



SPECIALTY CROP SECTOR

Virtual Meeting Agreements

- If you are here to be present, be present
- Speak with good intent
- Seek clarity
- Support sincerely

Labor Challenges and Workforce Programs

KANSASWORKS Resources

- KANSASWORKS.com
- Career Readiness Certificate
- Assessments/Testing
- Job Fairs
- Career Resource Center
- Mobile App
- Career Planning Workshops
- Job Coaching
- Information
- Veteran Employment Services



Work Opportunity Tax Credit

- The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is a federal tax credit available to employers who hire individuals from eligible target groups with significant barriers to employment.
- WOTC **reduces an employer's cost of doing business**, requires little paperwork, and applying for WOTC is simple.
- WOTC can **reduce an employer's federal income tax liability** by as much as \$9,600 per employee hired.
- **There is no limit** on the number of individuals an employer can hire to qualify to claim the tax credit.

H-2A Temporary Agricultural Program

- Allows agricultural employers who anticipate a shortage of domestic workers to bring nonimmigrant foreign workers to the U.S.
- H-2A workers perform agricultural labor services of a temporary or seasonal nature.
- Employment is tied to a certain time of year by an event or pattern, such as an annual growing season.
- Employment, except in extraordinary circumstances, will last no longer than one year.



Photo credit: U.S. Department of Agriculture

RETAINWORKS

- The cost of finding new employees is typically greater than returning employees to work.
- RETAINWORKS provides direct savings to employers, while helping an injured or ill employee avoid long-term unemployment and disability.
- RETAINWORKS is designed to reduce the costs associated with the loss of productivity, long-term absence, and turnover.



Photo credit: U.S. Department of Agriculture

KDA Ag Immersion Program

- Ag immersion events give high school students the opportunity to immerse themselves in many facets of Kansas agriculture.
- The events are targeted toward teaching students there are numerous careers throughout agriculture.
- KDA hopes to instill a new passion for agriculture in youth through connecting high school students with potential career and mentor opportunities.



Photo credit: Kansas Department of Agriculture

Registered Apprenticeship

- An industry-driven, high-quality career pathway where employers can develop and prepare their future workforce.
- Individuals can obtain paid work experience and receive progressive wage increases, classroom instruction, and a nationally recognized credential.
- 93% of apprentices who complete a Registered Apprenticeship retain employment.

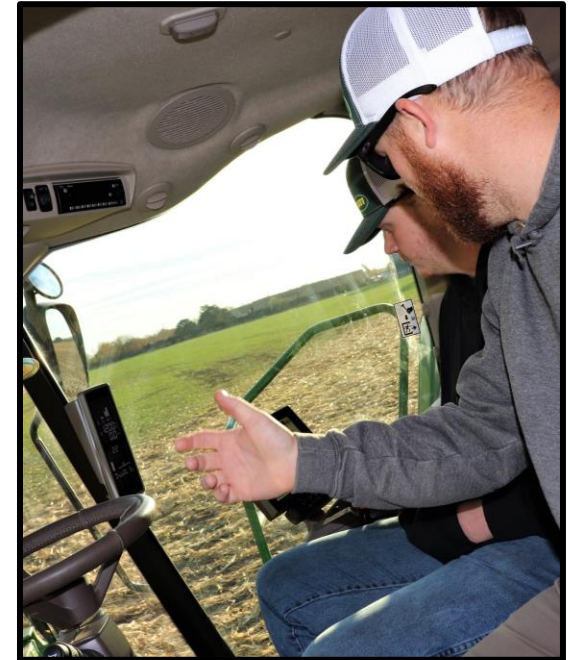


Photo credit: Kansas Department of Agriculture

Scaling Up Production

Kansas Specialty Crop Growers Association Update

Kansas
2023 AGSUMMIT
GROW SMARTER. GROW STRONGER. GROW KANSAS.

Kansas Local Food Systems and Kansas Local Food Fellows Program

KANSAS LOCAL FOODS BUILDING COMMUNITIES



[Get Involved](#)



[Learn More](#)

KANSAS LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

Building resiliency, health, and economic vitality for Kansas communities – from food production on farms to food on every plate.

[Cultivate Community](#)

[Grow Your Business](#)

[Produce Food](#)

[Find Local Food](#)

Regional Food System Partnership Grant Objectives

1. Increase local food system education and coordination capacity across the state.
2. Facilitate access to resources and local food systems workforce development across the state of Kansas.
3. Increase equitable access to resources and technical expertise across the state, including marketing and local food education resources.

Program Staff

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GET INVOLVED

JOIN US

[Learn More](#)[Sign Up for Our Mailing List](#)

JOIN US

Local food systems are successful when they have many diverse partners working together for a common goal. We invite you to join in our virtual or in-person events to help us continue building a thriving Kansas Local Food System.

Quarterly Virtual Town Halls

Community Roundtables

Local Food Fellows

Local Food Summit

Quarterly Local Food Virtual Town Halls

- Held the 4th Wednesday of January, April, July, and October
- 3-5 lightning presentations by guest presenters about a hot topic
- Opportunities to share and learn about other efforts and activities occurring across the state
- Next Town Hall will be Wednesday, October 18th at 11 a.m.
 - Register here: <http://bit.ly/Oct23townhall>
- Notes & Recordings on our website:
 - <https://www.k-state.edu/kansaslocalfoods>



Local Food Community Roundtables

- Will be held in 10+ locations around the state in November
 - Colby, Quinter, Salina, Clay Center, Hutchinson, Wichita, Topeka, Olathe, Ottawa, Pittsburg, Liberal, Dodge City
- Virtual options will also be available
- Hope to have locations, dates, times finalized in the next few weeks
- Why attend a roundtable?
 - To share experiences and provide feedback on what goals you have for your communities and what needs you have to make that a reality.
- Who should attend?
 - Anyone that grows, raises, processes, stores, transports, distributes, sells, cooks or eats food and has an interest in developing a more vibrant local food system that benefits the entire community.

Local Food Fellows Program

- Apply now to host a fellow for a 320-hour local food system project
- Project of your choosing to increase local food system capacity
- Our grant provides \$17 hourly rate
- Funding for 16 KSU student fellows (summer of 2024 & 2025)
 - Apply by Sept. 30
- Funding for 18 Independent fellows (spring, summer, fall 2024 & 2025)
 - Apply by Aug. 31 or Nov. 30

Learn more and apply on our website!

<https://www.k-state.edu/kansaslocalfoods/get-involved/fellows.html>

Trainings & Resources

- Consumer / general publications on local food systems
- Scholarships to the Insight Summit (new media marketing training)
- Farm to School and Beginning Farmer trainings
- Regional direct to consumer / farmers market workshops in 2024
- Statewide Local Food System Summit in 2024 and 2025
- Development of additional trainings and resources based on identified needs

Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program

Kansas
2023 AG SUMMIT
GROW SMARTER. GROW STRONGER. GROW KANSAS.

Program Overview

- KDA has been awarded \$6,459,356 to build resilience in the middle of the supply chain and strengthen local and regional food systems.
- KDA will work in partnership with USDA to subaward competitive grants to Kansas food and farm businesses and other eligible entities.
- Eligible food products are crops and products meant for human consumption, excluding meat and poultry products.
- Individual applicants can either apply for infrastructure grants (\$100,000-\$3,000,000) or equipment-only grants (\$10,000-\$100,000).

Infrastructure Grant Projects

- Purchase and installation of specialized equipment, such as processing components, sorting equipment, packing and labeling equipment, or delivery vehicles.
- Increasing storage space, including cold storage.
- Expanding processing capabilities, including increasing production volumes and supporting new wholesale/retail product lines.
- Modernizing equipment or facilities through upgrades, repairs, or retooling.
- Construction of a new facility.

Industry Priorities and Needs



THANK YOU!