

# RURAL PAPERS

Reporting with commentary on agricultural and rural issues



Farm Bill Overview • Food Security • Small Meat Processing  
Board Member Spotlight • Urban Farmers • Beginning Farmers and Ranchers  
Conservation Programs • Soil Health • Climate Change • Local Ag Marketing

# KRC

KANSAS RURAL CENTER



## WHAT WE DO

The Kansas Rural Center (KRC) is a non-profit organization founded in 1979. We promote the long-term health of the land and its people through research, education, and advocacy. KRC cultivates grassroots support for public policies that encourage family farming and stewardship of soil and water. KRC is committed to economically viable, ecologically sound, and socially just agriculture.

## OUR MISSION

To promote the long-term health of the land and its people through research, education and advocacy that advance an economically viable, ecologically sound, and socially just food and farming system.

## OUR VISION

KRC believes that diversified farming systems hold the key to preserving, developing and maintaining a food and farming future that provides healthy food, a healthy environment and social structure, and meaningful livelihoods.

## RURAL PAPERS

Rural Papers is the voice of the Kansas Rural Center. It is published 3 - 6 times a year, in print and digitally. Rural Papers is jointly edited by KRC staff. Reprints of articles are encouraged with acknowledgement of Rural Papers and the author.

Cover Photo courtesy of Peggy Bellar

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## KRC Staff Members

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Tom Buller

Tom owns and operates a vegetable farm and has been growing organic vegetables since 2006. He co-authored “Growing Under Cover: A Kansas Grower’s Guide” and “Growing Over Cover: A Kansas Specialty Crop Grower’s Guide to Cover Crops” with partners at the Kansas Rural Center and K-State Research and Extension.

He was the founding president of the Kansas City Food Hub, a farmers’ owned cooperative and currently serves as the organization’s treasurer.



### PROGRAM & ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER - Ryan Goertzen-Regier

Ryan grew up and continues to work part-time on a 5th generation Kansas farm in Marion County that grows row crops and raises hogs and cattle. He graduated from Bethel College (North Newton, KS) with a BS in Social Work and a certificate in Conflict Management, before spending several years working with refugee resettlement in South Dakota and returning to Kansas.

He currently serves as the Vice President of the Kansas Farmers Union, and in the leadership of the Central Kansas Young Farmers Coalition.



### COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR - Charlotte French-Allen

Charlotte grew up in Rossville, Kansas, where she learned firsthand that small towns and rural lifestyles are the backbone of America. While her early years may signal a conventional farm and ranch upbringing, Charlotte considers herself an environmentalist.

Before coming to KRC, Charlotte expanded her knowledge of communications with Ogden Publications and Farming Unlimited and by volunteering with her local Sierra Club and Junior League chapters.



### PROGRAM COORDINATOR - Jackie Keller

While living in California, Jackie toured many different types of farms and worked with diverse cultures. She volunteered for the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) which involved planting garlic/beans for low- income housing residents and weeding the Cesar Chavez grade school raised beds. Jackie has served on the FSA County Committee since 2011, three lobbying trips to D.C., testifying at the KS State Capital and numerous conferences- KS Farmer’s Union, Women in Agriculture, Women for Kansas, Kansas Governor’s Summit on Agricultural Growth.



One of the key policy goals for the Kansas Rural Center over the next year is to organize grassroots efforts to improve the 2023 Farm Bill. This issue of the Rural Papers is a kickoff to that process. See the enclosed articles for more detail on various parts and programs of the Farm Bill, but I'll set the stage and provide some overall context.

The Farm Bill is a massive piece of legislation that usually gets debated and has a new version passed every five or six years. The current one, officially the "Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018," is 530 pages long, and will expire in September 2023. You can find the whole thing online, if you are looking for some not so light reading. I've tried to work my way through various sections, and it is dense. It is packed full of programs and details, any of which can be up for debate and discussion in the new Farm Bill. The goal will be to pass new legislation before the end of September 2023 when the current bill expires. However, like so many things Congress might pass an extension so they can spend a few months past that deadline to finalize negotiations.

The farm bill has 12 main sections or titles, with a myriad of programs in each section:

- Title I – Commodity Programs
- Title II – Conservation
- Title III – Trade
- Title IV – Nutrition Programs
- Title V – Credit
- Title VI – Rural Development
- Title VII – Research and Related Matters
- Title VIII – Forestry
- Title IX – Energy
- Title X – Horticulture

- Title XI – Crop Insurance
- Title XII – Miscellaneous

While it is called the Farm Bill, a more appropriate name would be the Food and Farm Bill, as the nutrition section is home to the majority of the dollars allocated to the Farm Bill and covers everything from the Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP) to the Healthy Food Financing Initiative. While most of the dollars allocated to the Farm Bill are spent on food, most of the programs the Bill covers are related to agriculture.

The Farm Bill is a big deal because it defines the terms of American agriculture for the next five years. It provides answers for questions like: what crops will get subsidized and insured and for how much; what conservation practices are supported; what are payment limitations on programs; what are the eligibility requirements for farm loans; where research dollars get allocated and so many more. The outcome of negotiations over the Farm Bill will play a critical role in defining the direction the food and farming systems of America move towards in the next five years and beyond. The Farm Bill supports a variety of sustainable agriculture programs and also provides the programs and funds that prop up so much of the unsustainable parts of the food and farming system. KRC's role is to work with partner organizations like the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, to push for more funding and improved terms for those programs that support sustainable agriculture and healthy food and farm systems and push back against the programs and policies that support things like corporate consolidation

and the hollowing out of rural communities.

Kansas plays a particularly important role in this process. Our federal delegation is well represented on the committees that will be doing the work of revising and creating agriculture and nutrition programs for the 2023 Farm Bill. Senator Marshall is on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Senator Moran is on the Senate Appropriations Committee, specifically the Agriculture Subcommittee which decides each year how funds are allocated to programs that do not have mandatory spending amounts. On the House side, Tracy Mann and Sharice Davids are both on the House Agriculture Committee. While the full House and Senate will vote on the eventual Farm Bill, the work of creating programs as well as allocating funds and setting spending limits on programs mostly happens at the committee level.

This means that the voices of Kansans can play an essential role in informing critical policy makers for the next Farm Bill.

What does the process look like from here? The key committees are already in the process of debating and passing so-called marker bills, which are smaller legislative pieces focused on specific issues or programs that will get bundled next year into the full Farm Bill. As that process moves along, we will get a sense of where the different

parties' priorities are, but we will also have opportunities to reach out and support programs that we find valuable and provide input on ways to make programs more equitable and just.

Stay tuned as Kansas Rural Center will be reaching out over the next year with more information, updates and action alerts when critical pieces are up for debate and votes in committees.

Links from Tom's Article:

Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018  
- <https://bit.ly/3S58CU5>

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition:  
- <https://bit.ly/3eJCMY8>

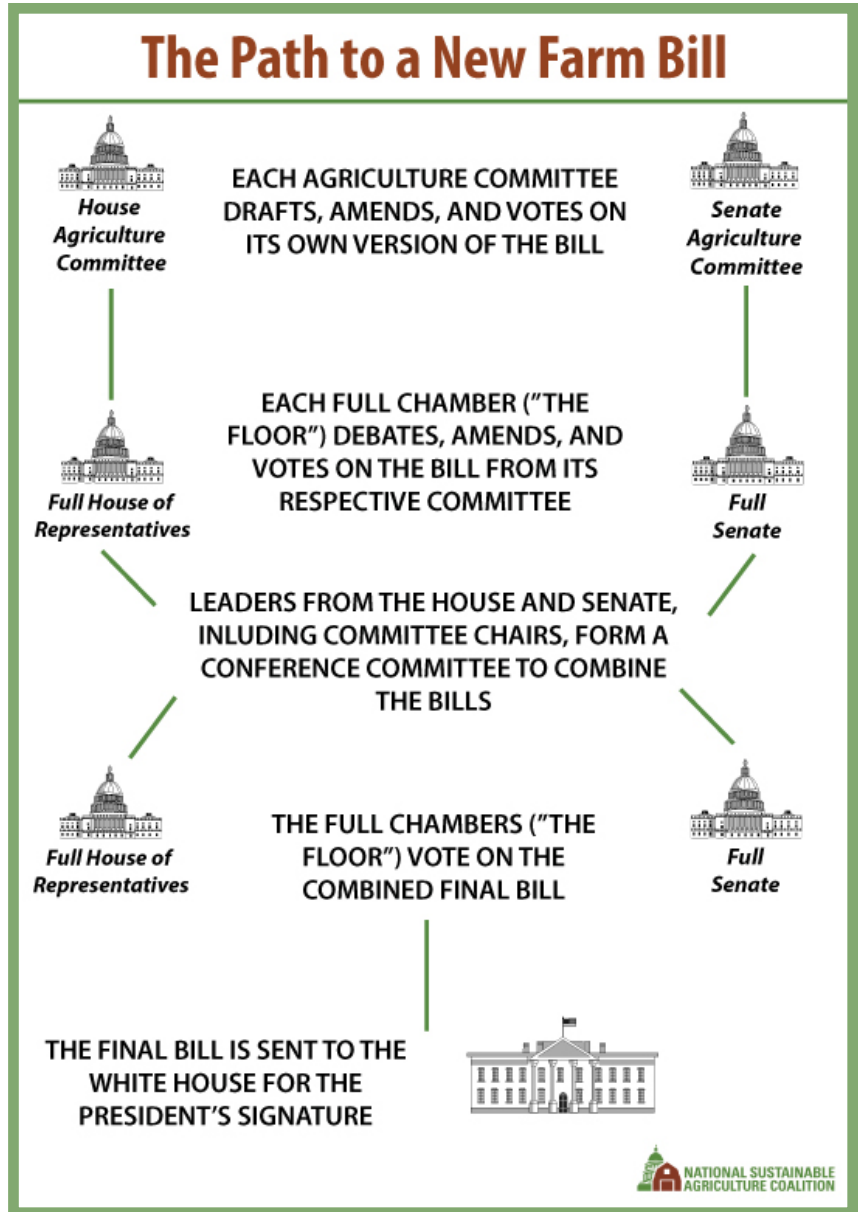
Contact Senator Marshall  
- <https://bit.ly/3UBgoaS>

Contact Senator Moran  
- <https://bit.ly/3f6b3Yy>

Contact Representative Davids  
- <https://bit.ly/3BwxldR>

Contact Representative Mann  
- <https://bit.ly/3UoJxG0>

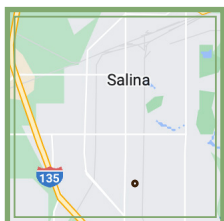
Sign-up for KRC's Policy Watch  
- <https://bit.ly/3BXowLA>



Graphic sourced with permission from National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, and can be found here: <https://sustainableagriculture.net/our-work/campaigns/fbcampaign/what-is-the-farm-bill/>

**Join our conversation on the farm bill!**

Kansas Rural Center will feature a panel discussion on the Farm Bill at our annual Food and Farm Conference. Bring your thoughts and help us to effect change for a better future in climate and food security for Kansas and the world!



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[kansasruralcenter.org/conference](https://kansasruralcenter.org/conference)



## Board Member Spotlight

Donn Teske - President, Kansas Farmers Union  
By Charlotte French-Allen, Communications Coordinator

Donn started our conversation with the fact that he was raised knowing that he was going to be a farmer and jokes that he's been driving a tractor since he "could hitch up his diaper and climb on." He has always lived on the same hill in Wheaton on the family ground that he lovingly refers to as "Teskeville." In 1985 Donn became head of the



Donn Teske - Kansas Farmers Union,  
President

family farm with bank loans at 18%; it was tough. He came to a point in 1986 where he didn't know if his family would eat the following week and was rescued by the only banker in the area who would give him a loan for his dairy. Donn is proud to say that he and this banker are still great friends to this day.

In the late '80s and early '90s, Donn belonged to Farm Bureau, Kansas Livestock Association, and the Republican party. He became concerned with the push to rid Kansas of anticorporate laws. Knowing that this change would destroy his livelihood, he began going to the capital and offering testimony. While there, he became disgusted with the performance of his representatives. Feeling that they were testifying falsehoods and not looking out for their constituents but large corporations, he renounced his memberships to the three aforementioned

groups.

Donn had seen what big ag had done to his neighbors, family, and father and wanted a better future for his descendants. With that in mind, he began offering his own testimony at the capitol as a means to hold his elected officials accountable. They needed to see and hear from who they were hurting. During this time, Donn became more familiar with Kansas Farmers Union and eventually signed on as a member, albeit somewhat passively, while they were doing a membership drive.

In 1994 the same banker from before had an honest conversation with Donn about the finances of the dairy. It was stable but not exactly profitable. At the same time, Kansas State University asked Donn to be a farm analyst and work crisis response, where he would be meeting with hundreds of farmers across the state. This opportunity pushed him to go half-time traveling analyst and to downsize his farm by half. On a recent virtual session with KRC, Donn reflected on this time when his services that were crucial, and sometimes lifesaving, to his fellow farmers going through tough times.

Donn's brother was the first to get involved in Kansas Rural Center. In 1995 Donn applied to be an employee for KRC's Clean Water Farms project. He was interviewed by Dan Nagengast, Jerry Jost, and Mary Fund, which allowed him to work full time, supporting farm families and providing for his family. This allowed him to have a shoe on both sides of the agriculture methodology aisle, which only strengthened his empathetic

perspective of farmers' lives and the struggles that come with the lifestyle.

Around 1999 Donn became a board member of Kansas Farmers Union and then quickly became a state board member. He eventually ran against the previous president. That was over twenty years ago. Donn says that he is looking forward to transitioning more of his workload over to Nick Levendofsky, KFU's new Executive Director. He feels truly blessed to have always felt enjoyment of his workplaces.

Continue the conversation with Donn and Charlotte by following these links below:

Snippet from Donn's conversation with Charlotte:

- <https://bit.ly/3RPJrp5>

#### Documentaries:

"What's the Matter with Kansas?" (2009)

- <https://bit.ly/3QJOUFT>

"Disrupted" (2020).

- <https://bit.ly/3RHaa7n>

#### Links from Donn:

KRC's Farmer Health and Self Care

- <https://youtu.be/pVaUOpJtTc>

C-SPAN testimony mentioning KRC

- <https://bit.ly/3BI35xl>

Kansas Farmers Union

- <https://bit.ly/3xryAcS>

Kansas Ag Mediation Program

- <https://bit.ly/3qKOr2B>

"The Farmer's Lawyer" by Sara Vogel

- <https://bit.ly/3Dsn8BC>



There is no legislation passed by Congress that more directly impacts the food security of our nation than the Farm Bill.



Karen Siebert - Advocacy and Public Policy Advisor to Harvesters Community Food Network.

In the world’s richest country, 38 million people face hunger, including 12 million children. In Kansas alone, nearly 300,00 people struggle to know where their next meal is coming from.

The three Feeding America food banks serving Kansas—The Kansas Food Bank, Harvesters—The Community Food Network, and Second Harvest Community Food Bank—are the community’s charitable response to hunger and food insecurity. In 2021, we together provided

more than 51 million pounds of food to a network of 569 pantries throughout Kansas’ 105 counties.

But the charitable sector can’t do it alone. In fact, it’s not even close. For every one meal that a food bank provides, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides nine.

With over 90% of the food assistance provided by the government through a variety of nutrition programs, a strong Nutrition Title in the Farm Bill is critical to ensuring that people have enough nutritious food to lead healthy, productive lives.

Title IV, also known as the Nutrition Title, authorizes a number of federal nutrition programs, including SNAP, The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), among others.

It was Kansas’ own Senator Bob Dole who spearheaded the effort in 1973 to bring together nutrition and commodity titles

in one omnibus farm bill. As historians recount, it was an attempt to get more urban interests to vote for policies and budgets of importance to farmers and the agricultural community.

But that traditional view of the Farm Bill as an alliance of urban and rural interests can sometimes blind people to the fact that the nutrition title is of significant importance to the health and stability of our rural communities.

While many people think of hunger as an urban problem, poverty is actually worse in rural communities than in urban communities.

- In 2019, 13.3% of all people in rural areas lived below the poverty line compared to 10% of people in urban areas.

- Child hunger is more common in rural communities. 86% of the counties with the highest percentage of children at risk for food insecurity are rural.

- continued



Harvesters—The Community Food Network is a regional food bank serving a 26-county area of northwestern Missouri and northeastern Kansas. Harvesters provides food and related household products to more than 760 nonprofit agencies including food pantries, community kitchens, shelters and others. Pantries in Harvesters’ network provide food assistance to as many as 226,000 different people each month. Harvesters, which was founded in 1979, is a certified member of Feeding America, a nationwide network of more than 200 food banks, serving all 50 states. For more information, visit [www.harvesters.org](http://www.harvesters.org).

Harvesters Community Food Network currently partners with KRC in the Kansas Food and Farm Coalition that works for policy change at the state level.

- Rural communities make up 63% of counties in the United States, but 91% of the counties with the highest rates of overall food insecurity.

The economic benefit of SNAP, in particular, cannot be discounted. Every \$1 dollar in federal SNAP benefits generates between \$1.50 and \$1.80 in economic activity directly into the community. It benefits all parts of the food chain, from farmers and food manufacturers, to truckers, grocery stores and store clerks.

And many people don't realize that federally funded commodity programs such as TEFAP and CSFP are supporting both farmers and the charitable food system in these rural communities. TEFAP provides approximately a third of the food that flows through the Feeding America Network and CSFP provides monthly food boxes for nearly 600,000 low-income seniors

around the country. Many of these resources are flowing back into rural communities.

We hope to partner with the agricultural community on policy as the Farm Bill moves forward over the next year. We want to work together with our agricultural partners to ensure that our legislators are developing policies that will create healthier communities, both urban and rural, and support both farmers and families.

Links from Karen's Article:

Blog by Karen: Now is the time to contact your elected official about the farm bill.  
 - <https://bit.ly/3S6szdO>

SNAP  
 - <https://bit.ly/3qJrv3H>

Harvesters Community Food Bank  
 - <https://bit.ly/3dngvWG>

TEFAP  
 - <https://bit.ly/3DsOs2z>

CSFP  
 - <https://bit.ly/3UarVxD>

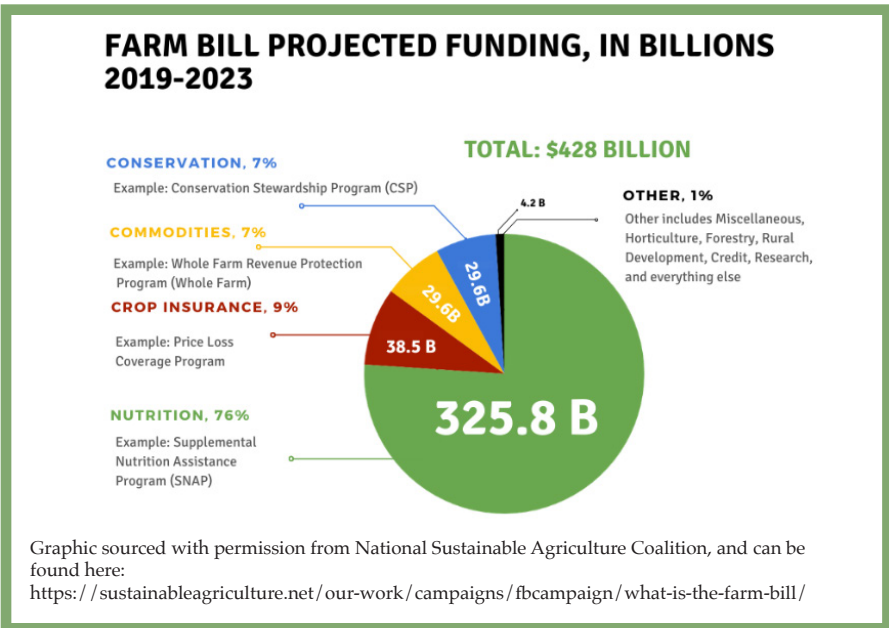
It is an old cliché, but sometimes to move forward and create new futures, you have to unearth the past. Before the advent of mass processing of livestock in places like Abilene and Chicago - communities often had smaller local butchers - who did everything from slaughtering through to sausage making. These new, highly mechanized processors were the technological and economic forebears to our currently highly centralized processors - often quite linearly descended from some of these initial communities.



Connor Kippe - National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, Policy Specialist

With evolved technology, and evolving needs from our food system - we can fund and protect small processors who utilize the best tech, to process more efficiently, to provide for their local communities. This style of support of dispersed meat processing infrastructure is actually key to helping provide the resources needed for the smaller farms utilizing sustainable practices that we need in our changing climate.

In this farm bill cycle, it is necessary to take the best parts of our meat processing history and radically refit it for our current times. This re-localization is needed to foster the types of farming that promote health, protect the environment, and bolster rural communities. Allowing for diverse livestock (poultry, hogs, cattle, and others) to be integrated into vegetable





or grain crop rotations is critical for the financial and ecological viability of many farms.

In recent years, and most noticeably during the supply chain disruptions due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, several departments of the USDA, including Rural Development, Agricultural Marketing Service, and others have helped direct key funding specifically to the types of small and even very small meat processing plants that support smaller-scale farmers who are implementing such important agro ecological techniques. These Meat and Poultry Programs, such as the Inspection Readiness Grant (MPIRG), Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP), and Intermediary Lending Program (MPILP) have helped smaller plants scale up or prepare themselves for federal inspection by utilizing different-sized grants and loans.

In this Farm Bill, sustainable agriculture advocates are hoping to see continued funding for the programs that mirror these key recent administrative investments made under Secretary Vilsack. These investments help to prioritize resources for smaller plants that have already started operations, or for individuals hoping to open one. "Marker bills" are used to mark out desired shifts in Farm Bill legislative text. In previous iterations, the amount of titles has fluctuated between 10-12, with each covering a different consideration or series of programs. Historically, livestock processing and food safety programs have lived in the last of these titles, labeled as "Miscellaneous".

The main vehicle for mapping out the funds and policy change we

need will be the Strengthening Local Processors Act (SLPA), a bill cosponsored by Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME-1), Senator Thune (R-SD), and others. The goal of the Strengthening Local Processors Act (SLPA) is to reshape our current meat processing policy with an eye toward providing more resources to help small and very small meat plants achieve their desired scale, and increase funding for the development of small (under 500 employees) and very small (under 10 employees) processing plants, states that inspect them for interstate cooperative shipment, and the workforce necessary to sustain them.

The SLPA would increase the number of employees used to define the size of plants in the Poultry Products Inspection Act and Federal Meat Inspection Act, allowing for a greater percentage of federal payment (50% previously, 65% with passage of this bill) of cost share to states that inspect and perform up to the same level of regulation for interstate cooperative shipment, and greater reimbursement for said inspections themselves from 60% to 80%. This would likely increase the size of markets for many smaller plants, and increase the amount of plants that could qualify for doing so.

It also provides for size-appropriate hazard and critical point analysis across the breadth of the industry. Many smaller processors have expressed the need for size-appropriate examples and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) guidance, and the SLPA does this and in doing so, calls for evidence-based support.

The SLPA would establish a Processing Resilience Grant program

to bolster processing resiliency and development at the local level via funding upgrades for small and very small plants. The SLPA would authorize \$10 million annually in mandatory spending for the grants program, with up to an additional \$10 million authorized through the annual appropriations process.

Many of these provisions are bipartisan and affect farming communities across the US - from Kansas to Maine to California. More legislator support is needed and can be created by showcasing how the administrative funding funds currently benefit plant owners, workers, farmers and more generally communities in their home states. Advocates believe there will be a range of interests in different provisions that will be adopted into the final farm bill.

After the farm bill passes, NSAC envisions a more diversified meat processing system, one in which producers can more reliably receive commensurate prices for how they raise their meat, where smaller processors have found the scale appropriate for their operations and their communities, and where the employees of those processors have good jobs that benefit their communities.

### Links from Connor's Article:

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
- <https://bit.ly/3eJCMY8>

Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant  
- <https://bit.ly/3Lk9Od>

Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program  
- <https://bit.ly/3QRjft9>

Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program  
- <https://bit.ly/3BJoHtJ>

The future of farming is worrying these days. The average age of farmers currently sits at just over 58 years old in Kansas according to the Kansas Department of Agriculture. Nationally we know that a host of challenges impede young people from getting into farming, with adequate access to land to farm on and capital to start with at the top of the list for producers, regardless of the type of farming they'd like to get into.

Over the last year the Kansas Rural Center has been working on developing a beginning farmer and rancher training program, supported by grant funding from the USDA, and a large part of our work has been meeting with beginning farmers who are within their first ten years of farming to hear about the challenges they're facing. Though it's true that many of the new farmers I've spoken with struggle with land and capital access, they face many other roadblocks that I didn't necessarily expect.

Due to extremely high start-up costs in monoculture row crop agriculture, conventional wisdom seems to be that almost no new farmers can gain access to enough land or equipment to conventional grow crops on a scale that gives them the profitability they need to stay in business without inheriting a farm from their parents or other family relation. Thus, many of the new farmers we've interacted with over the last several years are beginning their careers in agriculture on small acreage farms growing specialty crops like fruits or vegetables, or small meat animals and grains for human consumption. These farmers are often very passionate about producing food that directly feeds their neighbors

and increases food security in their communities, and they confront surprising challenges that their counterparts working on much larger farms don't have to face.

Regulations in some counties in Kansas specify that land can only be zoned for agriculture if it is at least a contiguous five-acre parcel, which disenfranchises many urban farmers who also feel discriminated against by local governments who only recognize them as "gardeners" instead of legitimate farm businesses. An urban grower may find 0.5 or 1 acre of land to rent or



Ryan attending listening session with Kansas City Young Farmers Coalition

buy but often discover that finding more than 5 acres of adjoining land is impossible. Regulations around farming in urban areas are at times so bureaucratic that city or county officials tell new farmers to just ignore laws because it's too difficult to get them changed and do things the correct way. Though Farm Service Agency (FSA) assistance is available for new farmers, many programs require multiple years of records and growing experience before any aid is given, adding to the financial burden small producers take on when they aren't recognized as "real farmers" by traditional ag lending institutions. Beginning

farmers also told us that FSA staff often either can't or refuses to help them when they aren't growing conventional monoculture crops on large acreage, citing lack of experience in assisting farmers who grow specialty crops. The Biden Administration's USDA has put an incredible amount of money toward creating new and better programs for farmers who grow outside the traditional agriculture paradigm. Still, promises made at the top levels of the federal government seem to fall short when local FSA staff tell beginning farmers they've never heard of the new programs designed to help them and seem unwilling to investigate. KRC hopes to continue working with and learning from beginning farmers in Kansas, and to push for changes locally in Kansas and in the federal farm bill that will assist them in overcoming the myriad challenges they face when following their agricultural passions.

This KRC project is supported by Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program grant no. 1027549 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

### Links from Ryan's Articles:

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Resources  
- <https://bit.ly/3BnsVG7>

USDA Grant and Cost Share Programs  
- <https://bit.ly/3QUYOmI>

For more information on KRC's Beginning Farmer and Rancher programming, contact Ryan:  
- [ryangr@kansasruralcenter.org](mailto:ryangr@kansasruralcenter.org)

National Healthy Soils Policy Network  
- <https://bit.ly/3QRWXaq>

Environmental Quality Incentive Program  
- <https://bit.ly/3Li8LBT>

## Podcast

Ryan Goertzen- Regier Program Manager, KRC  
Introducing KRC's New Podcast Feed!

Several years ago the Kansas Rural Center joined with similar organizations across the nation to create the National Healthy Soils Policy Network (NHSPN), which focuses on promoting soil health practices to farmers and in our state legislatures. In the last several years we've gained a few small grants from NHSPN to work on soil health in Kansas, the most recent of which highlights farmers and how the upcoming 2023 Farm Bill will influence their soil health practices in a new "Soil Health and the Farm Bill" podcast on our "Kansas Rural Center Presents" podcast channel.

As a (relatively) young person, I hear it said that millennials are the podcast generation, and we tend to take in much more information through that style of media than others that are available, which certainly rings true for me. Having listened to many different podcasts I planned KRC's show with some trepidation that our episodes wouldn't measure up, but it's been extremely interesting to have the opportunity to sit down with farmers and other agriculture



Ryan Goertzen-Regier - Kansas Rural Center, Program Manager

experts and hear what they're passionate about on their farms right now. The farm bill is such a large, complex legislative monolith that I think it can be intimidating to dig into, but it's essential that we have legislators and the public at large hear from farmers about what is working well and what needs improvement.

We've heard many interesting ideas from farmers, from increasing the money allotted to programs like EQIP and other cost-share programs, income support for

beginning farmers to get their farm businesses off the ground, and even elimination of farm crop subsidies entirely. I hope I've teased the podcast enough to get you interested in checking out our initial six episode run, which is being released weekly in September. As discussions around the farm bill continue over the next year we hope to continue adding interesting interviews and educational episodes to our podcast feed for you to enjoy and learn from, and we hope you'll engage with this content (and your elected representatives) around the farm bill. Currently Kansas has quite a bit of sway in Congress, with Representatives Davids and Mann on the House Ag Committee, Senator Marshall on the Senate Ag Committee, and Senator Moran in the agriculture area of the Appropriations Committee. We encourage you to listen in on what the farmers we're interviewing have to say, then use your influence to let our elected officials know what they need to do to ensure we get the best farm bill possible.

## FIND EPISODES OF "KANSAS RURAL CENTER PRESENTS" WHEREVER YOU LISTEN TO PODCAST!

Our inaugural season focuses on soil health and features fellow Kansans as guests.

Ep 1. Tom Giessel



Ep 2. Nick Levedofsky



Ep 3. Jack Geiger



### Flipping the U.S. Farm Bill Right Side Up Will Be Better for Kansas, Farmers, and the Environment - Shared from Kansas Reflector

The Kansas Reflector welcomes opinion pieces from writers who share our goal of widening the conversation about how public policies affect the day-to-day lives of people throughout our state. Paul Johnson is an organic market gardener and a policy analyst and advocate for the Kansas Rural Center. Zack Pistora is the interim executive director for the Kansas Rural Center and longtime environmental lobbyist for the Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club. Recently, Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly affirmed a deep-rooted conviction about Kansas agriculture: "In Kansas, farming is a way of life and local Kansas farms are vital to our economy – they feed the nation and the world."

That statement is no surprise to many and is backed by the latest data from the Economic Research Service of the USDA, which ranks Kansas 3rd among states for most acres of farmland and 6th overall in sales of crops and livestock. Kansas is also in the top 10 for exports of wheat, beef, soybeans, feed grains, corn, and sorghum that primarily end up in Mexico, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and China.

Lesser known is the steep cost that Kansans and Americans pay for an industrial agricultural system that's largely geared toward using Midwestern lands to grow feeds for animals, raw ingredients for unhealthy processed foods and fuel for ethanol. Today's use of the land is not prioritizing growing healthy, edible foods for local consumption, nor stimulating opportunity for the next generation of farmers and rural communities. Know that our

biggest beneficiary of the land – the agriculture sector – (and not necessarily your average farmer, to be clear) is Kansas' biggest user of water by far and arguably the biggest polluter of our water and soil ecosystems (via concentrated nutrients, pesticides and agricultural runoff).

While these criticisms surely sound harsh, these ill circumstances are more systemic and not individual or personal. The good news is that our farmers, while always heroes in food production, can also be our heroes for the sustainability of our state and planet. But the rejuvenation of American agriculture hinges on one single, major piece of legislation: the U.S. Farm Bill.

In Kansas, federal farm bills have by far the most significant impact on land use, cropping patterns, soil treatment, water use, nutrition, and further consolidation of agriculture. Farm bills are written

and passed every 4 to 6 years, and Congressional committee hearings are gearing up for the next Farm Bill in 2023.

Our current U.S. Farm Bill, which Congress passed in December 2018, allocated nearly \$100 billion for farm-related subsidies and programs. Kansas receives \$1 to \$1.5 billion annually for farm payments, putting Kansas as seventh for farm payments in 2021. These tax dollars add up and don't get distributed equitably.

According to farm payment watchdog the Environmental Working Group, from 1995 to 2020, Kansas farm subsidies totaled \$24.6 billion, with more than 80% of that going to commodity payments and crop insurance (\$13.3 billion for commodities, \$6.3 billion for crop insurance, \$2.02 billion for disaster relief, \$3.04 billion for conservation). Of the \$13.3 billion for commodity payments, 88% of the benefits



Paul Johnson has been an organic market gardener in northeast Kansas for 30 years. He is a policy analyst and advocate for KRC.



Zack Pistora, environmental champion, is KRC's Board President, and lobbyist for Kansas Sierra Club.

went to 20% of 58,569 Kansas farms, leaving just 12% for the rest. Predictably, these commodity subsidies in Kansas have primarily gone to wheat, sorghum, corn and soybeans.

There are additional environmental and health costs with our current farming and farm reward system that are perhaps even more problematic. Let us start with health. The USDA food plate is 50% fruits and vegetables, 30% grains (preferably whole grain) and 20% protein with a dairy side. Farm Bill food subsidies are quite different: 63% feed grains; 20% food grains; 15% sugar, starch, oil, alcohol; 2% nuts and legumes; and only 1% for fruits and vegetables. Kansas ranks 8th of the 50 states in adult obesity (35.3%), while one-third of Kansas children are either overweight or obese.

Overall Farm Bill spending is 80% nutrition programs (primarily food stamps – SNAP) and 20% farm programs. According to the USDA, in 2018 the national average for eligible recipients getting SNAP was 82% while in Kansas it was 69%, making Kansas the 3rd worst state for ensuring food assistance gets to those in need. Ecosystem health also loses with the current subsidization of commodity crops. Absent conservation practices, farming cultivated cropland results in a loss of roughly 5 tons of topsoil per acre per year due to wind and water erosion. Beyond this inherent loss of farmers' most valuable growing medium, property, and critical habitat for soil microorganisms, this soil loss typically finds a way to enter our streams and reservoirs, causing significant sedimentation and

compromising our drinking water supplies. We find barren crop fields contribute to larger runoff situations during heavy rain events. In contrast, conservation practices like cover crops, no-till, and grassland retain soil moisture and allow water to slow and infiltrate landscapes.

With climate change upon us, extreme weather conditions such as droughts, extreme heat and wind, heavy rain and flooding, wildfires, and more, will likely mean increased



Storm in Western Kansas - Michael Pham via Getty Images

destruction of our soil ecosystems, as well as more demand or compromising of our water supplies — not to mention making farming more challenging. The agriculture industry is perhaps the industry most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Kansas irrigators, who represent just a fraction of Kansas farmers (approximately 10% of acres and farms), use more than 80% of the state's water. That's more than what is used by all Kansas' cities, towns and non-agricultural businesses combined.

Most of that water depletes the Ogallala aquifer for irrigating Kansas commodity crops in Western Kansas. As a result, many Kansas

communities are looking at only decades of groundwater supply left. We know that the conservation of soil and water go hand-in-hand, which is why the Farm Bill needs to prioritize conservation much more. Farm Bill conservation programs are key to improving soil health and lessening soil loss. The Conservation Reserve Program contracts are 10- to 15-year arrangements to put land in constant grass cover and prioritize the highest environmental benefit, such as buffer strips on creeks and streams. There is now an expansion of CRP Grasslands contracts in Kansas of 270,000 acres. (Kansas has 1.78 million acres in CRP). The Conservation Stewardship Program is directed to working farms to develop whole farm conservation and soil improvement systems. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program is geared to specific conservation improvements.

Unfortunately, CSP and EQIP are underfunded federally. In 2020, only 18% of eligible CSP applicants in Kansas were funded and just 23% of EQIP eligible applicants were . In 2020, CRP, CSP and EQIP in Kansas totaled \$200 million, while the State Water Plan fund in Kansas was \$20 million.

Fundamental change is truly needed for the 2023 Farm Bill by investing in more sustainable farming practices (cover crops, crop rotations, managed grazing) to improve soil health for future generations while encouraging more beginning farmers and halting greater consolidation of agriculture.

- continued

## Conservation Programs

Zack Pistora - Board President, KRC - Paul Johnson - Policy Analyst, KRC  
From Feeding the World to Saving the World

The 2023 Farm Bill should establish a five-year phase-out of specific crop subsidies and highly subsidized crop insurance payments for these specific crops. In our free-market capitalist economy, the federal government should not prioritize these specific crops (wheat, corn, soybeans, cotton, and rice).

Instead, Farm Bill conservation programs should be fully funded and serve as base income support for farmers to improve soil health through greater diversity in cropping choices and grazing opportunities. There should be some limits on conservation support payments to the largest

farms and greater efforts to encourage beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. As this transition comes about, Kansas should develop a State Food and Farm Plan to capture 10-20% of the \$8.2 billion spent annually on food in Kansas while addressing existing food deserts in rural and urban areas by encouraging a more resilient and dependable local food system.

A different Farm Bill with greater emphasis on conservation could upgrade our food and farm system. Our Kansas farmers, communities, ecosystems, and the world will be better because of it.

### Links from Paul and Zack

Annual State Agricultural Exports Interactive Chart:

- <https://bit.ly/3UhxNoJ>

SNAP Participation Rates by State, All Eligible People:

- <https://bit.ly/3UjrWiM>

How U.S. farmers are denied access to conservation programs:

- <https://bit.ly/3RPiqlM>

Groundwater levels fall across western and central Kansas - Kansas Geological Survey

- <https://bit.ly/3BqihhM>

## Conservation Programs

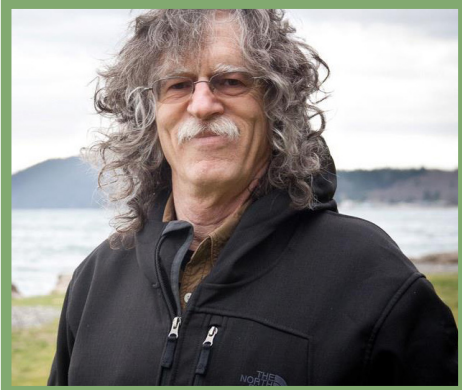
Zack Pistora - Board President, KRC  
Follow-Up: But what is carbon farming!?

According to the EPA, agriculture is responsible for 11% of all U.S. greenhouse emissions. Interestingly, management of agricultural soils accounts for over half of those emissions. Therefore, better land management practices will not only decrease the negative impact of agriculture, but could allow agriculture to be a positive net benefit to the carbon cycle totally. How? Answer: carbon farming. Also labeled regenerative agriculture, carbon farming generally refers to a broad set of agricultural practices that result in increased storage of atmospheric carbon in the soil. When plants photosynthesize, they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it internally. When they die, this carbon can either be released back into the atmosphere, or it can be incorporated back into the soil to be stored for long periods of time. While many conventional agriculture practices result in the release of carbon in the air through plowing or tillage and soil disruption, carbon farming practices aim to continually place more of Earth's carbon in the Earth's soil, not atmosphere.

There are a broad range of agricultural practices that can be considered in the category of carbon farming. There's "no-till" or "conservation tillage" that can replace conventional tillage and plowing as a carbon farming strategy. Crop diversity, as well as the integration of trees and livestock on the farm can help sequester more carbon and replace the use of chemical fertilizers with natural fertilizers. Utilizing cover crops, instead of leaving croplands bare, allows the photosynthesis process to continue to improve soil health and carbon sequestration. Improving water irrigation practices and pest management strategies can upgrade soil health to enable a higher level of carbon sequestration. Finally, returning some marginal cropland back to natural prairie settings counts as carbon farming. Many of these practices can be used in combination, and most of all, they will help reduce inputs of fertilizers and pesticides, saving costs and increasing soil health.

In addition to offsetting emissions, carbon farming practices have additional benefits of helping degraded soils, boosting crop production, reducing pollution by minimizing erosion and nutrient runoff, purifying surface and groundwater, and increasing microbial activity and soil biodiversity. These are all good things and could be accomplished with better conservation strategies and programs.

Most Americans are worried about our changing climate, though few people talk about it beyond sharing distress about the most recent climate catastrophe that hits the news.



Steve Lerner - Step by Step

As a psychologist, I am well aware of the cost of worrying about something important that we can't talk about. In the short run, our silence can help us avoid anxiety. In the long run, however, staying silent about a significant worry only increases our anxiety. It can wake us up at 3 am in a cold sweat. Our silence also tends to immobilize us, preventing us from finding out the things we can do to address the worry directly.

I started Step By Step Kansas to create public gatherings in which folks can talk together about our climate concerns - our worries, fears, anger, grief, and hopes - as



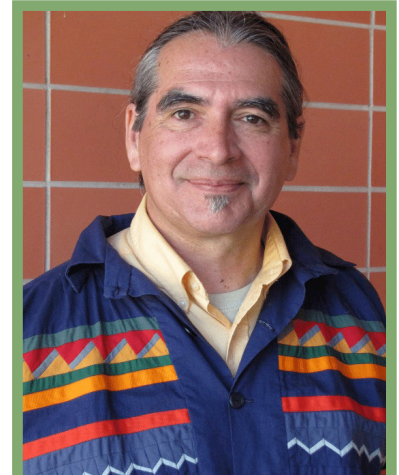
well as the actions large and small that we can take to address this huge challenge we all face.

The goal of Step By Step is simple: if silence promotes increased anxiety and inaction, open conversation with others can reduce anxiety and help promote action. Books have been written about why people don't talk about climate change (George Marshall, Don't Even Think About it: Why our brains are wired to ignore climate change). There are many factors that make talking about climate change difficult: it has become a trigger for political debate, and powerful vested interests seek to create the illusion that there is ongoing scientific debate about whether climate change even exists.

At the personal level, it can feel overwhelming to respond to the never-ending drumbeat of bad news from the media: the latest flood, drought, or wildfire: we feel helpless in the face of these huge climate impacts, which are increasing in frequency and severity. If we are open to thinking about these impacts, it is easy to feel grief and loss, and a deep sadness over what our children and grandchildren will face in the future. These are terribly difficult feelings to wrestle with, and of course, it's not helpful to drown in painful emotions.

Yet there is a large middle ground between over-focusing on worst-case scenarios and avoiding the subject entirely. Plus, honest sharing with others leads to a sense of connection and community at a time when the pandemic and our collective addiction to screens has left many of us feeling more isolated and alone.

I applaud the Kansas Rural Center's decision to focus on Climate Change at your annual conference this year. I look forward to joining you on November 11th in Salina for a Step By Step event along with Dr. Dan Wildcat.



Dr. Dan Wildcat - Haskell Indian Nations University

Dan is a professor at Haskell Indian Nations University, a national expert on indigenous wisdom and climate change, and an inspiring presence. We're honored to be opening up the conference and look forward to seeing you there to share what's on all of our minds about our changing climate.

To see full agenda for Kansas Rural Centers Food and Farm Conference and to Register for the "Indigenous Wisdom and Our Changing Climate" visit:

[www.kansasruralcenter.org/conference](http://www.kansasruralcenter.org/conference)



I call myself a re-generation farmer, rather than a first-generation, because the vocation only skipped my mother before I picked it back up again. I tumbled into it through a desire to work outside doing something meaningful and stayed in it as I learned more about all the issues we face as a species and a society. I realized that farming addresses all of the improvements I hope to see in our world. Along the way, I get to be involved in the most necessary and basic of human activities.



Lydia Nebal - KC Farm School at Gibbs Road, Farm Director

I have now been working in small-scale, diversified vegetable production for 9 years. I focus on no-till, regenerative and organic methods to supply CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) members, farmers markets, locally-owned restaurants, and food pantries. I am currently the Farm Director at KC Farm School in Kansas City, Kansas, Wyandotte County.

I am one in a movement, one of many, many young people across the country and the globe who are rising to the needs of the time through food production. We scramble to gather knowledge about how to produce

food and preserve it, how to carry seeds between generations, how to build economy around community. So much was lost in such a short time, so little passed on from those before who ached for an easier, more comfortable life for us, out of the fields.

And as we work hard to feed our communities, we also work hard to organize, knowing our voice and our labor is stronger together. The National Young Farmers Coalition ([youngfarmers.org](http://youngfarmers.org)) was founded in 2010 to “shift power and change policy to equitably resource our new generation of working farmers.” Everyone is welcomed into this work even as the resources of the coalition are focused on farmers “young” in their careers, typically under 10 years of growing. Folks have started over 45 chapters in cities and regions around the country. These chapters gather to serve young farmers in their respective areas in the ways they see fit for their members—social support and networking, resource and skills sharing, policy advocacy and lobbying, and partnering with other community efforts to grow more farmers and more food.

The national organization envisions “a just future where farming is free of racial violence, accessible to communities, oriented towards environmental well-being, and concerned with health over profit.” This work focuses on policy change, land access, climate action, water access, immigration and labor justice, USDA access and accountability, business services, and chapter development and support.

This is a big time for NYFC as the 2023 Farm Bill approaches. Now, in 2022, is when the possibilities and

hopes for the Farm Bill funding are developed, to be voted on and implemented next year. And we are in dire need on so many fronts!

- There is a massive generational transition happening, and just not enough young folks farming to take over the family vocation. In addition, as some growers are shifting to practices that involve more hand labor and less mechanization in an effort to be more resilient in the face of global warming, there are not enough skilled laborers prepared to join in that work—for example, many small scale farms in the Kansas City metro area are hurting for crew! Then, willing crew are struggling to make it through the hotter and hotter summer days. We need funding for information and accountability around laborer safety and well-being. We need funding for education to bring more apprentices into this field.

- As cities boom in population, especially in the Midwest, land for food production is becoming increasingly difficult to access, afford, and keep. Retiring farmers are incentivized to sell to the highest bidding “developer.” We need tax incentives for keeping farmland in farming and fund matching for new, young farmers trying to find land of their own so they can compete with the big money of development businesses.

- Each year, the USDA recognizes more of the diversity of growers and growing methods. Specialty Crop farms, especially in urban cores, not only create a more crisis-ready food system (as we experienced since the 2020 Pandemic), but address all parts of making climate-smart cities: water capture, treatment,



and storage; carbon sequestration; livability; air quality; fossil fuel dependence, etc. For example, the KC Climate Action Plan rates actions on the following co-benefits beyond reducing greenhouse gasses: health and well-being, environmental quality, accessibility, affordability, cost-savings, green job development, energy security, economic growth, and resilience. The plan marks whether an area of action is "mitigation" or "adaptation." We farmers know that responsible production can aid in each and every one of these efforts in significant ways while feeding people! We need financial and legislative pressure put on cities and states to encourage regenerative and bio-diverse producers in all the creative ways they work. We need incentives for farming methods that are not just halting, but reversing, global warming (e.g. Indigenous methods, prairie restoration, integrated grazing, bio-diverse production, etc.).

- In such a plentiful land, there is so much hunger. We have plenty of food and farmers want to feed people, but there needs to be access for everyone! We need expansion and protection for the SNAP and WIC programs that help all people get the food we are producing.

- While regulation can help create safety and consistency for consumers, sometimes the legislation is out of touch with the real demands of food production, focusing on the wrong part of a problem. Especially in urban and suburban areas, it can be a long process of paperwork, council meetings, votes, zone changes, and constant clarifying just to grow and distribute food your

neighbors can eat. We need simple, straightforward, and honest policy to aid farmers in growing and distributing the safest food possible, right in their communities, right when it is ready.

- In all of these matters, young farmers of color face even more obstacles as historical legal discrimination continues to impede their access and progress. The FSA has finally begun to take a deep look at the discriminatory lending practices still happening across the country today and NYFC has highlighted this in every conversation with the USDA, pushing for more equitable laws and practices. We need as many farmers as possible. Each person should know they can have funding making up for the years of lost wealth and capital throughout U.S. history, and equitable access to the funding available now.

- Farmers of all ages need mental health support, especially in a country without strong healthcare access for this vocation. In 2022, the CDC reported that agricultural workers have one the highest suicide rates of any industry and the trend is expected to continue. Some rural counties in the U.S. have only one social worker licensed to help with these crises trying to serve counties full of farmers! We need funding for mental health services for farmers in crisis and to keep them from getting to that desperate point.

Whether farmer or not, every person in this country needs a Farm Bill that acknowledges and addresses these realities. We need to be able to feed people in the face of urbanization and sprawl, climate chaos, shifts to renewable energies, and pandemics.

We need farming to be a viable vocation for more young people, a career that does not have to lead to financial ruin or burnout. We need urban, suburban, and peri-urban farming to thrive alongside rural farming. The future of us as individuals and we as a society depends on it.

If you are a farmer or rancher, keep it up! Keep connecting and growing and producing, and take care of yourself while you're at it. If you're a young farmer, wondering whether you'll make it or not, you're not alone; you are part of a great movement of people responding to the problems we see in the world. Reach out to those who have been farming for a while and ask for help. We need you.

If you're an aged farmer wondering if your impact will last, please find us young farmers to mentor and encourage. Your wisdom and experience is invaluable. We need you.

Whether you're a producer or not, consider becoming a member of the National Young Farmers Coalition. Find a local chapter to join and support (we would love to have you at any of our KC Young Farmers events). Find out who is on your state agriculture committee and make sure they listen to the next generation of farm laborers. Invite farmers to your discussions on climate action and compensate or trade with them to recognize it is time out of the field for them. Support organizations like the Kansas Rural Center and KC Farm School who are giving all they've got to grow common ground around food and farming.

- continued

## Young Farmer

Tom Buller - Executive Director, KRC  
Shining some light on LAMP

Go to your neighborhood association and city council meetings when a vote is up about agricultural production; encourage those influential representatives to get to know the needs of farmers in their area and do the important work of advocating for them. Go to your local farmers markets for your food shopping and buy local when you're at the store; join a CSA and tell your friends about it. When you speak to young students about potential careers as teachers, doctors, lawyers, nurses, and musicians, remind them that they could be farmers, too! Everyone eats, everyone depends on farmers, everyone has got to collaborate to support them.

While the solutions needed go beyond the Farm Bill, it is a great foundational step toward shifting and expanding the way we feed ourselves as a country. Together, we can do this – address climate change, feed communities, and build resilient, localized economies. We can and we must!

See you in the field! - Lydia

### Links from Lydia's Article

KC Farm School at Gibbs Road  
- <https://bit.ly/3UhLaW8>

KC Climate Action Plan  
- <https://bit.ly/3BKkPbM>

KC Young Farmers Coalition  
- <https://bit.ly/3Lsj4U4>

KS Young Farmers Coalition  
- <https://bit.ly/3qHAKkS>

National Young Farmers Coalition  
- <https://bit.ly/3QL5n3n>

FSA look at discriminatory practices  
- <https://bit.ly/3S7HZOK>

Shining some light on LAMP (Local Agriculture Marketing Program) The USDA has taken an increasing interest in supporting the development of local agricultural markets over the past decade or so. One of the key reforms aimed at strengthening local food systems across the country in the 2018 was the consolidation of a variety of federal programs around local foods including the Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG), the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) and Local Food Promotion (LFPP) program into Local Agriculture Marketing Program (LAMP) and allocating additional funds for their support. If you had not figured it out yet, the Federal Government loves acronyms. These programs continue to be critical tools to support local food systems and they have played a key role in Kansas.

The FMLFPP program as it is sometimes called, includes the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) the Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) and the new Regional Food Systems Partnership (RFSP) program are both part of the USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS). Since 2017, these programs have provided key resources and over \$900,000 in federal dollars to help support the development of local food systems in Kansas. These programs are all grant programs where organizations, communities and coalitions compete for dollars for projects that range from relatively straightforward farmers market promotions, to something like KC Healthy Kids current Regional Food Systems



Tom Buller - KRC, Executive Director

Partnership awarded in 2021, which is Envisioning A Collaborative Kansas City Food Shed, a multiyear project to engage man The Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG) which is the other key piece of the LAMP part of the Farm Bill is run by USDA Rural Development. This program provided 1:1 matching funds to producers looking to add value to their products. What adding value looks like can be a variety of things from turning fruit into jams, jellies or wine all the way to setting up source identified local food brands. Where the other programs are targeted at groups of producers or communities, the VAPG is really about helping farmers figure out how to add value to their products to help boost their farm profitability. In 2022 alone, over \$400,000 was awarded to Kansas producers through the VAPG, so it can have a big impact on our local food systems too.

Obviously increasing funding to these programs is one key way that the 2023 Farm Bill can expand support for the development of local food markets. The current budget for LAMP is \$50 million, although that has been

supplemented in the last year with some additional funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. An appropriate target amount for the next Farm Bill might be \$75 million. There are also a number of additional ways that these programs could be changed to make them more accessible which is currently somewhat limited. Sometimes these smaller details are easier to gain ground on because every program in the Farm Bill is competing to get more dollars, while some reforms can make programs more accessible without adding to their overall expenses.

There have been a number of points discussed in meetings with the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) that might be good options for how to improve the LAMP program. One idea is to direct the USDA to offer streamlined "turnkey grants" for projects of \$100,000 or less through the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program and that these turnkey grants have no match

requirement. This idea could really benefit smaller organizations and communities. Since the grants of the LAMP program are all competitive, relatively complicated to apply for and the FMPP and LFPP have a 25% match requirement, this means that larger organizations generally have a better chance at getting funds. Adding such turnkey programs would help smaller markets, organizations and communities have easier access to some of the benefits of the LAMP program. Likewise all of the grants require a match from the applicant organization, and beside something like a turnkey grant with no match, another way to help make the grants more accessible would be to lower that match requirement from the 25% it is currently at for the FMLFPP grants to 10 percent, again especially for smaller organizations. In that same spirit there are proposals to reduce the matching fund requirement from 50 to 25 percent for VAPG applications from beginning and socially disadvantaged producers with an

Adjusted Gross Income of \$250,000 or less.

There are a number of other small changes that could be made to the programs that would make them function better, and the NSAC staff and members like the Kansas Rural Center will be working over the next year to figure out which of these might be viable candidates and then we will be reaching out for support to get them included into the 2023 Farm Bill. So if local food systems are important to you, you might keep some light on the LAMP discussions for the Farm Bill next year.

### Links from Tom's Article

Local Agriculture Marketing Program  
- <https://bit.ly/3BhQXII>

Value Added Producer Grant  
- <https://bit.ly/3QMesJj>

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
- <https://bit.ly/3eJCMY8>

### Current Kansas Rural Center projects include:

- Beginning farmers and rancher training.
- Soil health education.
- Farm-to-school support.
- Food system infrastructure development.
- Sunflower Stories.
- Developmental training for storytelling
- Lobbying for better food and farming systems on behalf of Kansans.

Are these subjects important to you? Please consider becoming a contributor to the funding of the Kansas Rural Center and our essential work.

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Follow this link to contribute to KRC: <https://bit.ly/3RRgNUz>





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