

Increased UAS study and degree options at secondary and postsecondary educational institutions in Kansas

ACTION ITEMS:

- Evaluate what agricultural degree programs at Kansas State University complement the UAS industry, such as agronomy or biological and agricultural engineering.
- Establish a UAS minor in applicable departments.
- Strengthen the study options of UAS at Kansas State Polytechnic, if needed.
- Promote UAS/precision agriculture as career and academic option to students from K-12 through postsecondary.

Kansas presence at regional and national UAS events in an effort to attract unmanned aerial vehicle manufacturing to Kansas.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Continue participation at national UAS Summit & Expo; attended for the first time in 2017.
- Continue participation at UAS Cluster Initiative events.
- Continue active participation and leadership at UAS Summit in Kansas.

Medium Priority Outcomes

Partnerships between Kansas' existing military bases and the aviation industry to enhance the research, development and expertise of the UAS industry in Kansas.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Schedule quarterly meetings between Fort Riley and other military bases with Kansas UAS and aviation industry in order to share ideas on current efforts and identify methods for collaboration.
- Develop partnerships with interested companies in aviation/aerospace/UAS in Wichita area specific to agriculture systems for spraying and harvesting.
- Investigate repurposing Department of Defense training facilities and personnel for civilian agriculture purposes.

Information showing a demonstrated return on investment from incorporating UAS technology into farm management decisions. Evidence of return on investment would promote farmer adoption of UAS, assist farmers in becoming more comfortable in utilizing the technology, and result in greater farm profitability.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Quantify return on investment based upon research and extension activities.

Research on applications in animal agriculture through collaborations between Kansas State University and industry, an area that remains largely untapped.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Research and create animal herd tracking systems that would track health and nutrients.

Business-friendly environment that attracts further expertise and innovation to the state.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Market the benefits of Kansas' business friendly environment.
- Educate lawmakers on current infrastructure and policies that successfully creates a business-friendly environment.
- Engage with legislators when proposed legislation threatens a pro-growth business environment in order to rectify negative results that may occur.

