

Douglas County Conservation District



Healthy Soil • Clean Water
Bright Future

Newsletter Quarter 4/2020
VOL. 34 ISSUE 4

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*

2020 Douglas County Conservation District Annual Meeting

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

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

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

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

October 13, 2020 at 1 PM – 2:30 PM
Rooted and Ready: Exploring how BIPOC Communities are Cultivating Crisis-Proof Food Systems—Hosted by HEAL Food Alliance—Join us to hear from four incredible **organizers who've been rebuilding and reimagining** new food systems that center community health, ecological harmony, equal opportunity for all producers and dignified work for all people.

October 14, 2020 at 2 PM – 3 PM EDT -
National Farmers Union presents Cooperatives 101—But what is a co-op? What makes it unique from other business models? What are some of the ways that co-operatives have been used in the past, and how can they help us build stronger, more resilient and sustainable communities? We will explore these and other questions as we introduce this course. https://www.facebook.com/events/344932263291598/?notif_t=event_calendar_create¬if_id=1601487113825707

Lawrence Farmers Market Holiday Market— updates will be posted on facebook and <https://www.lawrencefarmersmarket.org/>

Fall Open House at Pendleton's Country Market — updates will be posted on facebook and the online store will be open at <https://www.pendletons.com/>

November 4—Backyard Conservation Webinar — FREE Workshop hosted by the North Dakota Soil and Water Conservation Society, Wednesday, November 4th, 2020 1:30-4:00 PM.
<https://forms.gle/3C8qSXckTmcgODpS9>



A Good Fence Makes a Good Neighbor

Mallory Meek

Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent
K-State Research and Extension – Douglas County



If you own any type of livestock, you've probably heard the phrase, "a good fence makes a good neighbor". The last thing any land owner wants, is for the neighbor's animals to repeatedly escape and damage their property and/or crops costing them time and money.

The state of Kansas has Fence laws that guide livestock owners on proper fencing requirements. Kansas is a fence-in state. Fence-in means that livestock owners are required to fence their animals in. If livestock escape through the owner's faulty fence, the owner of the livestock is liable for any resulting damages. However, if the fence is in good shape, the livestock owner is generally not liable absent a showing of negligence. Negligence can include but not limited to open gates, improperly installed and maintained fencing, or knowing the animal was out but not attempting to return them.

There are requirements by law for various types of fencing. For barbed wire fencing, the fence must contain at least three wires following the additional guidelines: "third wire from the ground not less than 44 inches but no more than 48 inches from the ground; bottom wire must be 18 and 24 inches from the ground, all wires must

be well stretched and barbed, barbs must average not more than 9 inches apart, all wires are securely fastened to the post, post must not be more than 48 ft apart..." To see the full barbed wire fencing requirements, see link below.

For legal electric fencing, the fence must have the following according to Kansas Fence Law: "At least one 14-gauge wire not more than 48 inches from the ground that is deemed by the fence viewers to be equivalent to other legal fences".

As many livestock owners know, these minimum legal fences requirements may not be adequate for all types of livestock operations. While the above requirements may be ones for a legal fence, it doesn't hurt to create stronger fencing to keep livestock contained. If you are repeatedly having to get your livestock out of your neighbor's property, this is a sign that your fencing needs to be upgraded.

These requirements are a very small part of the Kansas Fence Law. To view the law in its entirety visit the Washburn Agriculture Law and Tax Report: Kansas Fence Law article: <https://washburnlaw.edu/practicalexperience/agriculturallaw/waltr/articles/docs/2016-004KansasFenceLaw.pdf>



Living in the Country



Agriculture Agriculture is very important to the Kansas economy. By choosing to live in the country, rural homeowners choose to live among farms and farmers in an agricultural setting. Kansas' "right to farm" law protects established agricultural operations against nuisance complaints from non-farming neighbors. The premise behind the "right to farm" law is to protect businesses that produce food and fiber.

Hours of Operation. Farming is a business without regular work hours. Depending on the season and the tasks to be completed, a typical work day may begin before sunup and may not end until well after sundown. During the busiest times of the year, weekends are as busy as weekdays. Routine farming activities may produce noise, odor, heavy equipment traffic, dust, pollen, and bright lights on equipment being operated at night. There will be trucks, tractors, wagons, and slow-moving farm equipment on local roads. In some areas, it is common practice to burn crop residue (especially wheat straw) or rangeland – often in the evening or at night when it is less windy. The smoke can obstruct visibility. Farming activities may interfere with the lifestyle of new country residents and could cause health issues for people who suffer from allergies or asthma.

Livestock. Cattle, sheep, horses, pigs, chickens, and other farm animals create dust, manure, odors, and some noise. Manure is a valuable source of organic fertilizer and its use reduces dependency on chemical fertilizer. Farmers use

well-researched, best management practices and follow environmental regulations when applying manure to fields. Still, the scent of manure might be objectionable. Check carefully before buying a rural home-site to be sure it is located at a reasonable distance from livestock operations. Know prevailing winds and upwind livestock concentrations before buying. Livestock occasionally get out of their pens. Most livestock owners appreciate a call when their animals get out.

Pets Everyone has a right to own a pet if they choose. Pet ownership comes with the responsibility for pet care. Pets require food, shelter, pens, supervision, training, exercise, and vaccinations. Dogs can become a nuisance for livestock producers when they are allowed to roam. Roaming dogs sometimes join with other dogs and will kill small animals such as chickens or sheep, agitate livestock, and can even cause a cow to abort its calf. It is legal and considered acceptable to stop nuisance dogs by shooting, so do not assume pets can safely run free. Some pet owners decide they don't want a pet anymore and dump it in a rural area to fend for itself. This usually results in the pet being run over by a car, shot, killed by a wild animal, or starving to death. Rural homeowners can expect stray animals to show up occasionally. Many counties have an animal control officer who responds to calls about livestock, strays, exotic animals, and animal cruelty. After hours calls should go to the county sheriff's office.

CFAP 2—Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2

Are you a farmer or rancher whose operation has been directly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic? USDA is implementing Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 for agricultural producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will use funds being made available from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act and CARES Act to support row crops, livestock, specialty crops, dairy, aquaculture and many additional commodities. USDA has incorporated improvements in CFAP 2 based from stakeholder engagement and public feedback to better meet the needs of impacted farmers and ranchers.

Producers can apply for CFAP 2 at USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices. This program provides financial assistance that gives producers the ability to absorb increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Producers will be compensated for ongoing market disruptions and assisted with the associated marketing costs.

CFAP 2 payments will be made for three categories of commodities – Price Trigger Commodities, Flat-rate Crops and Sales Commodities.

For more information: <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap/>

2020 Organic Certification Cost Share Program Now Accepting Applications

The Kansas Department of Agriculture has funds available for the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (NOCCSP). Through this program, farms, ranches and businesses that produce, process or package certified organic agricultural products may be reimbursed for eligible expenses.

The purpose of the NOCCSP is to defray the costs of receiving and maintaining organic certification under the National Organic Program. For FY 2020–2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency is revising the reimbursement amount to 50 percent of the certified organic operation's eligible expenses, up to a maximum of \$500 per scope. Scopes include the areas of crops, livestock, wild crops and handling (i.e., processing). This change is due to a limited amount of funding available and will allow a larger number of certified organic operations to receive assistance.

FSA awards the NOCCSP funds to eligible state agencies that serve as administering entities who work directly with organic operations to reimburse organic certification costs. The current period of qualification for organic operations seeking reimbursements is from Oct. 1, 2019, through Sept. 30, 2020. Applications are now being ac-



cepted through Dec. 15, 2020, or until all funds are expended, whichever comes first.

It is the mission of KDA to support all facets of agriculture, including lending support to those who wish to market and sell their products as certified organic. For more information, go to the KDA website at www.agriculture.ks.gov/organic or contact

KDA economist Peter Oppelt at Peter.Oppelt@ks.gov or 785-564-6726.



Environmental Health

200 Maine Street | Lawrence, KS | 66044 |
 Phone: [785-843-3060](tel:785-843-3060) | Fax: 785-843-3161

Behind the Scenes

Environmental Health staff work behind the scenes to ensure Lawrence and Douglas County residents live in a safe and healthy environment. From assisting rural residents with clean water and functioning septic systems to advocating air quality improvements, Environmental Health focuses on the relationships between people and their environment.

Activities and Duties

Some of the activities Environmental Health staff perform are:

- Timely investigation of complaints
- Thorough inspection of regulated industries and activities
- Promotion of environmentally responsible behaviors through education and outreach
- Development and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations

Protecting Environmental Quality

Two Environmental staff members enforce environmental health and safety regulations in the City of Lawrence and unincorporated areas of Douglas County to protect environmental quality for the benefit of all residents. Services include:

- Onsite sewage management septic system permits and inspections
- Private water supply (well) permits and inspections
- Well water samples collected and screened for bacteria and nitrates
- Septage hauling equipment permits and inspections
- Response to animal bites in unincorporated Douglas County
- Response to citizens' complaints regarding various environmental health issues

Homeowner's Guide to Septic System Maintenance					
These are the basic components for proper maintenance of your septic system. Although each is very simple, each is also very important!					
Plant grass over your entire lateral field as soon as possible	Planting grass is a key component to ensure that your system works properly. Grass absorbs the wastewater and also prevents rainwater from entering the lateral trenches and filling up valuable storage space.				
Do not construct buildings, driveways, or parking areas over your septic system	Construction of buildings, driveways, or parking areas over any part of your septic system is prohibited by the Douglas County Sanitary Code. The grass cover mentioned above is essential for the proper functioning of the lateral field. The septic tank must be pumped regularly to prevent accumulated solids from overflowing into the lateral field. All parts of the septic system should be easily accessible for observation, maintenance, and repairs if needed.				
Avoid compacting or damaging the lateral field	Vehicles and livestock can cause extensive damage to the lateral field, by destroying the grass cover and compacting the soil so that it cannot absorb the wastewater as designed, and may physically damage components of the lateral field. Never drive vehicles or equipment heavier than a riding mower across your lateral field. Keep livestock fenced away from the lateral field area – horse and cattle hooves deliver several hundred pounds of pressure per square inch with every step.				
Conserve water	All septic systems have a limited amount of wastewater storage. The EPA estimates that normal household water usage should be about 50 gallons per day per person. If you are on rural water, routinely check your monthly water bill to monitor how much water you are using.				
Pump your septic tank regularly	Follow the chart below to monitor how often your septic tank should be pumped out. Pumping out your septic tank as scheduled can prevent serious and expensive damage to your lateral field.				
Recommended Frequency for Pumping a 1,000-Gallon Septic Tank					
Number of persons in household:	1	2	3	4	5
Recommended pumping interval (years):	12	6	4	3	2

Douglas County receives \$90,000 grant for food resource recovery

Douglas County is one of 13 communities in the country to receive the first Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Grant from the [USDA Office of Urban Agriculture](#) and has been awarded nearly \$90,000 to work on food resource recovery.

Douglas County's Partnerships for Food Resource Recovery project will primarily fund a two-year Food Waste Reduction Analyst position within the [Lawrence-Douglas County Sustainability Office](#). This position will initially work to expand on a farmer-volunteer gleaning network in Douglas

County and collaborate with City of Lawrence to pilot a food waste compost stream for Just Food. The Analyst position will also work toward other food waste reduction strategies laid out in the Douglas County Food System Plan.

This project relies on the collaboration of multiple community partners including, the Lawrence-Douglas County Sustainability Office, City of Lawrence, the Douglas County Food Policy Council, Moon on the Meadow Farm, Just Food, Sunrise Project, the Lawrence Community Shelter, and the KU Center for Environmental Policy.



Douglas County Food Policy Council

The Douglas County Food Policy Council (DCFPC) seeks to identify the benefits, challenges and opportunities for a successful, sustainable local food system in Douglas County, Kansas.

In 2017, we drove the design and adoption of the comprehensive [Douglas County Food System Plan](#) to guide the creation of a local food system that promotes health, economic vitality, sustainability, and equity. The plan itself is founded on principles of inclusion, drawing from the experiences and perspectives of residents from diverse cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds through nearly a year of public engagement, which deliberately sought the voices of traditionally underrepresented and unreached members of the community.

One of the five multi-layered goals outlined in the Food System Plan is devoted to creating "a community that fosters an equitable food system," in which equity means "all residents can participate fully and access healthy food, regardless of socioeconomic status, geography, race, ethnicity, gender, or immigration status." Still another of the five goals focuses on the availability of nutritious foods. Present and historic institutional attitudes and practices of systemic racism and classism have subjected many of our neighbors to inequitable health outcomes, several of which stem from disparities within the food system.

Since the Plan's adoption we have dedicated a working group to implementing the objectives and policy points within these two goals; however, we recognize that as an advisory body we have not adequately targeted the root cause of these needs in our community. We cannot achieve an equitable food system in Douglas County if we do not address the un-

derlying injustices in our community.

In the wake of even more violence against Black, Indigenous, and communities of color in our country and the systemic racial health and access disparities exacerbated by COVID-19, we commit to renewing and elevating the equitable intentions the Food System Plan was founded on, and to work as an ally in our community to eradicate structural injustice, particularly as it impacts the health and quality of life of people of color within our local food system.

As to our initial actions, we commit to the following:

- In acknowledgement that as a predominantly white board we need to build our knowledge and awareness of equity principles and approaches, we will pursue equity and racial justice training for our Council members;
- We will examine our current and future work through the application of a [racial equity toolkit](#), such as that provided by the [Government Alliance on Race & Equity](#); and
- In recognition that addressing food insecurity is much more than alleviating the absence of food, we will explore the underlying contributing factors, including, but not limited to, race, class, poverty, education, and relationships with criminal justice, and seek policy change to treat the cause more than the effect.

Our commitment and learning will be an ongoing and evolving process. Our actionable priorities to remove racial barriers to food equity will grow as we implement our renewed intent to examine our work. If there are additional racial equity strategies we should elevate, or if you or your organization would like to engage in the work of the Food System Plan toward the shared goals of a just, healthy, and viable food system in Douglas County, please contact us at dcfpc@douglascountyks.org or 785-832-5157.



Sunrise Project is a community-driven organization that provides space and opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to create social change, learn from one another, build skills, make new connections and have fun!

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have added programs, made changes to programs and pivoted our resources so that we continue to respond to community need. Our programming is open to all - no qualifications needed!

- **Community:** Bringing people together
- **Food:** Connecting people to good food
- **Growth:** Cultivating skills, knowledge and social change

Sunrise Fall Fundraiser at [Trivedi Wine](#)

Support Sunrise project, enjoy wine & live music, be outdoors and enjoy a safe socially-distanced event!

Time & Location: October 15, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM CDT

Trivedi Wine LLC

1826 E 1150 Rd

Lawrence, KS 66049, USA

The Sunrise Project Board of Directors invites you to an outdoor, socially distanced event at Trivedi Wine. Not only does your \$100 ticket support all of your favorite Sunrise programs including our weekly community meals, free food gardens and orchard, community pantry and youth programming... your purchase of a ticket gets you:

- Up to 2 additional guests
- A bottle of Trivedi wine
- Live music
- Fall weather on a local farm
- Safe, socially-distanced community fun

Amber Scullery food truck will be on site to take care of dinner. Harry Potter themed menu! All ages welcome.

<https://www.sunriseprojectks.org/events-1/sunrise-fall-fundraiser-at-trivedi-wine>

Lawrence-Douglas County Sustainability Office



Sustainability means balancing the needs of the economy, environment, and society. Together, we can create a vibrant economy, a healthy environment, and a livable society for all Douglas County residents – today and into the future.

As a County, we are striving for sustainability in our day-to-day operations, our facilities and buildings, the policies we implement, and the education we provide to our employees and citizens.

Currently, we're working to reduce the energy use in our buildings and utilize the free renewable power of the sun where it's appropriate. We have a robust recycling program in our County buildings and out in the community, innovative pilot programs to reduce fuel use in our fleet, and are working to purchase "green" products for office and cleaning supplies. Our first LEED-certified building was built in 2015,

and our Douglas County Food Policy Council continues to be recognized as a regional leader in developing policies and programs to support our local food economy.

- **Save Energy and Money**—Check out these energy saving tips from [Evergry](#) and [Black Hills](#)
- **Eat Local** - Learn more about efforts to promote healthy, nutritious foods in our community by visiting [LiveWell Douglas County](#) and the [Douglas County Food Policy Council](#).
- **Reduce Waste and Recycle**—Learn about "[green](#)" [lawn care options](#) like mulch mowing, and backyard composting. Recycle your [household hazardous wastes](#) like batteries, paints, and cleaning products. [Recyclable Materials Directory](#) – from batteries to old electronics to clothing!
- **Participate in Community Events**



Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture brings together a diverse group of grower organizations; agribusinesses; food, beverage, restaurant and retail companies; conservation groups; universities and public sector partners to focus on defining, measuring and advancing the sustainability of food, fiber and fuel production. Field to Market is comprised of more than 140 members representing all facets of the U.S. agricultural supply chain, with members employing more than 5 million people and representing combined revenues totaling over \$1.5 trillion.

Last week, Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture released a new report entitled "[Climate Action in U.S. Agriculture: A Compendium of Field to Market Member Climate Commitments](#)," which celebrates leadership and momentum on climate action, while also underscoring the need for greater collective action in order to respond to unprecedented challenges from climate-related impacts.

The report synthesizes public climate goals made by more than 85 Field to Market member organizations and unveils a shared vision from nine leading conservation organizations.

The report also includes a joint statement entitled "[A Shared Vision on Climate Action](#)," which urges stakeholders from across the food and agriculture value chain to commit to meaningful climate action grounded in science. NACD, along with eight leading conservation organizations represented in Field to Market's Civil Society sector, were signatories of the statement.



Keith and Martha Badger farm along with Keith's brother **David** and his wife **Karen** in east-central Kansas on 2,400 acres. Their operation consists of a corn and soybean rotation with a cow/calf operation of 110 adults.

Badger finds that the key to managing his operation is to change along with the ag industry and to challenge the way things have always been done. As he manages his soil health, he puts profitability and sustainability at the forefront.

Badger has always tried to minimize tillage, but when he compared the tilled fields to the no-till fields, he noticed that the no-till fields held and retained water better. It was at that point that he decided to switch completely to no-till soybeans and strip-till corn for his moisture management.

Badger also noticed how well the soil holds nutrients, which translates into lower input costs. With the additional benefit of decreased or eliminated soil erosion,

Badger sees less of his profits getting washed into nearby streams. He also understands that in some cases, the public perception is that the agriculture industry can be insensitive to water quality issues.

"By being proactive toward water quality issues and by being responsible with our management practices, we get to start the conversation, not defend ourselves," **Badger said**. He has also gradually introduced cover crops, which have further boosted his soils' water-holding capacity and reduced soil erosion.

Badger also integrates different technology to help keep his operation profitable and sustainable. By using variable rate technology, he applies nutrients at specific quantities in the specific areas of need on each field. Through a partnership with the [Ottawa Cooperative Association](#) and the [Land O'Lakes SUSTAIN program](#), Badger has been able to also utilize the Truterra Insights Engine tool. This tool helps him establish his stewardship baseline and evaluate how different conservation practices can boost profitability and sustainability in each field.

To learn more about Badger's operation, visit Badger's [NACD profile](#) online. If you or someone you know would like to become a member of the NACD Soil Health Champions Network, please visit the NACD website for more information or contact NACD North Central Region Representative **Beth Mason** at beth-mason@nacdnet.org with your questions

THANK YOU FOR OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS



**Central Bank
of the Midwest**

MEMBER FDIC

"FOR ALL YOUR SEED & EROSION PRODUCT NEEDS"



Richard and Debbie Feyh

26401 Fairfield Road
Alma, Kansas 66401

ALMA, KANSAS

785-765-3415 Phone
785-765-4681 Fax
FeyhFarm@Kansas.net
www.feyhfarmseed.com



**Cromwell
SOLAR**

CromwellSolar.com

**IF AGRICULTURE
MEANS SOMETHING
TO YOU, YOU MEAN
EVERYTHING TO US.**

**RURAL AMERICA IS WHERE
WE WORK. FARMERS AND
RANCHERS ARE WHO WE SERVE.**

Frontier Farm Credit is dedicated to the business of agriculture. It isn't just something we do, it's everything we do - an entire organization that spends every working day thinking, planning and investing in ways to serve you better. Discover the benefits of a lender committed to your success.

Learn more by calling the Baldwin City office at 785-294-2900.

1270 N 300 Rd,
Baldwin City, KS 66006

AGRICULTURE WORKS HERE.®







Sales, Parts & Service

**McCONNELL
Machinery Co.**

since 1935

1111 E. 23rd • Lawrence, KS 66046

785-843-2676

www.mconnellmachineryco.com

BEEGHLEY EXCAVATING INC.

Ponds, Land Clearing,
Demolition, Soil Conservation,
Building Pads

BALDWIN CITY KS.

Charles W. Beeghley

cell 785.979.2411 home 785.594.2321




HeritageTractor.com | Follow us  

Visit us in
**Lawrence or
Baldwin City**

Or call us
Lawrence
(785) 843-8444
Baldwin City
(785) 594-6486



**Prime Ag
Services LLC.**

Matt Wyckoff Agronomist
(913) 208-9599 mattwyckoff@gmail.com

Seed Sales, Crop Consulting, Soil Sampling, VR Prescriptions,
Lime Spreading, Cover Crop Seed & Application



Kernza®CAP: Efforts Driven by Multi-state Coalition

SEPTEMBER 29, 2020 | [KERNZA®](#), [PRESS RELEASES](#), [THE LAND INSTITUTE](#)

Perennial agriculture has the potential to transform US agriculture by improving sustainability and prosperity. The Land Institute is part of a multi-state coalition of researchers, farmers, educators, industry leaders, policy experts, and climate scientists recently awarded a 5-year, \$10 million grant through USDA NIFA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative's Sustainable Agricultural Systems program to scale the research, production, awareness and commercialization of Kernza[®].

The Land Institute provides joint leadership to the project with the University of Minnesota who serves as the award recipient and home institution for the project. A portion of project funds will be managed directly by TLI and will help fund new project related positions and activities. This grant and the long-term collaborative relationship with University of Minnesota is a great example of the critical role TLI has and will continue to play to expand the development of perennial grains on a global scale. From providing original seeds (germplasm) to launch new breeding programs, to collaborating on grant funding opportunities like this, TLI is igniting the work required to realize our perennial vision.

The project, titled *Developing and Deploying a Perennial Grain Crop Enterprise to Improve Environmental Quality and Rural Prosperity*, seeks to transform U.S. agriculture production by developing the blueprint for systems to shift from annual row crop production that requires tilling and planting every year to perennial production. By building the support system necessary to successfully increase Kernza acres across the US agricultural landscape, this project aims to improve the environmental sustainability of food production and demonstrate the viability of new per-

ennial crops as real economic opportunities for farmers and rural communities. This project will be led by six teams composed of researchers, industry leaders, farmers, educators, and policy makers from 10 universities and 24 non-profit and farm and food organizations. The work will be both regional and national as the organizations work in their regions sharing, integrating and collaborating across objectives and teams.

The project has six objectives:

1. **Advance germplasm and trait evaluation** – results will include new Kernza cultivars that yield more grain and enhance critical ecosystem services.
2. **Enhance agronomic and on farm knowledge** – results will include best management practices for advising growers on Kernza agronomic production.
3. **Improve environmental quality** – Kernza's deep root system has multiple environmental benefits—including reducing nitrate leaching and runoff, soil erosion, tillage requirements and overall agricultural inputs.
4. **Engage education, extension, and policy** – this project aims to improve the environmental sustainability of food production and demonstrate the viability of new perennial cropping systems as real economic opportunities for farmers and rural communities.
5. **Develop supply chains and economic drivers** – results will include increased market demand for integrating Kernza into food and co-product markets.
6. **Intentional integration** – strong project focus on whole systems thinking acknowledges that perennial crops must be coupled with supportive policies, education and behavior change, market pull, and a reexamination of equity and emphasis on community-driven regionalized economic models to truly activate transformative change.

The Kernza[®]CAP project officially launched on September 1st. More information on Kernza[®], the project partners, updates and reports on research findings, additional press materials, and field day demonstration information can be found on kernza.org/kernzacap.



Farmers Union, MANRRS Team Up to Strengthen Diversity and Inclusion in Agriculture

WASHINGTON – In light of the fact that racial and ethnic minority groups are vastly underrepresented in agricultural professions, National Farmers Union (NFU) and Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) are working together to foster diversity and inclusion in the field.

During an online ceremony, NFU President Rob Larew and MANRRS National President Dr. Antomia Farrell signed a [memorandum of understanding](#) (MOU) summarizing the ways in which their organizations will collaborate to provide educational and leadership opportunities for young people of all racial and ethnic identities, develop federal policy priorities, and extend each other's reach within agricultural communities.

"Agriculture is a much more homogenous profession than it should be; even though 40 percent of Americans identify as Black, Indigenous, or people of color, just 5 percent of farmers do. This lack of racial and ethnic diversity translates to a lack of new ideas, perspectives, and experiences, which holds back progress and innovation for everyone in farming," said Larew. "Together with MANRRS, which has been doing the important work of promoting diversity in agricultural spaces for 35 years, we hope to ensure that the next generation of agricultural professionals will be more representative of the American population as a whole."

The partnership is a natural next step for the two organizations, both of which have long been committed to racial

equity. NFU, which has represented racially diverse farmers for more than 80 years, has primarily approached the issue through legislative action; the group was an early supporter of the Civil Rights movement and has [backed](#) legal challenges to institutional discrimination against Black farmers. MANRRS, on the other hand, is a national society that offers professional and academic development as well as networking opportunities for ethnic minorities in agricultural sciences and related fields. By leveraging each other's expertise, NFU and MANRRS hope to strengthen both organizations' efforts.

"The fact that communities of color are not well represented in agriculture is not because they aren't interested; it's often because they don't have access or exposure starting from an early age. As a result, many young people don't even know that agricultural professions are an option for them," Farrell noted. "That's why MANRRS works to expand academic and professional opportunities for those who might not otherwise have them. In our partnership with National Farmers Union, we look forward to building on that work by offering our members the chance to participate in new educational programs and in grassroots advocacy.

For information about National Farmers Union: <https://nfu.org/>

For more information about MANRRS: <https://www.manrrs.org/>

Kansas Black Farmers Association

The Kansas Black Farmers Association (KBFA) was founded in 1999 by farmers of Nicodemus Kansas for mutual support and cooperative agricultural market development. Nicodemus, located in northwest Kansas is the only remaining western town established by African Americans during the Reconstruction period following the Civil War. Today Nicodemus, a National Historic Site since 1996, represents the unique and valuable legacy of Black homesteaders' determination and ability to sustain themselves in spite of all the economic, environmental, social, and political odds.

Growing more farmers

One of the goals of the organization is to connect those who have been awakened to the problems of food and farming in America (minorities, women, and youth) with those who have been at the forefront of the farm struggle. We need more farmers! *"Land is the only real wealth in this country and if we do not own any we will be out of the picture"* Ralph Page, *Federation of Southern Co-operations*.

<https://www.kansasblackfarmers.org/>

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
Debbie Chappelle, Acting County Exec. Dir.
Jessica Siedschlag, Program Tech.
LeeAnn Robertson, Program Tech

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Tim Miller, Supervisory District Conservationist
Suzy Mooney, NRCS Clerk