



**Kansas Foundation  
for AGRICULTURE  
IN THE CLASSROOM**

# OVERCOMING CHALLENGES FOR A BETTER FUTURE



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# 2024

ANNUAL REPORT

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[www.ksagclassroom.org](http://www.ksagclassroom.org) | [info@ksagclassroom.org](mailto:info@ksagclassroom.org)

# THANK YOU!

As we reflect on the incredible support that has propelled our mission of connecting classrooms to Kansas agriculture forward. With just two full-time staff members, we truly rely on a village to make our work possible.

First, we extend our deepest gratitude to our dedicated board and committee members. Your ideas, support, and hands-on involvement have been invaluable.

To our loyal donors who give their time, resources, and encouragement—you are the foundation that allows us to operate and grow.

To our partners and grantors who have made this year's programs a reality—your generosity and belief in our mission fuel our success.

And finally, to the incredible educators we serve, you inspire us every day. You are at the heart of why we do what we do.

As we look ahead to 2025, we are excited to deepen these partnerships and expand the reach of our programs to support even more educators. Together, we're growing meaningful connections between classrooms and Kansas agriculture.



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# YEAR AT A GLANCE

**5,000+** Facebook page follows

**12** Teachers attending NAITCO

Teachers receiving newsletters **4,500+**

**4** Educator mini-grants

Educator Scholarships **6**

Teachers reached **5,200+**

**130,000+** Students reached

**1,394**

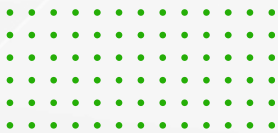
Agri-tags throughout  
the state of Kansas!



Proceeds from this specialty license plate  
contribute to K FAC's operations budget.

**251**

Teachers using Journey 2050





# CLASSROOM CHAMPIONS



KFAC awarded four Educator Mini-Grants and is following teachers through the 2024-2025 school year as they complete their projects. We can't wait to share them with you.

Jennifer Tillberg - 4th Grade at Soderstrom Elementary

Kacie Lockyear - Kindergarten at Country View Elementary

Cara Miller - 3rd & 4th Grades at Wabaunsee Elementary

Nicole Ryba - K-6th Grades at Kingman Elementary

Kansas was well represented at the 2024 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. Six of the twelve educators that attended from Kansas received a scholarship to attend. The conference featured four days of speakers and workshops that attendees could choose from based on their grade level, subject, or interest. As many as eight workshops were happening at one time, so educators could receive a customized experience that provides professional development that is unmatched by any other event.

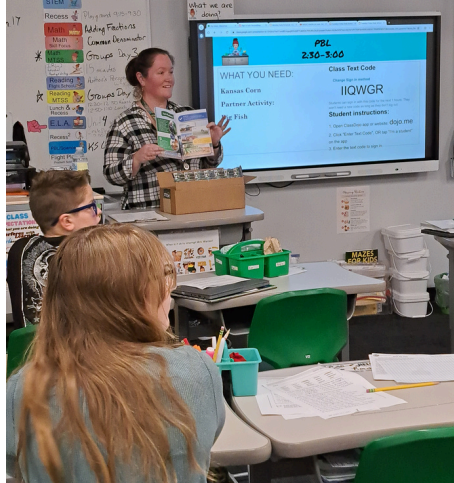


KFAC helped six Kansas teachers attend the National Agriculture in the Classroom Summer Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, thanks to generous scholarship sponsors. These scholarships were made possible by Kansas Corn, Kansas Soybean, Kansas Cooperative Council, and Kansas Department of Agriculture. Thanks to Kansas Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, we were able to provide scholarships to the teacher of the year winners as well as those featured on the left. We are gathering sponsorships for additional 2025 scholarships. Contact KFAC staff to help a teacher get high-quality professional development in teaching agriculture by sponsoring a NAITCO scholarship.



# EDUCATOR IMPACT

## Korte Warren



Korte Warren, Pre-K-5th grade teacher at Natoma Elementary School, is the 2025 Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (KFAC) Teacher of the Year. She worked closely with KFAC staff during the year before being submitted as the representative for Kansas at the national level in January 2025.

KFAC's Teacher of the Year award recognizes teachers who instill a passion for learning about agriculture within their students. KFAC honors one teacher annually who has successfully integrated agricultural education into their pre-existing curriculum.

Warren is in her 17th year of teaching, where she uses a project-based learning model to incorporate agriculture into science, math, reading, and writing. One of Warren's main goals is to bring real life into the classroom in any form possible. Through agricultural lessons, we can incorporate the Water Cycle and Food Web standards while showing students that they are real-world problem solvers who can and will use this information in the future. Knowing that what they learn in the classroom is in the world around them engages and excites them about their learning.

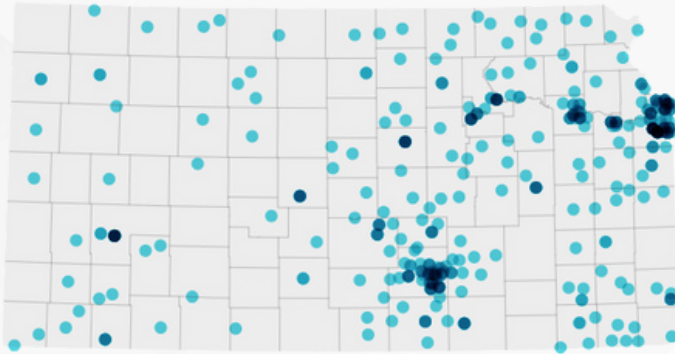
"Through exposing them to the farming and other careers available in agriculture shows them that life around agriculture is more than just planting and growing food," Warren says. "It has expanded their horizons and gives them more options to explore when finding a career path."

Warren has expanded this learning by bringing in speakers, interviewing experts, and involving several organizations to gather as many resources as possible to enhance student learning. She has incorporated growing kits into family nights and enjoyed hearing stories of students growing their plants at home.

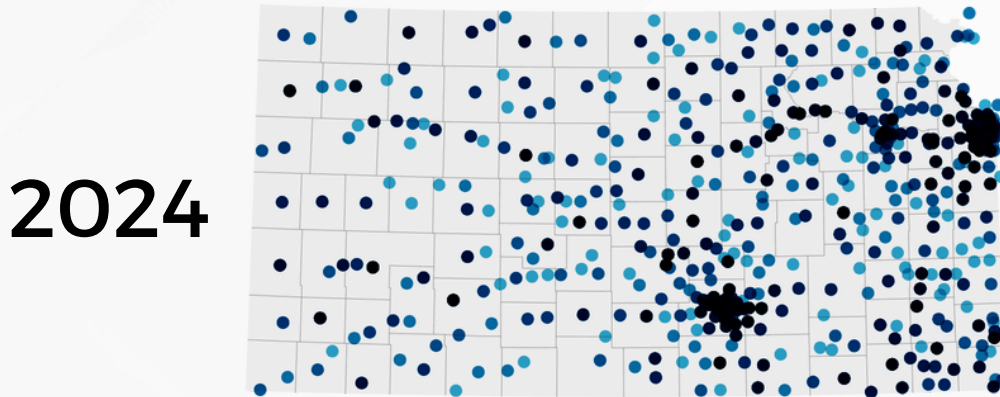
Warren received an all-expense paid trip to the 2024 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, and will receive an all-expense paid trip to the 2025 Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, thanks to a scholarship from Kansas Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture. Warren will also be considered for the 2025 National Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture Award, presented by National Agriculture in the Classroom.

# EXPANDING REACH

## Educators Reached through our free classroom kits

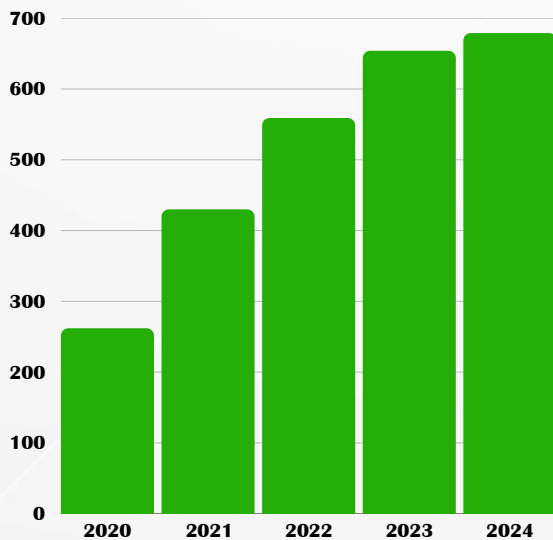


2022

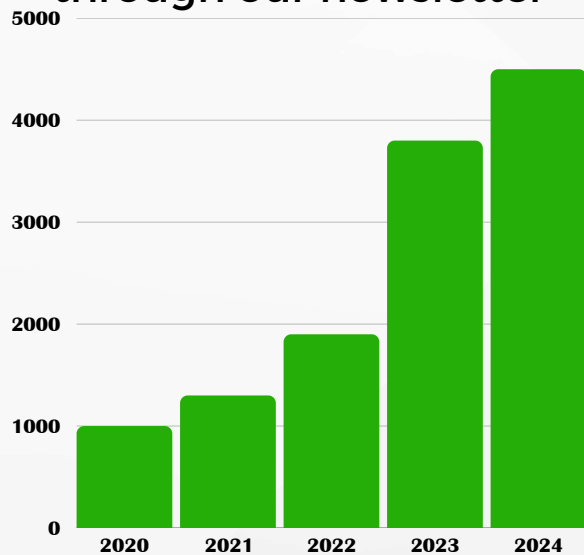


2024

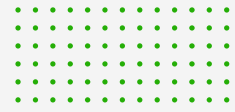
## Donors Reached through our newsletter



## Educators Reached through our newsletter



# VISION



“

Agriculture in every  
classroom every day.

”

# MISSION

“

Connecting Classrooms to  
Kansas Agriculture.

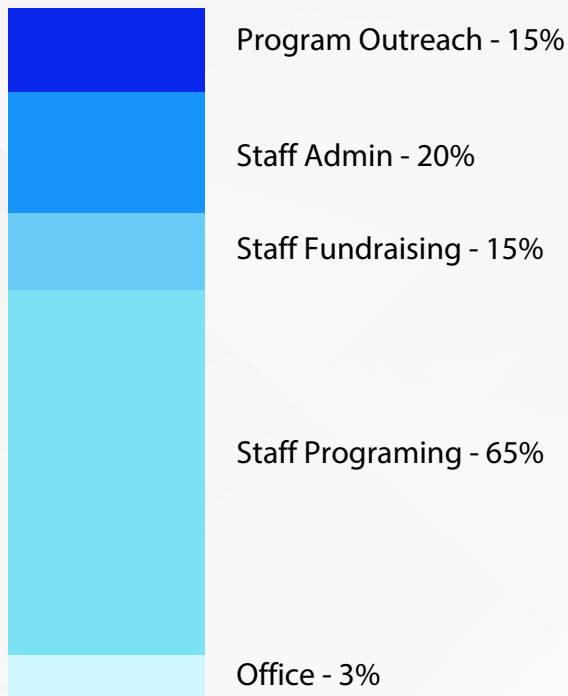
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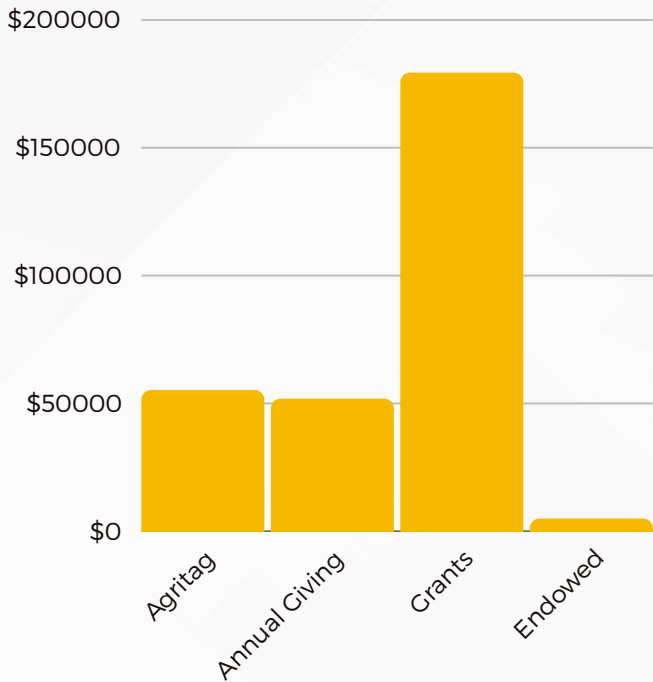


# FINANCIAL LEGACY

## ANNUAL EXPENSES



## 2024 INCOME



**\$234,312**

Total Expenses

**\$287,110**

Total Income

	2022	2023	2024
<b>Total Giving</b>	\$82,133	\$96,547	\$107,156
<b>Total Grants</b>	\$152,574	\$137,250	\$179,379



# IMPACT PARTNERS

## 2024 Donors

These donors have made educational resources available through their generous support. We are very grateful for their investment in our mission. You can get your name on this list by investing today!



### Premier Partners (+\$25,000)



### Partner (\$10,000 - \$24,999)



### Supporter (\$5,000 - \$9,999)



Pete Henry Foundation

### Classroom Connector (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Central National Bank  
David Whitney  
Debbie Feyh  
Doris Ericson  
Frahm Farmland, Inc  
Great Plains Manufacturing  
High Plains Journal

James Adams  
Kansas Bankers Association - Ag Division  
Kansas Beef Council  
Kansas Cooperative Council  
Mid-Kansas Cooperative Council  
Midwest Dairy

# IMPACT PARTNERS

## 2024 Donors

### Advocate (\$500 - \$999)

Ag Mark LLC  
CoBank  
Grain Craft

Kansas Sunflower  
Land & Sky Scenic ByWay  
Nicholson Ventures

Noble Dairy LLC  
Prairie Land Electric Company

### Contributor (<\$500)

4 Rivers Electric Company  
Allen Zimmerman  
Amanda Lickteig  
Anita DeWeese  
Barbara Meyer  
Beacher Grain, Inc.  
Bill Havenstein  
Bill Mai  
Brandi Miller  
Britt Feltner  
Bryan Wallraff  
Cindy Baldwin  
Cindy Colle  
Cindy Epler  
Dairy Max/Udeniably Dairy  
Dan Moser  
Doug Beech  
Doug Jardine  
Duane Blythe  
Dusti Gallagher  
Isabelle Barker  
Jack Salava  
Jennifer Latzke  
Jennifer Standley  
Jim Meinhardt  
Jim Weaver  
Joe Killian  
Joshua Marquardt  
Karlee Legleiter  
Kathryn Wilson  
Ken Rahjes

Kim Herren  
Kopriva Farms  
Laura Munsch  
Laura Sylvester  
Laurie Curtis  
Lori Elpers  
Marilyn Wilson  
Marketing Angle  
Mary Schulz  
Mattson Ranch  
Company  
Megan Thomas  
Morrill Elevator, Inc.  
Nancy Zenger-Beneda  
Nita Schrader  
Ohlde Seed Farms, Inc.  
Patsy Vining  
Paul Miller  
Sarah Pacheco  
Serita Blankenship  
Shawn Lord  
Sigma Alpha  
St. James Academy  
Steven and Nancy  
Manche  
Steven Graham  
Valerie Palmer  
Walker Farms  
Warren Prawl  
Wendie Powell  
William Kern

Triple T Agricultural and Environmental Consulting LLC  
Crawford County Conservation District  
Ellis County Conservation District  
Ford County Conservation District  
Franklin County Conservation District  
Guaranty State Bank & Trust Company  
Harvey County Conservation District  
Harvey County Farm Bureau  
Jackson County Conservation District  
Kiowa County Conservation District  
Lane County Conservation District  
Leavenworth Cooperative Association  
Logan County Conservation District  
Marion County Conservation District  
Meade County Conservation District  
Montgomery County Conservation District  
Nemaha County Conservation District  
Neosho County Conservation District  
Norton County Farm Bureau  
Ottawa County Conservation District  
Pottawatomie County Conservation District  
Pratt County Farm Bureau  
Sumner County Conservation District  
Wabaunsee County Conservation District  
Wilson County Conservation District



# BUILDING TOMORROW

There are many ways to support KFAC.  
Consider leaving your legacy with KFAC today!

## Donate

By giving on one of our annual giving days, your donations can be matched; however, any time is a great time to give! You can give through Benevity, Thrivent, Venmo, PayPal, Facebook, or a designated giving page.

## Agri-tag

Sporting an Agri-tag specialty license plate on your vehicle is a great way to support KFAC with an annual tax-deductible donation while promoting agriculture everywhere you go! Talk to your County Treasurer about how to get yours.

## Share

Sharing our posts on social media, our mission with friends, and our free resources with educators are excellent ways to support KFAC! You can help us grow our reach.



## Planned Giving

### Looking to leave a lasting legacy?

Support KFAC's mission by leaving a bequest in your will or living trust.

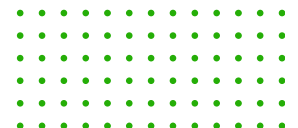
Include the following information in your bequest:

Legal name: Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

Federal Tax ID #48-0963313

Address: 1990 Kimball Ave Manhattan, Kansas 66502

<https://ksagclassroom.org/giving/planned/>



# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year, we are thrilled to share the incredible strides the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (KFAC) has made in our mission to connect classrooms with Kansas agriculture. Thanks to your support, we have reached new heights in educator engagement, donor involvement, and curriculum innovation.



This year, we proudly served a record number of educators across Kansas. Through workshops, classroom resources, and professional development opportunities, we equipped teachers with the tools to bring agriculture to life for their students. The growth in educators reached reflects not only the dedication of our team but also the increasing interest in agricultural education throughout the state.

We are equally grateful for the growth in our donor community. Your generosity allows us to continue expanding our programs and resources. Whether through financial contributions, volunteer time, or in-kind support, your commitment ensures Kansas students understand the importance of agriculture in their daily lives.

Another exciting milestone this year was the launch of our Kansas clickable map, designed to connect educators with local agriculture resources to support them in incorporating agriculture topics into their curriculum. This support empowers teachers to deliver hands-on, engaging content that connects students to the food, fiber, and fuel systems that sustain us.

We remain committed to expanding our impact and reaching even more educators and students to increase agriculture literacy across Kansas. Together, we are cultivating a future where everyone values and understands agriculture.

Thank you for your continued partnership. We look forward to another year of growth, innovation, and connection.

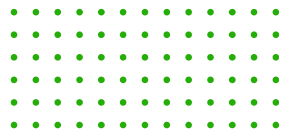
With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Zenger-Beneda". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Zenger-Beneda, Ed.S.  
KFAC Executive Director



# GUIDING LEADERSHIP



## 2024 KFAC Staff

Nancy Zenger-Beneda, Executive Director

Briana Jacobus, Assistant Director

## 2024 Board of Directors

Glenn Brunkow, Chair  
Casey Biesenthal, Chair-Elect  
Nichole Gouldie, Past Chair  
Amanda Strait, Treasurer  
Doug Jardine, Secretary  
Jim Adams, Director  
Doug Beech, Director  
Cindy Colle, Director  
Jennifer Standley, Director

Karlee Legleiter, Director  
Jennifer Latzke, Marketing Chair  
Jack Salava, Director  
Charlie Sargent, Director  
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Dennis Hershberger, Board of Education Rep  
Russell Plaschka, Kansas Dept of Agriculture Rep  
Dan Moser, KSU College of Agriculture Rep  
Amanda Lickteig, KSU College of Education Rep

## 2024 Committee Members

Brandi Miller, Education Committee  
Ben Jones, Education Committee  
Serita Blankenship, Education Committee  
Angela Beavers, Education Committee  
Laurie Curtis, Education Committee  
Robyn Kelso, Education Committee  
RJ Dake, Education Committee  
Marsha Boswell, Marketing Committee  
Laura Munsch, Marketing Committee  
Morgan Todd, Finance Committee  
Tom Roth, Finance Committee

Jim Weaver, Investment Committee  
Luther Hamman, Investment Committee  
Barbara Meyer, Investment Committee  
Clayton Good, Investment Committee  
Amy Benz, Curriculum Advisory Team  
Kacie Lockyear, Curriculum Advisory Team  
Nancy Smith, Curriculum Advisory Team  
Patricia Wolfe, Curriculum Advisory Team

*"Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil,  
and you're a thousand miles from the cornfield."*

**- President Dwight D. Eisenhower**



# PROJECT LAUNCHES

## Clickable Kansas Map

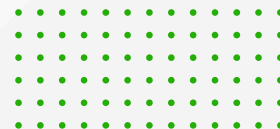


We now have a Clickable Kansas County Map! On the map website, you can click on any of the 105 counties to find county agricultural statistics and local resources to help incorporate agriculture in any classroom. Find information and contacts for local farm bureau, extension, 4-H, FFA, farmers, and more. We will continue to update and add more details to this map, so watch for more updates in 2025! Explore the map today at [ksagmap.org](http://ksagmap.org)!

## Coming in early 2025

# Calendar of National Ag Days

We are excited for educators to get their hands on our newest resource in 2025, our yearly calendar of national ag days! This calendar features many days of the year to celebrate in the classroom, complete with a lesson, book, and activity. We hope educators will enjoy this new way to incorporate agriculture into their classrooms this year!



# LESSON PLAN KITS

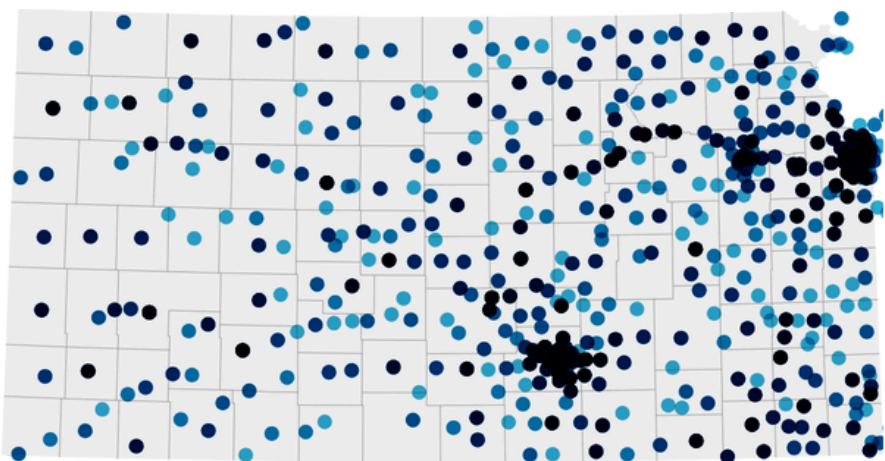
KFAC's lesson-plan kit offers a free lesson and activity to incorporate agriculture into a class. In 2024, we sent out 2,000 K-12th grade kits to educators across Kansas, reaching 810 schools and more than 50,000 students. 80% of the teachers receiving kits were not yet connected with KFAC. This program has enhanced our ability to connect with new teachers and allowed us to reach all 105 Kansas counties, as well as get at least one kit in every school district.

We expanded our kit offerings in 2023 by adding a 6-8th grade kit and a 9-12th grade kit to our already offered K-2nd grade and 3-5th grade kits. The 6-8th grade kit uses pasteurized and ultra-high-temperature (UHT) milk to help students learn how different temperatures affect the growth of spoilage bacteria. The 9-12th grade kit teaches students about DNA and walks them through how to extract DNA from beef jerky. We are excited to offer these kits again in 2025 and are so grateful to our donors for supporting this project.



## 2,000

### Free Educator Kits Sent



Teachers reached **2,000**  
**50,000+** Students reached  
Schools reached **810**  
**All** School Districts reached  
Counties reached **all 105**  
**80%** to teachers new to KFAC

# LEGACY REFLECTIONS

## ABOUT KFAC

Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is an affiliate program of Kansas State University and a member organization of National Agriculture in the Classroom.

**KANSAS STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**



<https://www.guidestar.org/profile/48-0963313>

### What is agriculture literacy?

A person who understands and can communicate the source and value of agriculture as it affects our quality of life.

Much of the United States history closely ties agriculture and education. In 1981, the U.S. Department of Agriculture invited agricultural groups and educator representatives to Washington, D.C., to discuss agricultural literacy. The USDA then established Agriculture in the Classroom with the endorsement of all living former Secretaries of Agriculture, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, the National Conference of State Legislatures, most Governors of the States, and the major agricultural organizations and commodity groups. Since then, these partnerships have made significant progress in advancing the mission of introducing agriculture into classrooms nationwide.

Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom was founded in 1982 as a statewide educational program to help Kansas youth understand the importance of agriculture in their daily lives. In 1985, KFAC held its first summer graduate course for Kansas Teachers, marking its commitment to providing teachers with agricultural experiences, credible resources, and hands-on lesson plans. Since then, KFAC has provided resources, training, and support for educators, schools, and volunteers to spark meaningful connections between classrooms and Kansas agriculture.

Since our founding, eight persons have served as KFAC's Executive Director. Eighteen individuals have served as the chair of the Board of Directors, which currently has 17 members, four representing the Kansas Department of Agriculture, the Kansas State Department of Education, and Kansas State University's College of Agriculture and College of Education.

In recent years, KFAC has focused on expanding its reach across Kansas, strengthening lesson plans to include Kansas Academic Standards, enhancing our lesson-plan database to include grades K-12, and reaching a new audience of educators that includes volunteers and home school teachers.



**Kansas Foundation**  
**for AGRICULTURE**  
**KFAAC | IN THE CLASSROOM**



Manhattan, Kansas



785-320-4350



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[www.ksagclassroom.org](http://www.ksagclassroom.org)

