

2025

Annual Report



THANK YOU!

Education is where curiosity takes root and connections begin. At the heart of our work are the educators who bring Kansas agriculture to life in classrooms every day. Your creativity, dedication, and commitment to meaningful learning inspire everything we do at the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom.

We are equally grateful for the board and committee members whose leadership and guidance strengthen our organization, and for the donors whose generosity provides the base for our programs to grow. Our partners and grantors play a vital role in turning ideas into action, helping us expand resources and opportunities for educators statewide.

With just two full-time staff members, this work is truly made possible by a village of support. As we look ahead, we are excited to deepen these relationships and continue building meaningful connections between Kansas classrooms and agriculture.



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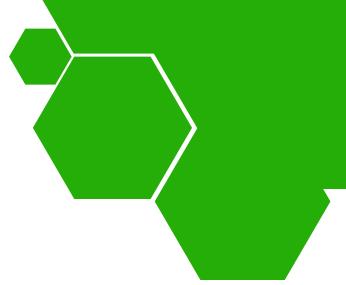
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2025 at a Glance



5,600+ Facebook page follows

12 Teachers attending NAITCO

Teachers receiving newsletters **4,700+**

7 Educator mini-grants

Tower Gardens awarded **3**

7 Educator Scholarships

Teachers reached **5,500+**

160,000+ Students reached

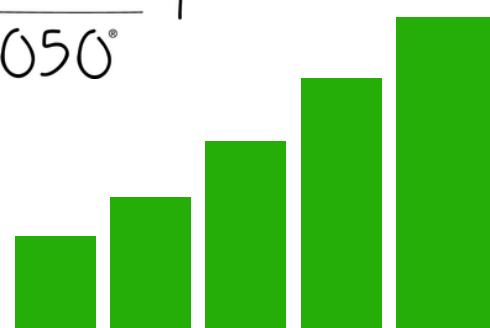
1,329

Agri-tags throughout
the state of Kansas!



255

Teachers using Journey 2050



Classroom Innovators



KFAC awarded seven Educator Mini-Grants and is following teachers through the 2025-2026 school year as they complete their projects. We can't wait to share them with you.

Skye Kerr - 3rd Grade at Central Elementary in Baxter Springs
Leslie Lewellen - 4th Grade at Community Elementary in Coffeyville
Danel Wolcott - 4th Grade at Plainville Elementary in Plainville
Abra Livengood - K-5 Homeschool Co-op in Mound City
T.J. Dorian - Social Studies and Ag at Piper High in Kansas City
Sowmya Sugumaran - 3rd Grade at Northview Elementary in Manhattan
Kindel Baxter - 6th Grade ELA at Ray Marsh Elementary in Shawnee
Special thank you to Kansas Department of Agriculture for sponsoring our mini grant program!

Kansas was well represented at the 2025 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Nine 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.



2025 NAITCO Scholarship Winners



Jessica Mathes
3RD GRADE
STAFFORD ELEMENTARY



Denise Rankin
9-12TH GRADE FACS
DERBY HIGH



Danel Wolcott
3RD-4TH GRADE
DAMAR ELEMENTARY



Lesley Riddell-Koch
7-8TH GRADE EXPLORE AG
MAIZE MIDDLE



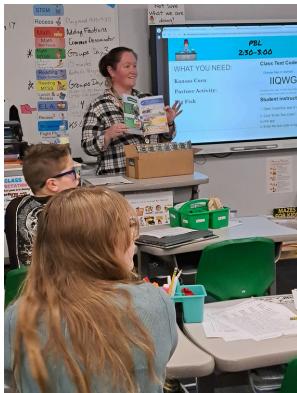
Leslie Lewellen
4TH GRADE
COMMUNITY ELEMENTARY, COFFEYVILLE

KFAC helped seven Kansas teachers attend the National Agriculture in the Classroom Summer Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, thanks to generous scholarship sponsors. These scholarships were made possible by Kansas Corn, Kansas Soybean, Kansas Sorghum, Kansas Cooperative Council, and Kansas Department of Agriculture. Thanks to Kansas Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, we were also able to provide scholarships to the teacher of the year winner and our national excellence in teaching award nominee. We are gathering sponsorships for additional 2026 scholarships. Contact KFAC staff to help a teacher get high-quality professional development in teaching agriculture by sponsoring a NAITCO scholarship.

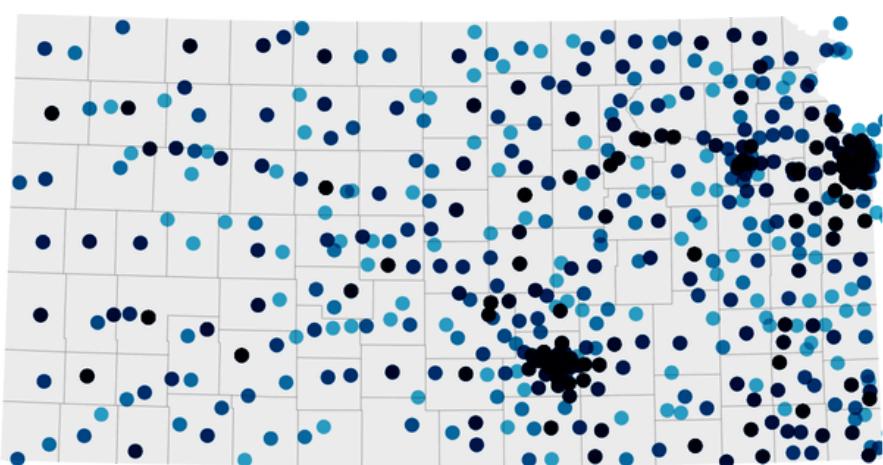
Lesson Plan Kits

KFAC's lesson-plan kits provide educators with a free, ready-to-use lesson and hands-on activity to easily incorporate agriculture into classroom instruction. In 2025, more than 2,000 K-12 lesson-plan kits were distributed to educators across Kansas, reaching 810 schools and impacting over 50,000 students. Notably, 82% of teachers receiving a kit were not previously connected with KFAC, highlighting the program's effectiveness in engaging new educators and expanding awareness of agricultural literacy resources.

This program allowed KFAC to reach all 105 Kansas counties and ensure that every school district received at least one kit, strengthening statewide access to agriculture-based learning. We are excited to offer select lesson-plan kits again in 2026 and are deeply grateful to the donors who make this work possible. Look for new kits and new lessons launching in spring 2026 as we continue connecting classrooms to Kansas agriculture.



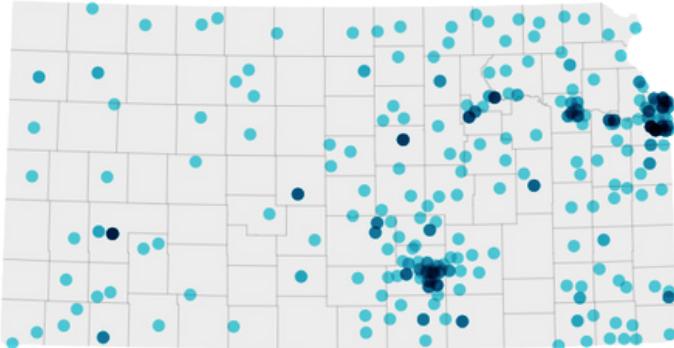
2,000
Free Educator Kits Sent



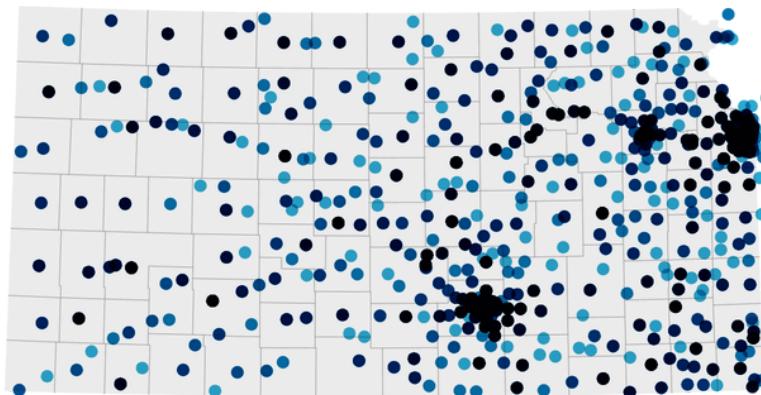
Teachers reached **2,000**
50,000+ Students reached
Schools reached **810**
All School Districts reached
Counties reached **all 105**
82% to teachers new to KFAC

Growing our Footprint

Educators Reached
through our free classroom kits

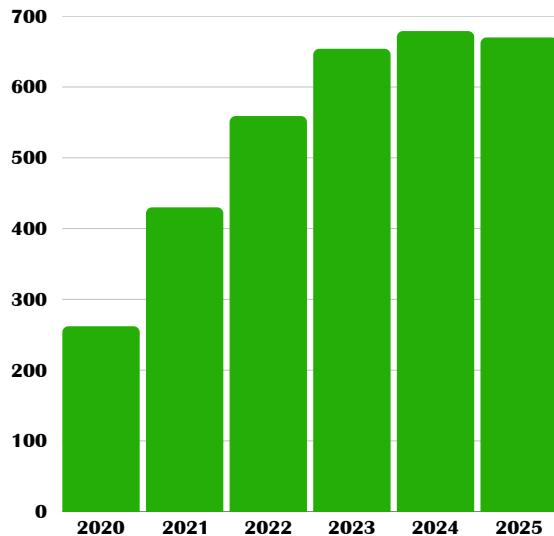


2022

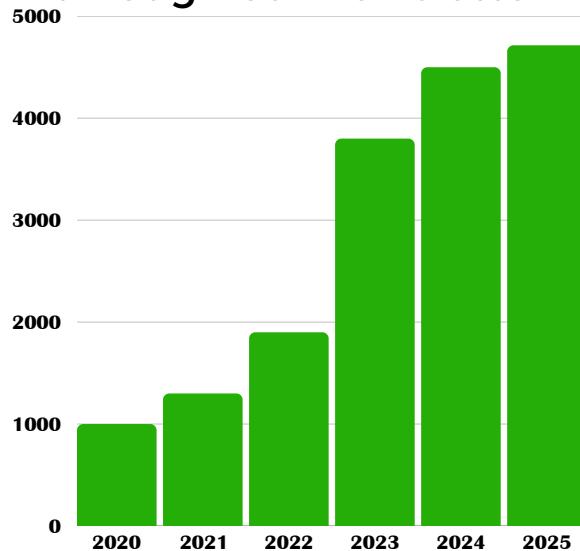


2025

Donors Reached
through our newsletter



Educators Reached
through our newsletter



Innovative Educator



Kelsy Sproul, a Kindergarten teacher at Sedan Elementary School, is the 2026 Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (KFAC) Teacher of the Year. Sproul, who has been teaching for three years, brings agriculture to life for her students by seamlessly incorporating it across all subjects, including science, math, English language arts, and social studies. With firsthand experience as a rancher, she uses real-world examples to make learning more engaging and meaningful.

"My husband and I are ranchers, and I see every day how agricultural experiences benefit our own children. Many of my students come from families involved in agriculture, and I want to connect what they learn in school to the real-world practices happening in their own communities," said Sproul. "Agriculture isn't just a subject—it's a way of life, and I want my students to understand and appreciate it."

Sproul's innovative teaching includes hands-on projects like soil studies, seed germination, and a popular chick-hatching project, which engages students in journaling, counting, measuring, and scientific observation. Her efforts extend beyond her kindergarten classroom—she volunteers an hour each day to teach agriculture lessons to first through fifth-grade students, ensuring that agricultural education remains a consistent and growing part of the school's curriculum.

"Kelsy Sproul exemplifies the mission of KFAC by making agriculture an integral part of student learning," said Nancy Zenger-Beneda, KFAC Executive Director. "Her commitment to hands-on, interdisciplinary agricultural literacy education enhances classroom instruction and fosters a lifelong appreciation for agriculture among her students. We are thrilled to recognize her dedication with this award."

One of the standout aspects of Sproul's program is her partnership with the local high school FFA chapter. Each week, FFA members visit her classroom to mentor and assist students with agricultural projects, helping to bridge the gap between early childhood education and future agricultural careers. These experiences create a sense of pride, curiosity, and connection to the broader agricultural community.

Sproul received an all-expense paid trip to the 2025 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and will receive an all-expense paid trip to the 2026 Conference.



Vision and Mission

Vision

“ —

**Agriculture in every
classroom every day.**

— ”

Mission

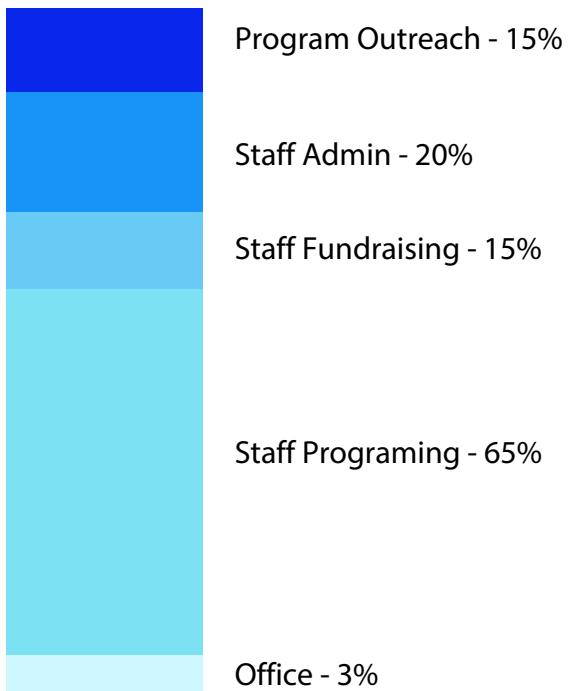
“ —

**Connecting Classrooms to
Kansas Agriculture.**

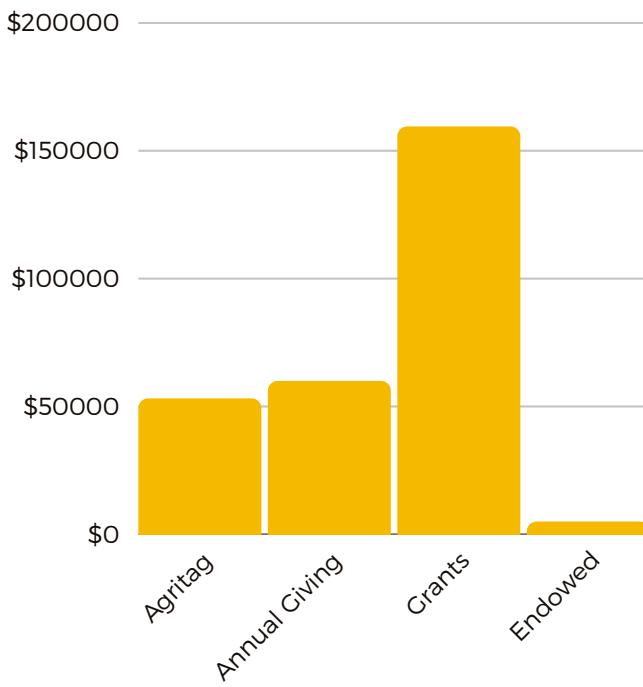
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Stewarding Resources

ANNUAL EXPENSES



2025 INCOME



\$286,874

Total Expenses

\$274,424

Total Income

	2023	2024	2025
Total Giving	\$96,547	\$107,156	\$114,920
Total Grants	\$137,250	\$179,379	\$159,505



Mission in Motion

Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom was recognized with the Innovative Program Award by the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization for the development of the Clickable Kansas County Map, a dynamic digital tool designed to connect educators with local agriculture. Launched in 2024, the interactive map provides access to county-specific agricultural data, contacts, and curriculum-aligned resources across all 105 Kansas counties, helping teachers easily integrate real-world, place-based agriculture into their classrooms. The award was presented at the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference and is especially meaningful as it was voted on by peer Agriculture in the Classroom programs from across the country, recognizing KFAC's commitment to innovation, collaboration, and supporting educators with practical, accessible tools. You can find this tool at ksagmap.org.



In collaboration with our Agriland partners and a professional designer, KFAC refreshed the Agriland banner and visual identity using a farm-to-table concept that illustrates how Kansas agriculture connects food from the field to the plate. These design updates guided a thoughtful reconfiguration of the physical Agriland space at the Kansas State Fair, creating a more immersive and cohesive educational experience for fairgoers. As Agriland celebrated 30 years of agricultural education at the fair, the addition of a new Gleaner cab further enhanced hands-on learning, allowing visitors to engage directly with modern equipment while experiencing agriculture's journey from farm to table.



Shaping the Future

2025 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)



FARM CREDIT
ASSOCIATIONS OF KANSAS



Kansas
Sheep
Council

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

Alpha Gamma Rho
Cattle Empire LLC
David Whitney
Doris Ericson

High Plains Journal
James Adams
Kansas Bankers Association - Ag Division

Kansas Beef Council
Kansas Cooperative Council
Midwest Dairy

Advocate (\$500 - \$999)

Ag Mark LLC
Invenergy

Kansas Sunflower
KS State Bank

Nicholson Ventures
Royal Farms Dairy

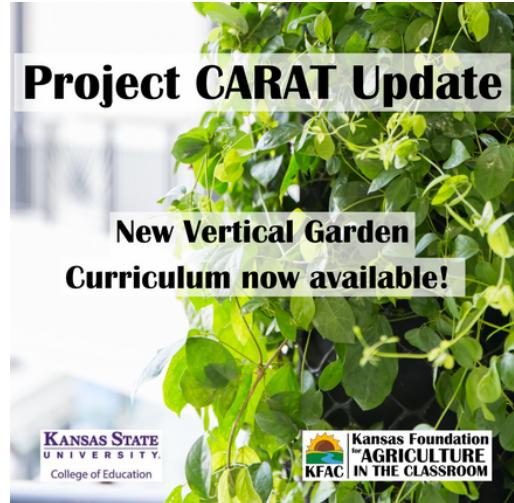
Shaping the Future

2025 Donors

Contributor (<\$500)

4 Rivers Electric Company	Karen McDaniel	Allen County Conservation District
Allen Zimmerman	Karen Wright	Anderson County Farm Bureau
Amanda Lickteig	Karlee Legleiter	Bourbon County Conservation District
Amanda Strait	Katlin Gripka Connell	Butler County Conservation District
Amy Bandel	Kelsy Sproul	Chautauqua County Conservation District
Barbara Havlicek	Kerry Lickteig	Clay County Conservation District
Barbara Meyer	Lance Woodbury	Coffey County Conservation District
Bennington State Bank	Laura Munsch	Comanche County Conservation District
Briana Jacobus	Leiszler Oil Company, Inc.	Edwards County Conservation District
Carrico Implement - Beloit	Leslie Lewellen	Ellis County Conservation District
Casey Biesenthal	Linda Maike	Farmers Alliance Mutual Insurance Company
Charley Rose Smith	Luther Hamman	Finney County Conservation District
Charlie Sargent	Marsha Boswell	Franklin County Conservation District
Chelsi Sterling	Marvin Petingco	Geary County Conservation District
Christina Brown	Mary Vanhooser	Harvey County Conservation District
Cindy Baldwin	Michael Pinkston	Jackson County Conservation District
Cindy Colle	Molly Townsend	Kingman Co. Farm Bureau
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Corbyn Glendening	Nathan Zeit	Linn County Conservation District
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Dana Peterson	Ottawa Coop Association	Meade County Conservation District
Danel Wolcott	Pamela Baumfalk	Mitchell County Conservation District
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Doug Beech	Paul Miller	Norton County Farm Bureau
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Irlene Huntington	Tim Dorian	Seward County Conservation District
Jack Salava	Tonia Michaelis	Shawnee County Conservation District
Jennifer Latzke	Trinity Ag, LLC	Sumner County Conservation District
Jim Meinhardt	Warren Slocombe	Wallace County Conservation District
John and Shirley Blankenship	William Kern	Washington County Conservation District
		Wilson County Conservation District
		Woodson County Conservation District

Partners in Purpose



Through Project CARAT, KFAC partnered with the Rural Education Center in Kansas State University's College of Education and received support through a SPECA grant funded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. This project introduced a new vertical gardening curriculum designed to integrate hands-on, experiential learning into core instruction while increasing student awareness of agricultural and food science careers. As part of the pilot, KFAC awarded three tower gardens to support classroom implementation and deepen student engagement, helping rural educators connect Kansas students to modern agriculture and future career pathways.

KFAC continued to strengthen its partnership with the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) through collaborative grant projects and shared professional learning. Together, KFAC and KACEE were awarded an NCR-SARE Professional Development Grant to develop an environmental education course focused on integrating sustainable and regenerative agriculture into K-12 education. The course is hosted through KACEE, with high-quality instructional materials and agricultural literacy resources housed on the KFAC website to ensure long-term access for educators statewide and beyond. In addition, the KFAC Executive Director presented at the KACEE State Conference, further strengthening the partnership and increasing visibility for agricultural literacy within the environmental education community, reinforcing a shared commitment to preparing educators to teach sustainability through an agriculture-informed lens.

KFAC partnered with the Kansas Department of Agriculture to strengthen nutrition education and increase access to locally grown fruits and vegetables in Kansas licensed early child care facilities through a program called "Our Earliest Eaters." Supported by funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service through the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, this initiative provided age-appropriate curriculum, classroom resource kits, and reimbursement opportunities to participating facilities. By connecting early learners with Kansas specialty crops and supporting relationships between child care providers and local farmers, the program expanded agricultural literacy at the earliest level while creating new market opportunities for Kansas producers.



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.

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.

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.



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 Reflections

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This past year marked a period of meaningful growth and steady progress for the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom. While our mission remains clear, our approach continues to evolve as our organization becomes stronger, more visible, and more connected across Kansas.



One of our most significant accomplishments was the expansion of our support network. By strengthening relationships with educators, agricultural organizations, industry partners, and community supporters, we were able to extend our reach and deepen our impact. These partnerships ensure our programs remain relevant, high-quality, and responsive to the needs of teachers and students.

We also made important strides in raising awareness of agricultural literacy through professional development, classroom initiatives, conference presentations, and outreach efforts. Educators are not only using our resources, but also becoming advocates for agricultural literacy within their schools and communities, helping our mission grow through shared success and real classroom impact.

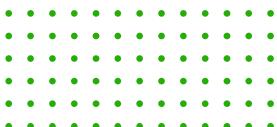
While we continue working toward long-term financial goals, we are encouraged by the responsible growth achieved this year. Each new partnership, grant, and investment strengthens our foundation and moves us closer to sustainability.

None of this progress would be possible without the dedication of our supporters, board members, educators, and partners. Your belief in agricultural literacy and the power of education drives our work forward. As we look ahead, we do so with gratitude, purpose, and optimism for what's to come.

With sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Zenger-Beneda".

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



Guiding Leadership



2025 KFAC Staff

Nancy Zenger-Beneda, Executive Director

Briana Jacobus, Assistant Director

2025 Board of Directors

Glenn Brunkow, Chair

Casey Biesenthal, Chair-Elect

Nichole Gouldie, Past Chair

Amanda Strait, Treasurer

Doug Jardine, Secretary

Jim Adams, Director

Cindy Colle, Director

Clayton Good, Director

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Dennis Hershberger, Board of Education Rep

Dana Ladner, Kansas Dept of Agriculture Rep

Dan Moser, KSU College of Agriculture Rep

Amanda Lickteig, KSU College of Education Rep

2025 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

Marsha Boswell, Marketing Committee

Laura Munsch, Marketing Committee

Morgan Todd, Finance Committee

Tom Roth, Finance Committee

Jim Weaver, Investment Committee

Luther Hamman, Investment Committee

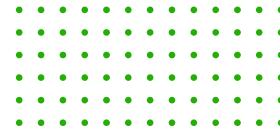
Barbara Meyer, Investment Committee

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

Legacy in the Making



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
U N I V E R S I T Y



 **GUIDESTAR**[®]
by Candid.
<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.

ABOUT KFAC

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 18 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
IN THE CLASSROOM**

- 📍 Manhattan, Kansas
- 📞 785-320-4350
- ✉️ info@ksagclassroom.org
- 🌐 www.ksagclassroom.org