

Douglas County Conservation District



Healthy Soil • Clean Water
Bright Future

Newsletter Quarter 3
VOL. 36 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*

If you have an event or webinar that you would like included in our newsletter please email the information to: douglasccd1@gmail.com.

July 10, 2021 - [Tractor Driving... Backwards and Forwards](#). A fun morning of learning and hands on practice. Register by July 2nd. Leavenworth County Fairgrounds; Tonganoxie, KS.

July 27-31, 2021 - [Douglas County Fair](#)

July 7-10, 2021 - [Osage County Fair](#)

July 13-17, 2021 - [Wyandotte County Fair](#)

July 14-17, 2021 - [Franklin County Fair](#)

July 22-25, 2021 - [Shawnee County Fair](#)

July 24-August 1, 2021 - [Miami County Fair](#)

July 27-August 1, 2021 - [Johnson County Fair](#)

July 27-31, 2021 - [Leavenworth County Fair](#)

August 21, 2021 - [Kiss the Ground for Soil Regeneration](#) Event by A Worthy KAWS - Annual Fundraiser, Great Plains Regeneration and KAWS Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams.

August 27, 2021 - [K-State Research and Extension-Douglas County Extension Master Gardener Training Program](#). August 27, 2021 is the deadline for registration and payment. 2021 Training Dates: Thursdays: September 2nd - December 16th

We Are Hiring Education/Outreach Coordinator

The District is seeking a highly motivated, outgoing individual to fill our Education/Outreach Coordinator position. Primarily responsible for planning, coordinating, and facilitating the District's outreach and education objectives as directed by the District Manager and the Board of Supervisors. Responsibilities include providing administrative support for the District and NRCS, marketing the district and its activities, developing and coordinating educational classes and events, writing and procurement of grants, maintaining the district's website and social media presence, and developing newsletters and informational pieces.

This is a part-time, hourly non-exempt position (approximately 24-32 hours/week) Tuesday through Friday with occasional weekend and evening work.

To obtain information on the application process and a complete job description contact Douglas County Conservation District, 4920 Bob Billings Pkwy, Suite A, Lawrence, KS 66049 785-843-4260 x 6497 or email randy.winchester@ks.nacdnet.net.

\$15/hour starting wage plus paid vacation, sick leave, holidays, KPERS retirement, and a health care stipend. EOE.

COMING SOON Rural Voices Event

In collaboration with Douglas County Commission the District will host a face-to-face meeting with your Douglas County Commissioners. This will be your opportunity to discuss and provide input with county commissioners on concerns you may have for rural Douglas county.

Watch your emails and our Facebook page for details on this great opportunity to be a voice for rural Douglas County.

Find Us Online: <http://www.douglasccd.com/> and Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/douglasccd

2017 Douglas County Census of Agriculture

The Census of Agriculture is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Even small plots of land - whether rural or urban - growing fruit, vegetables or some food animals count if \$1,000 or more of such products were raised and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the Census year. The Census of Agriculture, taken only once every five years, looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income, and expenditures. For America's farmers and ranchers, the Census of Agriculture is their voice, their future, and their opportunity.

If you did not receive the 2017 Census of Agriculture questionnaire and should have, or if you are operating a new farm or ranch, please [sign up to be counted](#) in the 2022 Census of Agriculture.

Total and Per Farm Overview, 2017 and change since 2012

	2017	% change since 2012
Number of farms	998	+6
Land in farms (acres)	230,364	+9
Average size of farm (acres)	231	+4
Total	(\$)	
Market value of products sold	65,867,000	+50
Government payments	1,316,000	-44
Farm-related income	2,897,000	-58
Total farm production expenses	51,519,000	+21
Net cash farm income	18,561,000	+74
Per farm average	(\$)	
Market value of products sold	65,999	+42
Government payments (average per farm receiving)	3,400	-35
Farm-related income	7,118	-61
Total farm production expenses	51,622	+15
Net cash farm income	18,599	+64

(Z) Percent of state agriculture sales

Share of Sales by Type (%)

Crops	77
Livestock, poultry, and products	23

Land in Farms by Use (%) ^a

Cropland	69
Pastureland	20
Woodland	5
Other	5

Acres irrigated: 3,520

2% of land in farms

Land Use Practices (% of farms)

No till	16
Reduced till	11
Intensive till	12
Cover crop	6

Farms by Value of Sales

	Number	Percent of Total ^a
Less than \$2,500	381	38
\$2,500 to \$4,999	120	12
\$5,000 to \$9,999	113	11
\$10,000 to \$24,999	144	14
\$25,000 to \$49,999	66	7
\$50,000 to \$99,999	64	6
\$100,000 or more	110	11

Farms by Size

	Number	Percent of Total ^a
1 to 9 acres	70	7
10 to 49 acres	376	38
50 to 179 acres	326	33
180 to 499 acres	126	13
500 to 999 acres	44	4
1,000 + acres	56	6



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus

Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold

	Sales (\$1,000)	Rank in State ^b	Counties Producing Item	Rank in U.S. ^b	Counties Producing Item
Total	65,867	82	105	1,526	3,077
Crops	50,494	61	105	1,078	3,073
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, dry peas	44,444	65	105	815	2,916
Tobacco	-	-	-	-	323
Cotton and cottonseed	-	-	23	-	647
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes	524	9	82	951	2,821
Fruits, tree nuts, berries	566	1	57	622	2,748
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, sod	1,648	11	65	705	2,601
Cultivated Christmas trees, short rotation woody crops	79	2	21	306	1,384
Other crops and hay	3,233	23	105	792	3,040
Livestock, poultry, and products	15,373	98	105	1,841	3,073
Poultry and eggs	93	21	104	1,071	3,007
Cattle and calves	13,250	94	105	1,063	3,055
Milk from cows	1,162	35	64	907	1,892
Hogs and pigs	(D)	59	97	(D)	2,856
Sheep, goats, wool, mohair, milk	104	40	102	1,260	2,984
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, donkeys	305	12	99	707	2,970
Aquaculture	-	-	14	-	1,251
Other animals and animal products	(D)	8	87	(D)	2,878

Total Producers ^c	1,715	Percent of farms that:	Top Crops in Acres ^d
Sex		Have internet access	78
Male	1,035	Farm organically	1
Female	680	Sell directly to consumers	7
Age		Hire farm labor	16
<35	135	Are family farms	97
35 – 64	892		
65 and older	688		
Race			
American Indian/Alaska Native	11		
Asian	8		
Black or African American	-		
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1		
White	1,684		
More than one race	11		
Other characteristics			
Hispanic, Latino, Spanish origin	16		
With military service	202		
New and beginning farmers	443		
			Livestock Inventory (Dec 31, 2017)
			Broilers and other meat-type chickens
			1,018
			Cattle and calves
			20,579
			Goats
			630
			Hogs and pigs
			169
			Horses and ponies
			959
			Layers
			3,160
			Pullets
			291
			Sheep and lambs
			368
			Turkeys
			39

See 2017 Census of Agriculture, U.S. Summary and State Data, for complete footnotes, explanations, definitions, commodity descriptions, and methodology.

^a May not add to 100% due to rounding. ^b Among counties whose rank can be displayed. ^c Data collected for a maximum of four producers per farm.

^d Crop commodity names may be shortened; see full names at www.nass.usda.gov/go/cropnames.pdf. * Position below the line does not indicate rank. (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. (NA) Not available. (Z) Less than half of the unit shown. (-) Represents zero.

USDA Announces Dates for Conservation Reserve Program General and Grasslands Signups

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has set a July 23, 2021, deadline for agricultural producers and landowners to apply for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General signup 56. Additionally, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will accept applications for CRP Grasslands from July 12 to August 20. This year, USDA updated both signup options to provide greater incentives for producers and increase its conservation benefits, including reducing the impacts of climate change.



Both signups are competitive and will provide for annual rental payments for land devoted

to conservation purposes.

“Bottom line, CRP now makes more financial sense for producers while also providing a bigger return on investment in terms of natural resource benefits. The General and Grasslands signups are part of a broader suite of tools available through CRP to integrate key conservation practices on our nation's working lands.”

To enroll in the CRP General signup, producers and landowners should contact their local USDA Service Center by the July 23 deadline.

To enroll in the CRP Grasslands signup, they should contact USDA by the August 20 deadline. While USDA offices may have limited visitors because of the pandemic, Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. To work with FSA, producers and landowners should contact their local USDA Service Center. 785-843-4260 x2

Web Soil Survey

Before you do anything on your land, get a soil test. It is the single most important thing you can do to help guarantee your success. The District provides funding for free soil tests through Douglas County K-State Extension. While you are waiting on the test results, why not learn a little more about your soil.

[Web Soil Survey](#) (WSS) provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It is operated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world. NRCS has soil maps and data available online for more than 95 percent of the nation's counties and anticipates having 100 percent in the near future. The site is updated and maintained



online as the single authoritative source of soil survey information. <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>

Soil surveys can be used for general farm, local, and wider area planning. For more detailed information, contact your local USDA Service Center at the following link: [USDA Service Center](#).

Pollinators Matter. Bee the Solution.

By Jocelyn Benjamin, USDA Public Affairs Specialist

A bee-less future would sting us all. The decline of bees and other pollinator populations threatens our global food security and here's why.

Pollinators contribute to ecosystem health and a sustainable food supply. Honeybees, native bees, birds, bats, butterflies, and other animals are all required for more than 80% of the world's flowering plants to reproduce. This includes food crops.

Who's in a better position to benefit from safeguarding pollinators than agricultural producers, forest landowners and beekeepers?

Caring for pollinators also helps protect our ability to grow food and producers' bottom lines while ensuring the marketability of other agricultural goods throughout the nation.

No single issue can be blamed for the pollinator decline. But here are five tips you can include in your daily land management as part of the solution.

1. **Diversify and beautify your land:** Offer your land as an oasis for pollinators by planting a diverse mix of flowering plants that sustain and enhance pollinators. This way, you can assist the production of healthy fruits and vegetables to improve your bottom line.
2. **Protect nesting sites:** Protect flowering plants and potential pollinator nesting sites, such as areas of undisturbed ground and native vegetation.
3. **Carefully use chemicals:** Pollinators can be sensitive to chemicals. So, try a natural, pollinator-friendly alternative on your land. Or when using pesticides, herbicides, or insecticides, please do so carefully.
4. **Support Bee Better Certified producers:** Become a Bee Better Certified producer or buy produce from farms that support bees. Products that are Bee Better Certified are grown on farms that use pollinator-friendly conservation practices.

5. **Buzz on:** Spread the word about these tips and the conservation programs available to help you and your neighbors implement pollinator-friendly practices on your land.

And before you take that third bite of food a pollinator has gifted you, see how the conservation resources offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) can help you implement those tips on your land. USDA works closely with agricultural producers and forest landowners to help increase pollinator habitat in targeted areas. USDA offers conservation programs that provide financial incentives and technical assistance to farmers and forest landowners through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

NRCS programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) help improve pollinator habitat and their food sources by assisting with planting cover crops, wildflowers, and native plants in buffers and areas not in production.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) also helps producers enhance pollinator habitat on their land through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Producers and forest landowners voluntarily convert highly



erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive land to permanent vegetative cover like perennial grasslands, which are full of native forbs and legumes that are critical to the health of honeybees and wild pollinators.

For more information about pollinators and what you can do to help, please contact your local USDA service center.

Lawrence Urban Ag

Ever wonder what agricultural products you can raise inside Lawrence city limits. Here is a 2-page guide to get your started.

LAWRENCE URBAN AG

What You Need to Know



To learn more, VISIT
lawrenceks.org/urban-ag
 or CALL 785-832-3150

A community food production guide from the Douglas County Food Policy Council

THE CITY OF LAWRENCE has approved a series of policies to support urban agriculture, expanding the ability of residents to produce local, healthy food at home and creating opportunities to pursue commercial production. This sheet provides an introduction to what is allowed, but does not include comprehensive information.

THE CITY OF LAWRENCE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE DEFINES:

- What practices residents can do "by-right"
- What regulations limit those practices based upon zoning, lot size, etc.
- An "Urban Farm" Special Use Permit for activities that EXCEED the allowed practices
- The way urban ag regulations will be enforced

SMALL ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

Small Animal Agriculture includes raising, producing, or keeping of animals to provide food, wool, and other products. It is limited to small animals which are more appropriate in a denser urban setting, such as bees, crickets, worms, rabbits, small goats, small sheep, fowl, and aquatic animals/organisms such as crayfish and fish. Small Animal Ag is allowed as an "accessory use" in all residential zones. In commercial districts, only bees and other small organisms are allowed. Large Animal Agriculture is only allowed in R540. Domesticated animals such as cats and dogs do not fall under this category, but instead are regulated through Article 2 of Chapter 3 of the City Code.

	CHICKENS & DUCKS	SMALL GOATS & SHEEP	BEES
WHAT IS PERMITTED BY-RIGHT?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 1 per 500 sq. ft. of lot area » Up to 20 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Small breeds only (no taller than 24 in. at shoulders) when grown » Minimum of 2 » 2 animals per lot between 10,000 - 20,000 sq. ft. » 4 animals per lot ≥ 20,000 sq. ft. 	<p>HONEY BEES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 2 hives on lots < ¼ acre » 4 hives on lots between ¼ - ½ acre » 6 hives on lots between ½ - 1 acre » 8 hives on lots > 1 acre <p>SOLITARY WILD BEES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » No restrictions on bee hotels
WHERE & HOW SHOULD THEY BE KEPT?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » In a coop or structure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is at least 5 ft. from adjacent property lines • Includes at least 1 laying box for every 3 hens and 1 roost per hen (does not apply to ducks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Covered structure that will protect the animals from predators, with an open-air fenced enclosure » Structure in rear yard that is placed at least 50 ft. from adjacent dwelling and 15 ft. from property lines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Hives must be at least 3 ft. from all property lines; at least 10 ft. from sidewalks; at least 25 ft. from the principal building on adjacent lots » Hives may be kept on rooftops, in side yards, and in backyards
WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » No roosters » No slaughtering » No bad odors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Nursing offspring younger than 12 weeks do not count toward the maximum allowances » Male goats older than 4 weeks must be neutered » Sheep and goats older than 120 days must be vaccinated for rabies and leptospirosis » No slaughtering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » If a hive is within 10 ft. of a property line, a flyway barrier is required unless the hive is at least 10 ft. off the ground » A water source must be made available between March and October » No Africanized honeybees

Regardless of your urban agriculture activities, it is always important to respect your neighbors. Maintain open communication that builds positive relationships.

LAWRENCE URBAN AG: What You Need to Know



CROP AGRICULTURE

Crop Agriculture includes the management and maintenance of an area of land to grow and harvest food crops and/or non-food ornamental crops, such as flowers, for personal or group use, consumption, sale, or donation. Types of Crop Agriculture include, but are not limited to, personal gardens, community gardens, market gardens, rooftop gardens, tree farms, hay meadows, or truck gardens. Standard structures used for Crop Agriculture include hoop houses, cold-frames, greenhouses, equipment or planting sheds, composting and waste bins, and rain barrels.

CROPS <i>(The City of Lawrence Weed-Ordinance now exempts crop agriculture)</i>	
WHAT ARE THE LIMITATIONS? >>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Crops must be more than 1 ft. from sidewalks and may not grow over sidewalks » Crops may not exceed 3 ft. in height within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 ft. of a road • 3 ft. of a sidewalk • The sight distance triangle at intersections (25 ft. along each street)
WHAT ELSE IS ALLOWED? >>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Tools, equipment, and materials used in day-to-day crop ag operations may be stored outdoors » Structures (e.g. garden shed) are allowed without a principal building (e.g. house) » Season extension structures (e.g. cold frames, high tunnels, hoophouses, etc.) must meet building requirements outlined in 20-533 in the City Code



ON-SITE AGRICULTURAL SALES

On-site Agricultural Sales are the sale of unprocessed agricultural products grown or produced on the property, or by the resident at another location in the city. On-site Agricultural Sales are allowed in all residential, commercial, and industrial districts.

WHAT IS PERMITTED? >>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Sale of unprocessed products including plants, produce, eggs, or honey » Sales must occur at least 20 ft. from the road, between 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. » Sales area size is dependent on lot size: Up to 7,000 sq. ft. = 100 sq. ft. sales area; Up to 10,000 sq. ft. = 150 sq. ft. sales area; More than 10,000 sq. ft. = 300 sq. ft. sales area
WHAT ELSE IS ALLOWED? >>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Sales structures or tables must be temporary and removed when sales are not in progress » Signs are permitted during sales: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be at least 20 ft. from the road or attached to a building / displayed in a window • Free-standing signs cannot be more than 3 ft. high and no more than 2 sq. ft. in area

URBAN FARM

The approval of an Urban Farm Special Use Permit is required when onsite activities EXCEED the limits on allowed urban agriculture practices (such as larger sales, more employees, more animals, etc.). End products are typically sold on-site, off-site, or through small scale distribution. An Urban Farm typically includes employees coming to the site and may or may not include a residence.

WHAT IS THE PERMIT PROCESS? >>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Contact the City of Lawrence Planning Department to ask questions and obtain a Special Use Permit application » Submit completed application, review fee, and a site plan (aerial photo can be used) » Planning and City Commission review application at public hearing; City Commission must approve » Urban Farms in operation before May 2016 can register with the Planning Department for an automatic Special Use Permit
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TO LEARN MORE OR ASK QUESTIONS: VISIT lawrenceks.org/urban-ag or CALL 785-832-3150

DOC Recruiting for Conservation District Coordinator

The Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation is seeking a dedicated professional with experience in the conservation field to assist the 105 county conservation districts across Kansas in implementing natural resource conservation programs at the local level. This position serves as the lead staff member from the Division of Conservation in providing training and technical expertise to conservation district staff on district operations and program implementation. The incumbent will identify problems and issues concerning conservation districts at the local, regional, and state levels and work with the appropriate staff and partners to resolve problems. KDA does provide partial telework opportunities.

If you or someone you know has interest or questions about the position, please email Andrew.Lyon@ks.gov or call Andy at 785-564-6621. Thanks!

Your District Has a Lot to Offer

In addition to offering free of charge conservation technical assistance, your Douglas County Conservation District provides several other tools to help every one living in Douglas County.

Did you know, the District provides funding for free soil testing to county residents? Just stop by K-State Extension with your soil sample, and they will get things started for you.



Did you know the District provides a no-till drill at nominal costs to county residents? Just \$100 plus \$10 an acre gets you a 6 foot no-till drill to help plant just about any type of seed you have; crop seed, cover crop seed, native grasses, cool season grasses, and even tiny forb and flower seeds.

We also have an ATV/RTV drill. The District's Dew Drop drill rents for \$100 the first day, and then \$50

thereafter. A small 3 foot drill can get into just about any place. Whether it is a food plot in the woods, along the top of a pond dam, or even a 10 acre plot, the Dew Drop drill will make you and your ATV a true planting machine.

Did you know the District provides seeds when you are needing something to put in our drills? The



District offers great prices on all types of seeds, from cool season grasses to wildflowers, contact us for quick delivery with fair prices.

Did you know the District offers management tools for residents who have established fields? When you are ready to burn your field, the District has drip torches, fire mats, and back pack sprayers available to loan out for no charge.



Call 785-843-4260 x3 to reserve or order today.

THANK YOU FOR OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS



Advertise Your Business Here

Help Support the Conservation District

**\$200 gets your business card size ad in our
newsletter for 1 entire year.**

Call 785-843-4260 x6497 for more information.

Do you have a business that does conservation work in Douglas County?

If so, please [contact us](#) and get listed on our [contractor list](#), free of charge.

This is often the first place people go to look for someone to do work on their land once approved for EQIP or state cost-share.

douglasccd1@gmail.com

The image shows a flyer for the Douglas County Conservation District. At the top, it says "DOUGLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT" in blue. Below that is a circular logo featuring a tree, a city skyline, and water. Underneath the logo is the slogan "Healthy Soil • Clean Water • Bright Future". The main heading is "Contractor & Vendor Information" in bold. Below this heading are four small photographs: an excavator, a person working in a field, a utility vehicle, and a trailer. At the bottom, the address "4500 Sub Bldg: Hwy, Suite A, Lawrence, KS 66045" is listed, along with the phone number "Phone: 785.843.4260, ext. 3" and the website "Website: www.douglasccd.com".

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
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

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Tim Miller, Supervisory District Conservationist
Suzy Mooney, NRCS Clerk