

Ownership of Kansas Agricultural Land - Summary of Testimony

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Main Points:

- Kansas agricultural land has experienced a large run-up in value starting at the end of 2020; more than most areas of the United States. Increases in land values are comparable to the last run-up in 2010-2014. Profitability in ag. is still the main influencer of land prices.
- When studying the database of landowners in 2015, 84.5% of Kansas ag. land was owned by people living in Kansas. Of the 15.5% of acres owned by landowners living outside of Kansas, Texas landowners held 2.6% of Kansas ag. land, followed by the four bordering states at around 1-2%.
- Preliminary work suggests that between 2015-2022, an increasing percentage of land is shifting to out-of-state ownership, likely through inheritance and land sales, resulting in less land owned by Kansas residents. Grassland is the main type of land experiencing this change.
- Foreign holdings of Kansas ag. land can be studied through Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (AFIDA) reportings, with the most recent data being through Dec. 2021.
 - o 1,187,690 acres are reported as foreign-held (2.4% of all ag. acres in Kansas)
 - o Of those, 1,119,974 are acres held in long-term lease by wind or solar energy companies
 - o 67,717 Kansas ag. acres are reported as foreign held that are not related to energy production (0.14% of all ag. land is Kansas)
- Growth in foreign-holdings are mainly driven by wind energy company leases, with a much smaller relative amount of land being acquired by foreign individuals and companies for nonenergy related activities each year

Links to Additional Information:

County-based land ownership report: https://www.agmanager.info/land-leasing/land-buying-valuing/analysis-agricultural-land-ownership-kansas

Summary paper of Foreign Holdings of Kansas Farmland: https://www.agmanager.info/foreign-holdings-kansas-farm-land

County Maps of Foreign Holdings:

All Holdings: https://www.agmanager.info/ag-policy/foreign-holdings-us-agricultural-land/foreign-holdings-kansas-ag-land

Wind Energy: https://www.agmanager.info/ag-policy/foreign-holdings-us-agricultural-land/foreign-holdings-kansas-ag-land-wind-energy-leases

Link to National Spreadsheet of Foreign Holdings: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/economic-and-policy-analysis/afida/agricultural-foreign-investment-disclosure-act-afida/index