



Kansas Association of Conservation Districts

On April 14, 1935 an estimated 300 million tons of soil blew from the land. That day, known as "Black Sunday," people of the Great Plains suffered the devastating effects of a massive drought. It was one of the darkest periods in Kansas history. However, just as every cloud has a silver lining, out of those dust clouds came a firm commitment to soil conservation. In 1937, the Kansas Legislature passed a bill that created conservation districts in Kansas. With that action, Kansas began a Commitment to conservation that has lasted more than eight decades.



Throughout its history, KACD has helped forge key partnerships among federal, state, local and non-governmental entities all committed to a common goal: wise and efficient conservation practices to protect the state's natural resources. We are proud to partner with the following:

- State Conservation Commission
- USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- Kansas Department of Agriculture - Division of Conservation (DOC)
- Kansas Water Office (KWO)
- Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)
- Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS)
- Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism (KDWPT)
- Kansas Forest Service (KFS)
- K-State Research and Extension
- Local Watershed Districts, County Commissions, County Health Departments and other Non-Governmental Organizations

~ Our Mission ~

"Providing local leadership to protect and improve Kansas Natural Resources through collaboration, education and implementation"



The Kansas Association of Conservation Districts was established in 1944. KACD is comprised of five elected members that represent the state. Its members are the Conservation Districts located in the state's 105 counties. The conservation districts consist of:

- 525 Volunteer Supervisors
- 102 District Managers
- 9 Administrative Support Positions
- 44 Technical Support Positions



KANSAS 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Conservation districts have a unique partnership with NRCS. In the 95 counties where NRCS has an office, conservation districts are co-located. Each district has a Local Operating Agreement with NRCS to guide the partnership to deliver technical and financial assistance to producers. In FY 2020, conservation districts assisted NRCS in delivering conservation that resulted in:

Financial Assistance

- EQIP - 942 contracts for \$34,816,385
- RCPP - 67 contracts for \$2,552,184
- ACEP - 13 contracts for \$2,873,241
- CSP - 98 contracts for \$14,017,044
- CSP-GCI - 640 contracts for \$3,587,527

Technical Assistance

- Water Quality improvements on 925,715 acres
- Range Health improvements on 555,679 acres
- Soil Health improvements on 690,282 acres

Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS)

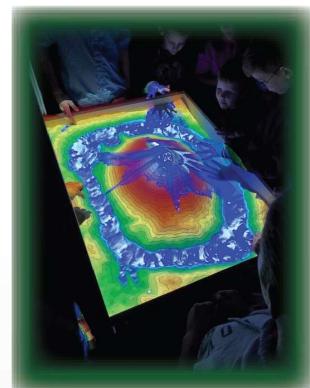
Kansas conservation districts work closely with KDHE to implement WRAPS projects in targeted priority areas across the state. Conservation districts are the primary sponsor of five project areas. KACD, through a partnership agreement with KDHE, is the primary sponsor for an additional 19 project areas touching nearly 50 conservation districts. Districts also assist other primary sponsors (KAWA, KSU, etc.) to implement WRAPS projects through efforts that include outreach, education and accepting applications.

Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation (DOC)

The DOC has the responsibility to administer the Conservation District Law (K.S.A. 2-1901 et seq) designed to protect and enhance the natural resources of Kansas. This is done through several programs that align with the mission of KACD and the goals of the Kansas Water Plan to assist local governments and individuals.

In FY 2020, the DOC allocated \$5,620,149 in cost-share funds to conservation districts to provide assistance to landowners to install conservation practices.

- Water Resources Cost-Share Program - \$2,448,289
- Streambank Stabilization Protection Program - \$500,000
- Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program - \$1,857,836
- Riparian & Wetland Protection Program - \$154,024
- Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative - \$560,000
- Irrigation Technology - \$100,000



Information and Education Outreach

Conservation districts excel at providing educational and informational programs to thousands of youth and adults across the state every year. These range from workshops, field days, newsletters, school visits and social media posts.



Educational Tools Available

- Soil Tunnels
- Soil Tunnel Trailer
- Rainfall Simulators, Tabletop and Trailer
- Wind Erosion Kit
- Augmented Reality Sandboxes
- Earth Balloon

2020 Highlights

- Prescribed Burn Workshops
- Soil Health and Cover Crop Events
- Ag Women of the Heartland and Women in Ag
- Nutrient Management
- Hazard Waste Collection
- High Tunnel Workshops