Wallace, Logan, Gove</b>	Emily Martin	(785) 462-7671