

SUMMER

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Conservation Grant to Assist in Planting Cover Crops

In partnership with [ADM](#) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service ([NRCS](#)), the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) today recently announced the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) as a recipient of a grant to help farmers plant cover crops across Kansas. Awarded under NFWF's Midwest Cover Crop Initiative, this grant will support implementation of this beneficial agricultural practice on 100,000+ acres.

The conservation office will be taking applications for farmers to receive \$10 per acre for planting cover crops on their farm. This program is eligible for farmers new to planting covers and those that are veterans to using cover crops in their crop rotations.

Farmers who implement cover-crop systems may see improvements in long-term profitability through reduced input costs and higher yields. By accelerating the adoption of this practice, this grant will help enhance soil health, reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases, improve water resources, and support wildlife while providing economic benefits to participating farmers.

For an application and more information about this new opportunity please contact the conservation district office.

KANSAS
Climate Smart Initiative

KANSAS FARMERS

The Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) is the recipient of a grant in partnership with ADM and others that will support implementation of cover crops on 100,000+ acres across Kansas. Farmers that are new OR are veterans to using cover crops in their operation are eligible for this assistance of \$10 per acre.

Are you ready to enhance soil health, reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases, improve water resources, support wildlife, and receive economic benefits? Contact your local conservation district office for more information about this new opportunity!

Improve long-term profitability through reduced input costs & higher yields.

ADM Kansas USDA OKACD FARMERS RESILIENCE NETWORK KANSAS SOIL HEALTH ALLIANCE

Barber County Conservation District is offering a scholarship for a Barber County rancher, land manager, or range management student to attend the 2022 Mixed or Shortgrass School. Please contact the Conservation Office at 620-886-5311 by July 20 to apply for this scholarship. Registration is due to KGLC by July 22.

Come out to the Barber County Fair July 28-31. Check out all the exhibits, visit with your neighbors, and show your support to the 4-H kids! Be sure to stop by the conservation district booth and treat your sweet tooth to some cotton candy.



The following survey is the second of four in cooperation with K-State Research and Extension-Barber County. The data collected will be used to offer more accurate information to local producers on pasture rental rates, hunting leases, and other leases pertaining to cropland and rangeland. This information is currently available regionally but does not always accurately represent the local rates. A different survey will be released with each newsletter, so please take the opportunity to complete each of these and return to Justin Goodno, Extension Agent-Barber County, 118 E Washington, Medicine Lodge, KS 67104. You can also submit online at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdmQk-92Am1PThfIK3bpcS8M2f6CVBtA3hIzbTyO7-_8-wldw/viewform?usp=sf_link

2022 Pasture Leasing Arrangement Survey

K-State Research & Extension – Barber County

Information from this survey will be used for general education. Survey responses are kept strictly confidential.

1. Pasture Rental Rate: What is the average rental rate paid per acre or per animal unit for pasture you own or lease?

Rent per acre = \$ _____ per acre for the grazing season.

Other arrangements = _____ per _____ (\$ per lb. of gain, per pair, per head, per day, etc.)

2. Trends on Pasture Leasing Arrangements: Do you expect to increase, decrease, or not change the grazing pressure on your pasture in 2022 as a result of adverse conditions such as drought, weed pressure, or the cattle market? (Select one)

- Increase
- Decrease
- No change

3. Pasture Grazing Period: During what period of time is leased pastureland grazed during the year?

Typical Year – Beginning Date: _____ Ending Date: _____

In year 2021 – Beginning Date: _____ Ending Date: _____

4. Livestock Stocking Rate on Pastures: What is the stocking rate for pasture you own or lease?

Cow-Calf enterprises: Number of Acres Per Cow-Calf Pair = _____ acres/Cow-Calf Pair

Mature Weight of Cows = _____ lbs. per Cow

Backgrounding or Stocker Feeder enterprises: Number of Acres per Head = _____ acres/Head

Starting Weight of Calves = _____ lbs.,

Ending Weight of Calves = _____ lbs.

5. Livestock Water Supply: In what form is water available to drink for livestock? (Check all that apply)

- Transported to Site
- Pond
- Stream
- Well

6. Who is responsible for maintaining the livestock water supply during the grazing season? (Mark only one)

- Tenant
- Landowner

7. Maintenance: Who furnishes labor to maintain the fence? (Mark only one)

- Tenant
- Landowner

8. Who supplies materials to maintain the fence? (Mark only one)

- Tenant
- Landowner

9. Who supplies salt/mineral? (Mark only one)

- Tenant
- Landowner

10. Who is responsible for cattle health/care? (Mark only one)

- Tenant
- Landowner

11. Weed Control: Who is responsible for controlling the weeds and trees/brush in the pasture(s) (Mark only one)

- Tenant
- Landowner

12. Do any special arrangements exist for weed control if persistent noxious weeds and/or Eastern Red Cedars (or other unwanted trees/brush) are present in the pasture(s)? If yes, please explain

13. Physical Location and Type of Pastureland (Hwy 281/160 as center point): In what part of the County is the pastureland located? (Mark only one)

- NW
- NE
- SW
- SE

14. What percentage of your pastureland would be classified among the following types?

Upland pasture _____%

Lowland/river bottom _____%

Mixture _____&

15. What is the percentage of written and oral pasture leases among those you are involved in?

Written Leases _____%

Oral Leases _____%

16. When are the cash rental payments made to the landlord?

____ All at once (Date: _____)

____ Split Payments (Dates: _____)

____ After harvest

17. Are you a member of a prescribed burn association? (Mark only one)

- Yes
- No

18. What are your thoughts and or experience with Prescribe Burn Associations?

19. Other Comments on Pasture Leasing Arrangements: Do you have any other general comments or observations about pasture leasing arrangements in your area?

USDA NRCS to Allow Greater Flexibility Regarding Farm Bill Program Contracts Due to Global Supply Chain Disruptions

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is taking several steps to address supply chain disruptions resulting from the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The invasion has cut off a critical supply of wheat, corn, barley, oilseeds, and cooking oil. Global supply chains for fertilizer have also been disrupted, which farmers depend on to maximize yields. As part of USDA's strategy to respond to these disruptions, the Risk Management Agency (RMA) will be expanding crop insurance options for double cropping. We also want to ensure Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) program participants do not face challenges if they want to plan to utilize the new double cropping flexibilities.

- NRCS will provide greater flexibility to modify participant's existing program contracts to shift their current crop management activities to wheat production (or other impacted crops) in the fall.
- Program participants may request to delay practice implementation, substitute a practice or activity, or delete a practice to facilitate double cropping.

The USDA encourages producers to consider NRCS conservation programs, if they are not already involved. These programs help producers integrate conservation on croplands, grazing lands, and other agricultural landscapes. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) can help producers plant cover crops, manage nutrients, and improve irrigation and grazing systems. In many cases, a combination of approaches can be taken on the same parcel. For example, riparian areas or other sensitive parts of a parcel may be enrolled in the continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) with the Farm Service Agency (FSA), and the remaining land in production may be eligible to participate in CSP or EQIP.

USDA is also encouraging producers to consider organic production. NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to help producers plan and implement conservation practices, including those that work well for organic operations, such as pest management and mulching. Meanwhile, FSA offers cost-share for certification costs and other fees.

For more details on these programs or options for your current contract, please contact your local USDA Service Center or visit <https://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov>.

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