

Douglas County Conservation District



Healthy Soil • Clean Water
Bright Future

If you have an event or webinar that you would like included in our newsletter please email the information to:

heather.mcpeek@ks.nacdnet.net

January 4-8, 2021 Webinar - Kansas Meat Marketing Basics: Putting You a Cut Above The webinars will be held daily from 12:00 to 1:00 PM, January 4 through January 8, 2021. This series will not be recorded, so please plan to join us live all five days of this outreach event.

January 6, 2021 Webinar - Clearing the Confusion: Meat Marketing Consumer Basics 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
<https://www.agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/agricultural-marketing-advocacy-and-outreach-team/business-development>

February 18th Douglas County Conservation District Virtual Annual Meeting 11:30 on Zoom check our website for updates <http://www.douglascdd.com/>

February 18-19, 2021 USDA's 97th Agricultural Outlook Forum! **Building on Innovation: A Pathway to Resilience** Register for this free virtual event <https://>

March 15, 2021 Kansas Junior Meat Goat Producer Week—This educational event will span a week of sessions during which youth, parents, meat goat project leaders, and adults can increase their knowledge of meat goat production and [management practices](https://events.k-state.edu/event/kansas-junior-meat-goat-producer-week#.X-El_dhKjIU). https://events.k-state.edu/event/kansas-junior-meat-goat-producer-week#.X-El_dhKjIU

www.usda.gov/oce/ag-outlook-forum

Newsletter Quarter 1

VOL. 35 ISSUE 1

Protecting the Natural Resources of Douglas County Since 1945

Our Mission: To provide leadership and assistance in promoting individual responsibility for the conservation of Douglas County natural resources



Douglas County Conservation District Annual Meeting

February 18th 11:30

Due to COVID-19 our annual meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

Please watch our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/douglascdd/> for updates.

If you would like a ballot to vote for the Board of Supervisors please contact our office at (785) 842-4260 ext 3



Please Join Us

Douglas County Conservation District

76th Annual Meeting

Thursday, February 18th, 2020, 11:30 a.m.
VIRTUAL on ZOOM check our website for details
www.douglasccd.com

The Douglas County Conservation District's annual meeting will look a little different this year. Due to COVID, and to ensure we are staying within county guidelines; our annual meeting will be virtual via Zoom. We also plan on live streaming the meeting to our Facebook page.

Please check our **Facebook page** https://www.facebook.com/douglasccd/?ref=br_rs
or **website** www.douglasccd.com for updates as the meeting time gets closer.

Up for Board Supervisor election this year are **David Brown** and **Jordan Olsen** – both have consented to run for re-election as Board Supervisors. Anyone wishing to nominate another candidate should contact the District office via email at douglasccd1@gmail.com and request a nomination form.

Voting for Board Supervisors will take place prior to the meeting.
Voters may request an official ballot by contacting the District at douglasccd1@gmail.com.
Only one ballot may be requested per person and all ballots must be completed in full and returned by **February 17, 2020** to allow time for counting.

AGENDA

- Report of district activities and financial affairs for the prior year.
- Election of board Supervisor(s) to serve for a term of three years.

Contact our office at 785-843-4260 ext. 3
or e-mail douglasccd1@gmail.com should you have any questions.

TOP 20 WINS (AND FIGHTS!) FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN 2020

From National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC)

The end of the year is just around the corner – and what a year it has been! In these times of pain, uncertainty, reflection, and action, two things are certain: (1) our country and our world as we know it will never quite be the same, and (2) the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) will not stop advocating for our nation’s small-scale, diversified, beginning, underserved, conservation-minded and local/regional farmers – even through a global pandemic.

As we get ready to ring in a new year (and welcome in a new Congress as well as a new Administration with it), it is time to reflect on what policy wins and fights the sustainable agriculture movement has borne witness to throughout this trying year.

Without further ado, here is NSAC’s list of Top 20 Wins (and Fights!) of 2020:

WINS

COVID-19 Response and Appropriations

Numerous COVID-19 Farmer Relief Bills Introduced –

NSAC worked with champions in the House and Senate to introduce over a dozen [COVID-19 relief bills](#) to support small-scale producers impacted by the pandemic. Bills like the [Local Farmer Act](#) (H.R. 896) and [the Food Supply Protection Act](#) (S. 3840) would both provide meaningful support to impacted farmers, ranchers, and critical local and regional food systems businesses, while the [Strengthening Local Processing Act](#) (H.R. 8431 and S. 5066) would address the [failure of the concentrated meat supply chain](#) exposed by the pandemic.

Direct COVID-19 Relief Secured for Small-Scale, Sustainable Farmers – NSAC mobilized to improve the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) when funding proved inadequate for farmers who market locally, regionally, or direct-to-consumer and for farmers of color hit hard by the pandemic. [CFAP 2.0 was better](#), available to more farmers and covered more products. The explicit inclusion of local food in the [CARES Act](#), championed by NSAC and [our members’ grassroots mobilization](#), made these improvements possible. Additionally, Congress is on the verge of passing another [historic round of COVID-19 assistance](#) which includes

additional funds for local food, beginning and underserved farmers.

3. Direct Outreach Efforts for COVID-19 Aid Access – With relief funding secured, NSAC partnered with several member organizations to provide direct support to farmers on the ground who could benefit from CFAP aid. These outreach efforts centered farmers that may otherwise not receive support in the application process, including beginning farmers and farmers of color, due to lack of experience accessing USDA programming or the legacy of discrimination at the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Farmer Fly-In, Pandemic-Style – NSAC held our [first virtual fly-in](#) this spring, where farmers held conference calls with Senators and Representatives from their home states to discuss the benefits of federal sustainable agriculture programs and how Congress could support farmers and local food systems during COVID-19. We are hopeful that this represents a shift in how constituents may continue to engage with their representatives in the future, as taking time off the farm to fly to our nation’s capital is not accessible for most farmers.

Appropriations Process Yield Wins – Following months of waiting, the final Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 appropriations bill includes a number of big wins for the sustainable agriculture community! Thanks in large part to NSAC’s advocacy, the [Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education \(SARE\)](#) Program will receive \$40 million – the highest funding level ever for the program. The bill also provides increased funding for farmers markets and the Office of Urban Agriculture, among other investments.

Conservation, Climate Change, and Organics



Photo credit: CFA

Farmers Commit to Be Part of the Climate Solution – NSAC delivered its [Farmer Climate Letter](#) to Rep. Castor (D-FL) and Rep. Brownley (D-CA) of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. The letter was signed by over 2,100 farmers and ranchers across the country expressing their commitment to being part of the climate solution and calling on Congress to provide the tools and resources they need to be active partners in our climate mitigation efforts.

Groundbreaking Agriculture Resilience Act Introduced – The Agriculture Resilience Act (ARA, H.R. 5861) is the most comprehensive piece of legislation on [climate change and agriculture](#), setting an aggressive but achievable plan for agriculture to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. NSAC helped to craft this bill and outlined many of the provisions in ARA in an in-depth [blog series](#). Additionally, the vast majority of the bill's provisions were included in the [Congressional Action Plan on Solving the Climate Crisis](#) published by the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis this summer.

Congress Listens to Climate Stewards – NSAC's comments, recommendations, and [publications](#) on the climate crisis have been incorporated into major reports published by the Climate Crisis Committees in both the [House](#) and the [Senate](#) this year. NSAC submitted comments to the [House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis](#), the [Senate Democrats' Special Committee on the Climate Crisis](#), and to USDA on its Agricultural Innovation Agenda ([Round 1](#), [Round 2](#)), outlining the steps Congress and USDA can and must take to equip farmers and ranchers to mobilize around and cope with the climate crisis.

Stewards of Conservation Abound – NSAC published the [Farmers' Guide to the Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#), the country's largest private lands conservation program. The guide provides farmers and ranchers looking to enroll or renew contracts in CSP with helpful, comprehensive, and accurate information about the program. We promoted CSP signup dates in numerous states, too, and saw growing interest in the program as a result.

Organics Get a Boost – Results of the [NASS 2019 Organic Production Survey](#), which NSAC helped secure funding for, indicate a 31 percent increase in organic sales since 2016 – showing that demand for organics continues to defy expectations as consumers recognize its many benefits. Federal programs must expand to help farmers keep up with this growing demand, to which end we also celebrated NRCS defining organic assistance as part of the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\) Final Rule](#).

Farming Opportunities and Racial Equity

Racial Equity Centered in Presidential Transition Recommendations – NSAC published [over two hundred actionable policy recommendations for the Biden-Harris Administration](#) to act on as soon as they are sworn into office. At the core of the plan is a call for a dedicated agenda to address inequities in agriculture and support the rights of Black, Brown and Indigenous farmers in the pursuit of climate crisis mitigation, regional food supply chain infrastructure, antitrust enforcement, and public research investments.

Black Farm Cooperatives Celebrated – NSAC [co-facilitated a virtual panel](#) alongside the [Cooperative Food Empowerment Directive \(CoFED\)](#) to celebrate the accomplishments, history, and challenges of Black farm cooperatives in the United States. Together, participants and experts shared tools, resources, and examples of how to build sustainable economies through cooperative farming.

Allocation of USDA Programs Tracked and Measured – NSAC analyzed the implementation of numerous USDA programs utilizing an equity lens according to race, region, and organization-type. These included reports on [CSP enrollment](#), the [2501 Program](#), the [Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program](#), the [Food Safety Outreach Program](#), and the [Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program](#).

Beginning Farmer Coordinators Deployed Across Country – USDA announced a new team of [State Beginning Farmer Coordinators](#) to ensure there is a dedicated advocate for beginning farmers in every part of the country, as mandated in the 2018 Farm Bill and long [championed by NSAC](#). This will help first generation farmers, young farmers, urban producers, immigrant and refugee farmers, and farmers of color to tap USDA resources to build successful and sustainable farming operations.

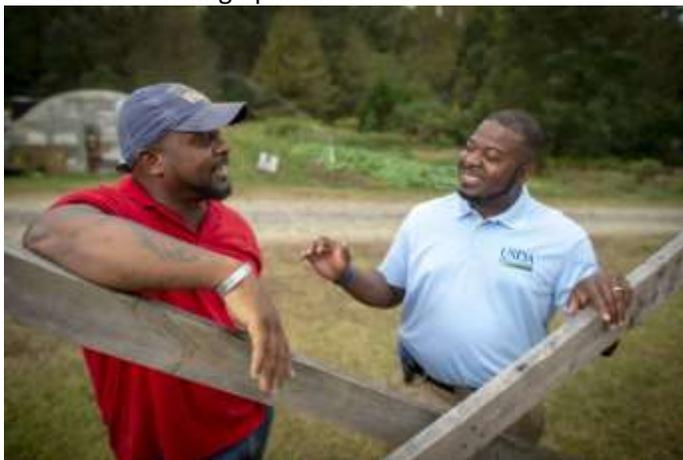


Photo credit: Preston Keres

Access to Crop Insurance Expanded for Local Food – For the 2021 crop insurance year, [Whole Farm Revenue Protection](#) (WFRP) will now be available [for producers who sell to direct markets](#). The update is intended to reduce the paperwork for direct market producers, and will prove a helpful tool that increases access to WFRP for the small-scale and diversified farmers the program was designed to serve.

Inaugural Urban Agriculture and Community Compost Funding Opportunities – USDA [finally stood up the Office of Urban Agriculture](#) this year, with programs to support urban agriculture and innovative production activities as well as compost and food waste reduction projects. The office was created in the 2018 Farm Bill with support from NSAC, but it was not fully implemented because no money was allocated by Congress. NSAC, however, along with many urban agriculture advocates, secured funding in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 agriculture appropriations bills – allowing its creation to move forward!

FIGHTS

Farmers and Ranchers Suffer from Undue Preference Final Rule – USDA [published a final rule](#) on the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 to create criteria for determining



Photo credit: USDA

whether meat packers give undue or unreasonable preference or advantage to one producer over another, as mandated by the 2018 Farm Bill. The published criteria provide a blanket defense for anticompetitive practices by corporate integrators in the poultry, hog, and beef markets at the expense of small-scale or contracted producers, in direct contrast to the [Farmer Fair Practice Rules celebrated by NSAC](#) at the end of the Obama Administration ([promptly withdrawn](#) by the Trump Administration). NSAC calls on the Biden-Harris Administration to revoke this final rule, which fails to protect growers and respect the intent of

Congress.

Reversal on Payment Limits Sold Out Farmers – The Trump Administration issued a landmark final rule on payment limitations and eligibility this summer to limit tax-funded subsidy recipients to family members who are *actively* engaged in farming (not just on paper) as mandated by Congress – then [abruptly reversed course](#). NSAC urges the incoming Biden-Harris Administration to revisit this rule, which will perpetuate farm consolidation at the expense of young and beginning farmers and farmers of color.

CSP Final Rule Misses the Point, Fails Farmers and the Environment – The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) final rule, published in October, directly contradicts decisions made by Congress by [putting conservation-focused small farmers and ranchers at a disadvantage](#). NSAC blasted the Trump Administration's blatant disregard for statute and urged the incoming Biden-Harris Administration to revisit this rule and bring it in-line with the intent of Congress.

Funding For 2501 Program Cut and Diverted –

The [Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program](#) (or 2501 Program) saw its funding shrunk as [the Trump Administration diverted funds](#) to a separate, administratively created initiative. This means that fewer BIPOC-serving organizations will receive less funding for critical technical assistance at a time when farmers of color are disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. NSAC worked with partners and congressional champions to [provide critical oversight on the Trump Administration](#), demanding transparency and accountability. We will work with the incoming Biden-Harris Administration to ensure the impacts of this misuse of funds are rectified.

This year has been difficult, but we have pulled through it together. It is time to channel the hard lessons that we learned this year and apply them to our shared fights ahead... but first, just for a moment, celebrate! We could not have achieved all of the important wins listed above without the continuous support and hard work of our members, allies, champions, and supporters – without *you*. Thank you and happy new year!

Source: National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) <https://sustainableagriculture.net/>

The Four Things You Need to Know About Soil pH

[Lee Reich](#) for Fine Gardening Magazine explains what pH is, what it does, how to adjust it, and why to monitor it

Don't be too quick to blame horrendous-sounding afflictions like "verticillium" and "fusarium" or any other diseases for the sickly yellowing of your pin oak's or geranium's leaves. The problem may be that your soil's pH is out of whack. Every plant has its preferred range of soil acidity, and when the pH level is out of that range, a host of ills may follow. A basic understanding of pH will not only help keep your garden healthy but also assist you if things go bad. Here is what you need to know to make smart decisions about managing your soil's pH.

1. What is pH?

The acidity or alkalinity of a substance is measured in pH units, a scale running from 0 to 14. A pH of 7 is neutral. As numbers decrease from 7, the acidity gets higher. As numbers increase from 7 so does the alkalinity. Soils generally range from an extremely acidic pH of 3 to a very alkaline pH of 10. This range is a result of many factors, including a soil's parent material and the amount of yearly rainfall an area receives. Most cultivated plants enjoy slightly acidic conditions with a pH of about 6.5. Pin oak, gardenia, blueberry, azalea, and rhododendron are among the plants that demand a very acidic pH of 4.5 to 5.5.

2. What does pH do? Soil pH has indirect yet far-reaching effects on plants. Plant nutrients become available or unavailable according to the soil's pH level (chart, right). Yellowing between the veins of young leaves indicates an iron deficiency, a condition arising not from a lack of iron in the soil but from insufficient soil acidity to put iron into a form that a plant can absorb. Most plants thrive in slightly acidic soil because that pH affords them good access to all nutrients.

The darker side of soil pH is plant poisoning. Too low a pH level can render the plant nutrient manganese available at toxic levels; geraniums are particularly sensitive to this, showing their discomfort with yellowed, brown-flecked, or dead leaves. A pH level that is too low also liberates aluminum—not a plant nutrient—in amounts that can stunt root growth and interfere with a plant's uptake of nutrients. At a high pH level, the plant nutrient molybdenum becomes available in toxic amounts.

Soil pH also influences soil-dwelling organisms, whose well-being, in turn, affects soil conditions and plant health. The slightly acidic conditions enjoyed by most plants are also what earthworms like, as do microorganisms that convert nitrogen into forms that plants can use.

3. How do you adjust your pH?

Before attempting to change your soil's pH, you must know its current level. This will determine how much you need to raise or lower it, if at all. A simple soil test can be done at home or by a soil-testing laboratory. You must also know your soil's texture, be it clay, sand, or something in between. More material is needed to change the pH level of a clay soil than for a sandy soil because the charged surfaces of clays make them more resistant to pH changes than the uncharged surfaces of sand particles.

Generally, limestone is used to raise a pH level, and sulfur is used to lower it. Limestone is relatively pure calcium carbonate, but dolomitic limestone is a mix of calcium carbonate and magnesium. Pound for pound, dolomitic limestone neutralizes more acidity than pure limestone and adds magnesium to the soil, perfect for those who garden in the East or the Pacific Northwest where this nutrient is naturally low.

Limestone and sulfur are available in powdered or pelletized form, with the latter being easier to spread uniformly and causing less of a health hazard from dust. Avoid using powdered sulfur sold as a fungicide because it is finer and more expensive than needed for acidifying soil. Neither limestone nor sulfur is soluble in water, so mix these materials thoroughly into the top 6 inches of soil when quick action is needed. Otherwise, just lay the material on top of the ground, and let it gradually work its way down.

4. Why should you monitor your pH? Once the pH level is adjusted for the plants you are growing, do not put it out of your mind. Maintaining the correct pH level for your soil is an ongoing task, especially in the naturally acidic soils of the East and the Northwest, where rainfall leaches out calcium and other alkaline-forming elements. Naturally alkaline soils will keep shifting up the pH scale because of the rock minerals from which they were formed. In some cases, acidifying these soils is unfeasible. Even fertilizers can shift your soil pH over time, with materials such as ammonium sulfate and ammonium nitrate pushing the pH level lower and potassium nitrate or calcium pushing the value higher. Hence, there's a need for regular additions of limestone or sulfur.

Source: Fine Gardening <https://www.finegardening.com/magazine>

When weeds talk

By James J. Hoorman, Hoorman Soil Health Service

A weed is any plant out of place, but what is the real purpose of weeds? Weeds, ecologically, are the first plants to inhabit nutrient deficient or disturbed soils. Most weeds grow in soils that are high in nitrates and are bacteria dominated. By studying the type of weeds that grow on your farm, you can start to figure out what conditions are limiting. The real purpose of weeds (believe it or not) is to improve the soil. Many weeds act as collectors of deficient soil minerals. Mother Nature does not like bare soils, so she finds something to grow (weeds) that improve soil so that other plants can grow.

Each plant is an indicator of the conditions that exist in that field and indicates why some agronomic crops (corn, soybeans, wheat, hay) growth may suffer. Weeds give us a clue to what factors are either limiting or in excess.

For example, the common dandelion seems to thrive in bringing calcium (Ca) back to the soil surface. It has a deep taproot, 3-4 feet deep and when the crop decays, it releases Ca and into the soil for other plants and adds soil organic matter (SOM). Dandelions often grow in soils that may be poorly drained, lacking or low in Ca, and high in potassium (K). As the soil starts to heal, different plants start to dominate. Weeds turn to grasses, turn to shrubs, turn to woodland and then forests and this is called natural succession.

Here are some common weeds and what they may or may not tell us. Foxtail species predominate in fields that are worked a little too wet in the spring. Phosphorus (P) and Ca may be low but may be higher in K and some micronutrients. Calcium allows soil to move apart while magnesium tends to bind soils tightly together. These poorly drained soil starts to crust and crack and there is a lack of soil air movement in the soil, creating anaerobic (lack of oxygen) conditions. Foxtail become a problem and with ponding water, fall panicum starts growing. Most farmers would attempt to solve this problem by tilling the soil, but excessive tillage makes matters worse. Foxtail have tiny fibrous roots that are adding SOM and are attempting to aerate the soil naturally. Adding lime, avoid working wet soils, and growing a good cover crop after the main crop may improve foxtail weed issues over time.

Other weeds: Common Ragweed fields tend to be low in Ca and K but high in P and many micronutrients. The soils tend to have better drainage but are low in SOM. Adding lime and K fertilizer may help control this weed. Giant Rag-



pigweed (Palmer Amaranthus)

weed loves highly fertile fields with low SOM, poor drainage, and generally a hard pan. Use a multi-species cover crop to breakup the hard pan to add SOM. For Canada thistle, fields tend to be low in Ca, P, Manganese (Mn), and Copper (Cu) but high in K and iron (Fe) with low SOM, low porosity, poor drainage, and anaerobic (low oxygen) soils. Like foxtail, tillage may not help especially when soils are wet in the spring. Adding the nutrients that are missing and increasing SOM with manure or cover crops may help.

Hard to control weeds like pigweed (Palmer Amaranthus), water hemp, and marestail also thrive in low Ca and P fields with high K and low humus. Palmer does better on highly porous soils with high sulfur (S), iron (Fe), and copper (Cu) and lower moisture (sandier soils) while water hemp loves poorly drained (high clay) soils. While Palmer has many seeds (250-500K) per plant, the seeds have a low survival rate. Marestail like high Mn but does well on compacted soils with anaerobic (low oxygen) field conditions. Palmer and marestail like bare disturbed soils without competition, so planting a cereal rye crop early with radish can generally help reduce the population of these weeds.

Many of my statements are based on general observations and individual field situations may vary greatly. Cereal rye, radish, and sorghum or Sudan or multi-species cover crops can out compete many weeds and have an allelopathic (natural herbicide) effect on most weeds. Keeping soils healthy generally results in better soil nutrient status, less weeds over time, and healthier crops. Source: [When Weeds Talk](#) by Jay L. McCaman

For more information and regular updates, visit www.Hoormansoilsealth.com

Local Food Pantries Navigate Pandemic

Douglas County K-State Research and Extension



The COVID-19 pandemic has increased food insecurity in Douglas County, making the need for food pantries more crucial

than ever. Food pantries have continued their efforts throughout the pandemic, gone above and beyond in providing healthy food, and have connected for the first county-wide food pantry meeting.

Throughout the pandemic, local pantries distributed food and ensured clients' safety with the implementation of COVID-19 safety procedures, like masks, social distancing, curbside pickup, and delivery. There are 16 food pantries spread throughout Douglas County, making them accessible for everyone. It can be daunting for first time food pantry shoppers to navigate available resources. The Douglas County Food Resources Guide is a comprehensive list of free and low-cost food, updated regularly, and is available in English (<https://tinyurl.com/ygsbso5h>) and Spanish (<https://tinyurl.com/ycmfty3e>). Several pantries are **Fuel Good** Pantry partners.

Fuel Good is a LiveWell Douglas County initiative implemented by K-State Research and Extension - Douglas County (KSRE Douglas County) SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educators. Pantry partners receive support to promote healthy eating by implementing programs, such as meal kits, food promotions, and nutrition education. Fuel Good Pantry partners are required to complete a "Pantry Checklist," which assesses the nutritional value of pantry food and ensures at least 70% of the food is nutritious. Currently, there are 9 Fuel Good Pantry partners in Douglas County (see full list below). Recently, KSRE Douglas County SNAP-Ed has promoted Fuel Good and connected local pantries. to connect, learn about community resources, and sparked conversations on how to better serve the community. The county-wide food pantry meeting proved to be a success and will continue to meet quarterly.

October 19th, 2020, KSRE Douglas County hosted the first county-wide food pantry meeting. The goal of this meeting

was to strengthen the Fuel Good initiative and foster relationships between pantries. Forty-two were in attendance, representing a mixture of community organizations and pantries. This meeting allowed representatives to connect, learn about community resources, and sparked conversations on how to better serve the community. The county-wide food pantry meeting proved to be a success and will continue to meet quarterly.

We thank everyone in attendance and give special thanks to the food pantry staff and volunteers who have continued to .

To volunteer with a food pantry, contact your local food pantry or visit Volunteerdouglascounty.org for volunteer opportunities.

To watch a recording of the Douglas County food pantry meeting, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y4lpxj8r>.

For questions regarding the county-wide food pantry meeting or Fuel Good, email Cierra Smallwood, SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator (cierras@ksu.edu) .

Fuel Good Pantries:

Baldwin

Assembly of God-118 5th St

Eudora

St. Paul's United Church of Christ -738 Church St

Lawrence

Ballard Community Ctr Food Pantry—708 Elm St

Catholic Charities—1525 W 6th St

ECKAN—2518 Ridge Ct #104

Just Food—2920 Haskell Ave

Trinity Interfaith Pantry—1027 Vermont St

Lecompton

Lecompton United Methodist Church- 402 Elmore St

New Stull United Methodist Church—1596 E 250 Rd

Source: The Impact of Coronavirus on Food Insecurity, Feeding America 2020

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KDA Offers Direct-to-Consumer Meat Marketing and Consumer Webinars

Now more than ever, consumers are looking to build relationships and buy their food direct from the source. The Kansas Department of Agriculture will host a series of informational webinars in early January 2021 to provide information about direct-to-consumer meat sales. “Adding direct-to-consumer sales can be an option to diversify farm income,” said Secretary of Agriculture Mike Beam. “We are pleased to provide innovative programing and

educational opportunities to help Kansas’ farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses grow and expand market options and continue to serve as economic engines in their communities.”

<https://agriculture.ks.gov/news-events/news-releases/2020/12/09/kda-offers-direct-to-consumer-meat-marketing-and-consumer-webinars>



KANSAS

January 4-8, 12:00—1:00PM

MEAT MARKETING BASICS

Putting You a Cut Above!



CLEARING THE CONFUSION

January 6, 7:00-8:00 PM

Meat Marketing Consumer Basics



FSMA Produce Safety Grower Training- remote delivery



This training provides in-depth information on produce safety. Attend entire eight hours (spread out over 2 days) of training to get an AFDO certificate of training. Cost: \$20/person, generously supported by Kansas and Missouri Departments of Agriculture.

In light of the Covid19 situation, University of Missouri Extension and Kansas State Research and Extension are partnering to offer the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training remotely.

The class will take place on January 21 AND January 28, 2021 from 10AM-4PM each day.

In order to receive a certificate of training, you will have

to attend the entire training on both days and the organizers must be able to see a live video feed of you at least part of the time during the training (you must have a working camera on your device) to ensure that you are engaged throughout the entire training.

If you are a covered farm under the FSMA Produce Safety Rule and need the training, this course will meet that requirement.

For more information visit the [KSRE FSMA Produce Safety Rule Page](#).

You will be required to mail a course evaluation before you will receive your certificate of training.

This training is limited to produce growers in Kansas and Missouri and other regulatory or support personnel and will be limited to 25 participants.

Registration will close on January 15 at 5pm.

If you are a Kansas grower and would like more information please contact Cal Jamerson (913-709-0281 or agri@ksu.edu).

If you are a Missouri grower and would like more information please contact Patrick Byers (417-859-2044 or byerspl@missouri.edu).

GAPS Food Safety Plan Workshop



K-State Research & Extension will provide GAPs certification training and food safety plan development assistance in an upcoming online training online February 24, 2021 @ 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm CST. This training should help your farm successfully complete a USDA GAP audit and will assist you in creating a food safety plan

The workshop will be taught by Cal Jamerson, KSU Produce Safety Extension Associate who has extensive first hand experience getting his family farm USDA GAP Harmonized certified 4 times. He has also helped Kansas farms get GAP/GHP certified. Cal will be providing his food safety plan and logbooks that have been passing USDA GAP

audits. You will be able to customize his plan to your operation, allowing you to create an audit-ready food safety plan.

The session will cover the GAP audit process (costs, who to contact, what to expect), how to create a farm map, keeping practical records from existing templates, and reviewing the core aspects of a food safety plan. You also can **get Cal's input to customizing the templates to your farming operation.** You will have all the information you need to prepare the needed documents for a GAPs audit.

Registration is \$5.00.

Note that the workshop will focus on the GAP/GHP audit, and will also provide information on the Harmonized GAP and the Harmonized GAP Plus+ audit.

Also note that both MU and KSU currently have GAPs cost share funding available through Specialty Crop Block Grants in each state. Learn more on GAPs cost share funding [HERE](#).

The zoom link for accessing the training online will be sent 2 days before the training.

Douglas County Conservation District

4920 Bob Billings Parkway, Suite A

Lawrence, KS 66049

Return Service Requested

DOUGLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Funding provided by the State Conservation Commission through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund. All programs and services of the Conservation District are available to anyone without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

Douglas County Conservation District 785.843.4260, ext. 3

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

Board of Supervisors:

David Brown, Chair
Luke Ulrich, Vice Chair
Lowell Neitzel, Treasurer
John Bradley, Member
Jordan Olsen, Member

District Personnel:

Randy Winchester, District Manager
Heather McPeek, Education &
Outreach
Jeremy Gaines, Soil Technician

Farm Service Agency

785.843.4260, ext. 2
David Sweany, County Executive Director
Debbie Chappelle, Program Tech
Jessica Siedschlag, Program Tech
Lee Ann Robertson, Program Tech

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Tim Miller, Supervisory District Conservationist
Suzy Mooney, NRCS Clerk