



KANSAS BANKERS ASSOCIATION

Date: September 29, 2025

To: County Ag Key Bankers

From: J.W. Wells, Ag Division Coordinator & Government Relations Assistant
Kansas Bankers Association

Re: KBA Conservation Awards Program

The KBA Ag Bankers Division is thankful for your continued participation in the KBA's Conservation Awards Program. We hope you will once again take the time to consider individuals in your county for the following six award areas:

- Energy Conservation
- Soil Conservation
- Water Conservation
- Water Quality
- Wildlife Habitat
- Windbreaks

Please note that you are not required to present awards for each category. The maximum number of awards suggested for each county is five.

Attached to this letter is a copy of a letter sent by DeAnn Presley, Extension Specialist, Kansas State University, Manhattan, to all county agents in Kansas announcing this year's conservation awards program. Also attached is an award category description sheet, which outlines the scope and suggested criteria for each award category that may be given.

At this time, I would suggest that you contact your local county agent regarding the selection of award recipients. As in the past, your local county agent has been charged with organizing and chairing a Conservation Awards Committee. This committee selects five or fewer recipients within your county for 2025 conservation awards. As the County Ag Key Banker, you are an ex-officio, non-voting member of the awards committee.

Nomination Process

Nominations of farmers, ranchers, or landowners for consideration may be made by you or any person in the county. **We encourage you to award only those you feel truly deserving.**



Awards Certificates and Roadside Signs

Your local extension agent is responsible for obtaining certificates that will be used at your local awards presentation event. **As the Ag Key Banker, you are responsible for ordering roadside signs. Metal roadside signs are available for the conservation award categories listed above. A sign order form is attached. There is a deadline for ordering signs, so please order early!**

Presentation

Certificates will be sent digitally to extension agents to ensure a timely arrival. Only the award recipient's name is printed on the certificate. Before the presentation, you and the county agent must fill in the place, date, and sign the certificate. For a more attractive presentation, we suggest framing the certificates. The certificates will fit an 8-1/2" x 11" frame.

As the county key banker, you should coordinate the presentation of the conservation certificates at your local awards event. The key banker should make the actual presentation to the individual award winner or arrange for a representative of your bank to do so. You should also see that award recipients are notified and have made plans to be present with their spouses, who should also be recognized. Newspaper editors in your county should also be invited and encouraged to print stories and run photos highlighting the presentation. All bankers in the county should be urged to attend!

Below are tried and proven methods for your bank to add value to the KBA Conservation Awards Program. Feel free to incorporate these into your business!

- Displaying enlarged photos taken on the recipient's property.
- Conduct a tour of the award recipient's farm to view conservation practices.
- Take photos or videos of winning projects to show at the meeting.
- Where banks are helping finance conservation practices, work this into your displays.
- Pictures of conservation projects can be permanently displayed in local banks before the awards meeting. This makes the public more conscious of banker participation.
- Recognize previous winners with continued participation pins or stickers.
- Provide an outdoor metal sign to post at their driveway entrance.

Thank you for your important role in supporting KBA's Conservation Awards Program. Ag producers and landowners throughout the state have received this program extremely well, and it continues to provide an excellent public relations opportunity for your bank.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact J.W. Wells at the KBA office at (785) 232-3444 or via email at jwells@ksbankers.com.

9/23/2025

To: County Extension Director or County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and staff/leaders of conservation-oriented agencies/organizations

This letter announces the 2025 Kansas Bankers Association Conservation Awards Program. In 2024 there were 110 awards received by landowners across the state. It is a pleasure to join with the Kansas Bankers Association and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to continue to promote the recognition of farmers, ranchers, and landowners who have completed projects designed to improve environmental quality or conserve natural resources. Please consider landowners who have made efforts in the following categories: Energy Conservation, Soil Conservation, Water Conservation, Water Quality, Wildlife, and Windbreaks. The Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources, or the Extension Director, is designated Chairperson of the committee to select persons to receive awards. Membership of the committee may include representatives from the following organizations and agencies:

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- County Conservation District Board of Supervisors
- Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism
- USDA Farm Services Agency
- USDA Rural Development
- County Key Banker (ex officio without vote)
- Local Irrigation District in counties that have one (Water Conservation award)
- Groundwater Management District for counties that are in a district (Water Conservation award)
- Other local conservation-oriented groups

The functions of the committee are:

1. The committee chairperson should schedule a meeting of the committee members in October to discuss the procedure for obtaining nominations.
2. Obtain nominations. Nominations may be made by any person in the county.
 - A. Please refer to our website <http://www.agronomy.ksu.edu/extension> for additional documents that provide more specific information and suggestions regarding the six recognition programs when considering nominees. The nomination form is also located at this website. Please distribute these criteria sheets and forms to any interested organizations and leaders so they can submit nominations.
 - B. Also on this website is a suggested news story which can be used to publicize the award program to help obtain more nominations.

3. As a committee, select no more than a total of five award recipients per county. Partnerships, family corporations, and owner-renter combinations would count as one award and receive only one sign, even though more than one person may be recognized. Multiple certificates can be printed in that situation. Persons who have received the award previously are eligible. Fewer than five candidates may be selected if the county so chooses. Note that there does not have to be a winner in each category, if no suitable candidate is identified.

A. Please return the Certification for Awards form (available at to the Agronomy Extension office at Kansas State University by **December 5, 2025**. Be sure and check all names for accuracy as these will be used for completion of the certificate. Be sure to indicate the landowner-tenant, partnership, family corporation or any other combination or situation.

B. Send a hard copy by mail or fax to:
Agronomy Extension Office
Re: Kansas Bankers Award
Kansas State University
2014 Throckmorton Plant Sciences Center
Manhattan, KS 66506-5504
FAX 785-532-6315

Note: if you have any questions regarding the forms, etc., please contact TroyLynn Eckart at sprite@ksu.edu or 785-532-5776. A confirmation email will be sent within 1-2 days to acknowledge receipt of the nomination form.

C. Selections made by the committee are final. After your list is received in the Agronomy Extension office, the nominations will be certified by the Kansas Bankers Association. Certificates will be printed and sent to the County Extension Office. The certificates should be presented by the County Agricultural Key Banker, usually at the annual meeting of the Soil Conservation District (for the Soil Conservation, Windbreaks, Water Quality, and Energy Conservation awards), at the annual meeting of the groundwater management district and/or irrigation district for the Water Conservation award, or at any other local meeting deemed appropriate.

D. It is the responsibility of the county committee's chairperson to order signs by the deadline indicated on the sign order form, and to work with the Key Banker to find funds to pay for the signs.

Please contact the Agronomy Extension office at Kansas State University if you have any questions about these awards, the criteria, or the procedures.

Sincerely,



DeAnn Presley
Extension Specialist, Environmental Soil Science/Soil and Water Management
Agronomy Department
deann@ksu.edu
785-532-5776

ENERGY CONSERVATION RECOGNITION PROGRAM
Kansas Bankers Association

PURPOSE: The purpose of this program is to stimulate a greater interest in the conservation of energy by giving recognition to those Kansas farmers and ranchers who have taken measures to reduce fossil-fuel based energy consumption on their farms and ranches.

SPONSOR: Kansas Bankers Association

COOPERATING GROUPS:

Kansas State University, K-State Research and Extension
USDA, Rural Development
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
County Conservation District
Kansas Electric Utilities and Rural Electric Cooperatives
Kansas Department of Agriculture

PROCEDURE: Recognition of individual or individuals in a partnership or family corporation

1. Nominations for recognition of individuals will be made to the County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources. Nominations may be made by any person, on appropriate nomination blanks and shall be in the hands of the Committee by November 1.

2. The selection of individuals to receive awards will be made by the following County Committee on Energy Conservation Awards with assistance and advice from others who have more specific knowledge about energy efficiency and renewable energy:

County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources (Chairperson of group)
USDA, FSA, County Executive Director
Chairperson of County Extension Executive Board
USDA, NRCS, District Conservationist
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors, County Conservation District
County Key Banker (ex officio without vote)

3. The basis of selection of individual awardees will be determined on the following points:

- a. Efficient use of energy in farmstead buildings, equipment, and operations including but not limited to building insulation; heating and cooling such as ground source heat pumps; lighting; and striving for peak fuel efficiency in high energy consumption components such as irrigation pumping, refrigeration, power units for tillage, harvesting equipment, etc
- b. Production of energy from renewable sources including but not limited to solar; wind; biomass; biofuels such as biodiesel, methane, ethanol, etc
- c. Utilization of renewable energy sources including those mentioned in b. above as well as other similar sources
- d. Cogeneration of energy such as internal combustion engine powered generator with beneficial use of waste engine heat
- e. Co-utilization of energy through combining processes such as heat one stream while cooling another by using heat exchanger; cool milk while heating water for cleaning by using a heat pump; etc.

AWARD: Individual certificate(s) of award.

PRESENTATION OF AWARD: Awards will be given annually. The County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources and the County Key Banker will make plans for the presentation of the awards at a county-wide agricultural meeting or other special meeting that would occur where many producers will be present.

SOIL CONSERVATION RECOGNITION PROGRAM
Kansas Bankers Association

PURPOSE: The purpose of this program is to stimulate a greater interest in the conservation of the Kansas natural resource by giving recognition to those farmers and ranchers who have made outstanding progress in the development of a complete soil conservation plan and implementation of that plan on their farms in accordance with the capability of the land.

SPONSOR: Kansas Bankers Association

COOPERATING GROUPS:

State Conservation Commission
Kansas State University, K-State Research and Extension
USDA, Farm Services Agency
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Kansas Department of Agriculture
County Conservation Districts

PROCEDURE: Recognition of individual or individuals in a partnership or corporation

1. Nominations for recognition of individuals will be made to the County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources. Nominations may be made by any person, on appropriate nomination blanks and shall be in the hands of the Committee by November 1.
2. The selection of individuals to receive awards will be made by the following committee:
 - County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources (Chairperson of group)
 - USDA, FSA, County Executive Director
 - Chairperson of County Extension Executive Board
 - USDA, NRCS, District Conservationist
 - Chairperson, Board of Supervisors, County Conservation District
 - County Key Banker (ex officio without vote)
3. The basis of selection of individual awardees will be determined on the following points:
 - a. Use of land according to its capabilities.
 - b. Completeness of conservation plan.
 - c. Balance of farm enterprise.
 - d. Quality of conservation work completed and maintenance of practices.
 - e. Special Practices: In addition to traditional practices, special practices such as grassland development, forestry, pollution abatement, riparian management, water quality, and residue management should be considered.

AWARD: Individual certificate(s) of award.

PRESENTATION OF AWARD: Award will be given annually. The County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources and the County Key Banker will make plans for the presentation of the awards at a county-wide agricultural meeting or special meeting that would occur at this time.

WATER CONSERVATION RECOGNITION PROGRAM
Kansas Bankers Association

PURPOSE: The purpose of this program is to stimulate a greater interest in the conservation of the Kansas water resource by giving recognition to those farmers and ranchers who have taken measures to improve the beneficial use of an existing water supply and/or reduce water consumption on their farms or ranches.

SPONSOR: Kansas Bankers Association

COOPERATING GROUPS:

- State Conservation Commission
- Kansas State University, K-State Research and Extension
- USDA, Farm Services Agency
- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Kansas Department of Agriculture
- County Conservation Districts
- Local Irrigation District (in counties that have one)
- Groundwater Management District

PROCEDURE: Recognition of individual or individuals in a partnership or corporation

1. Nominations for recognition of individuals will be made to the County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources. Nominations may be made by any person, on appropriate nomination blanks and shall be in the hands of the Committee by November 1.

2. The selection of individuals to receive awards will be made by the following committee:

- County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources (Chairperson of group)
- USDA, FSA, County Executive Director
- Chairperson of County Extension Executive Board
- USDA, NRCS, District Conservationist
- Chairperson, Board of Supervisors, County Conservation District
- County Key Banker (ex officio without vote)
- Chairperson of Irrigation District Board (in counties that have one)
- Groundwater Management District Executive Director

3. The basis of selection of individual awardees may be determined considering the following points:

- a. Adoption of improved irrigation management techniques, such as irrigation scheduling, system improvement, and remote monitoring and/or control.
- b. Adoption of cropping systems to match irrigation system capacities.
- c. Adoption of appropriate tillage systems to reduce soil water evaporation and improve soil water storage from precipitation.
- d. Evidence of field tests for the evaluation of irrigation system performance.
- e. Submission of crop water budgets that track soil water levels, irrigation applications and rainfall events and yield performance.
- f. Improvement and/or development of on-farm or ranch water supplies.

AWARDS: Individual certificate(s) of award.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS: Awards will be given annually. The County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources and the County Key Banker will make plans for the presentation of the awards at a county-wide agricultural meeting or special meeting that would occur at this time.

WATER QUALITY RECOGNITION PROGRAM
Kansas Bankers Association

PURPOSE: The purpose of this program is to stimulate a greater interest in the protection of the water resource of Kansas by giving recognition to those farmers and ranchers who have taken measures to improve and protect water quality on their farms and ranches.

SPONSOR: Kansas Bankers Association

COOPERATING GROUPS:

State Conservation Commission
Kansas State University, K-State Research and Extension
USDA, Farm Services Agency
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Kansas Department of Agriculture
County Conservation Districts

PROCEDURE: Recognition of individual or individuals in a partnership or corporation

1. Nominations for recognition of individuals will be made to the County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources. Nominations may be made by any person, on appropriate nomination blanks and shall be in the hands of the Committee by November 1.

2. The selection of individuals to receive awards will be made by the following County Committee on Water Quality Awards:

County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources (Chairperson of group)
USDA, Farm Services Agency, County Executive Director
Chairperson of County Extension Executive Board
USDA, NRCS, District Conservationist
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors, County Conservation District
County Key Banker (ex officio without vote)

3. The basis of selection of individual awardees will be determined on the following points:

- a. Quality of water quality improvement and protection work.
- b. Adoption of cropping, grazing, and animal feeding operation practices to reduce sediment, nutrient, and bacterial contamination of surface waters.
- c. Practices may include, but are not limited to: Conversion of cropland to total no-till farming systems (high residue levels), planting grass or forested riparian buffers, development of a nutrient management plan, installing livestock waste management systems, rotational grazing, improved livestock watering distribution systems, moving livestock operations out of riparian areas, creation of stabilized stream crossings, and mortality management.

AWARDS: Individual certificate(s) of award.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS: Awards will be given annually. The County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources and the County Key Banker will make plans for the presentation of the awards at a county-wide agricultural meeting or special meeting that would occur at this time.

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT STEWARDSHIP AWARD
Kansas Bankers Association

PURPOSE: The purpose of this program is to stimulate a greater interest in fish and wildlife habitat management in Kansas by giving recognition to landowners who have made outstanding progress in the development and stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.

SPONSOR: Kansas Bankers Association

COOPERATING GROUPS:

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism
State Conservation Commission
Kansas State University, K-State Research and Extension
USDA, Farm Services Agency
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Kansas Department of Agriculture
County Conservation Districts

PROCEDURE:

I. Recognition of individuals

1. Nominations for recognition of individuals will be made to the District Biologist, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Nominations may be made by any person, on appropriate nomination blanks and shall be in the hands of the Committee by November 1.

2. The selection of individuals to receive awards will be made by the following committee:

The local Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks District Biologist or the Regional Supervisor, County Key Banker, and one of the following on a rotating basis: NRCS District Conservationist, County Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent, or Chairman of the FSA Local Committee. Wildlife and Parks must approve all recipients. The recipient does not have to be a participant in the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program.

Selection will be made on overall habitat quality, quantity, maintenance, and enhancements on the entire farm. Some parameters to look for include: grazing and haying practices, field borders, food plots, tillage practices, waterways, terraces, crop rotation, native grass, winter cover, nesting cover, brood rearing cover, fenced out areas, and farm pond enhancement. The selection committee may place more emphasis on certain parameters based on knowledge of habitat needs in the local area. The above parameters are not all-inclusive, but only serve as a guide to total farm habitat improvements. Selection should be based on the farm's overall impact on wildlife populations. Habitat can be more intensively managed on smaller acreage, yet total resource conservation on larger farms may impact a larger variety and population of wildlife.

AWARD MATERIALS:

Each District Award Winner will receive a framed certificate, framed wildlife print, and a metal sign to be displayed at their property. The state winner will receive a plaque and framed wildlife print. The national winner will receive a plaque, expense paid trip to the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies annual meeting and possibly other items. There are additional criteria to qualify for application with the national AFWA award.

PRESENTATION OF AWARD: Award will be given annually unless the selection committee decides that an award not be given in any one year, if in their opinion the award is not deserved. The District Biologist, County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources and the County Key Banker will make plans for the presentation of the awards at a county-wide agricultural meeting or special meeting that would occur at this time.

WINDBREAK RECOGNITION PROGRAM
Kansas Bankers Association

PURPOSE: The purpose of this program is to stimulate a greater interest in windbreaks in Kansas by giving recognition to landowners who have made outstanding progress in the establishment and management of windbreaks.

SPONSOR: Kansas Bankers Association

COOPERATING GROUPS:

State Conservation Commission
Kansas State University, K-State Research and Extension
USDA, Farm Services Agency
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Kansas Department of Agriculture
County Conservation Districts

PROCEDURE:

I. Recognition of individuals

1. Nominations for recognition of individuals will be made to the County Extension Agent, Agriculture. Nominations may be made by any person, on appropriate nomination blanks and shall be in the hands of the Committee by November 1.
2. The selection of individuals to receive awards will be made by the following committee:
 - County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources (Chairperson of group)
 - USDA, FSA, County Executive Director
 - Chairperson of County Extension Executive Board
 - USDA, NRCS, District Conservationist
 - Chairperson, Board of Supervisors, County Conservation District
 - County Key Banker (ex officio without vote)
3. The basis of selection of individual awardees will be determined on the following points:
 - a. The primary purpose of the windbreak(s) will be to provide protection from damaging winds for residential (or other structures) areas, livestock, or fields.
 - b. The original windbreak must consist of planted trees or shrubs. Volunteer trees shrubs may be utilized to increase density, fill in gaps, or otherwise supplement the original planted trees and shrubs.
 - c. The plants must be managed and in healthy condition with no significant gaps in the windbreaks.
 - d. Windbreak location, density, and length must be adequate to provide the desired protection.
 - e. Windbreaks should be a minimum of three years old.

AWARD: Individual certificate(s) of award.

PRESENTATION OF AWARD: Award will be given annually. The County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources and the County Key Banker will make plans for the presentation of the awards at a county-wide agricultural meeting or special meeting that would occur at this time.

Conservation Recognition Programs – Nomination Form

Sponsored by the Kansas Bankers Association

Submit this form to your County Extension Office or District Biologist for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (Wildlife Award only) no later than Friday, November 7th, 2025. A committee of conservation professionals will submit the names of selected recipients to the KSU Agronomy Extension office, or KDWP, by December 5th, 2025.

Name of Nominee:

Post Office Address:

County:

Legal Description of Farm: _____ *Sec.* _____ *Township* _____ *Range*

This person is being nominated for the following award (please circle):

Energy Conservation

Soil Conservation

Water Conservation

Water Quality

Wildlife Habitat

Windbreaks

SIGN ORDER FORM – Conservation Awards Program (24X18)

Kansas Bankers Assn.
Award
Soil Conservation
2025

Kansas Bankers Assn.
Award
Windbreak
2025

Kansas Bankers Assn.
Award
Wildlife Habitat
2025

Kansas Bankers Assn.
Award
Water Conservation
2025

Kansas Bankers Assn.
Award
Water Quality
2025

Kansas Bankers Assn.
Award
Energy Conservation
2025

ORDER SIGNS FROM:

FASTSIGNS 304@fastsigns.com Phone 785-271-8899

***REQUESTS MUST BE SUBMITTED 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO THE CEREMONY FOR
GUARANTEED FULFILLMENT TO 304@fastsigns.com *
NO GUARANTEE ORDERS DELIVERED IN 2025 IF NOT ORDERED BY **DEC. 13, 2025****

SIGNS:

_____ 2025 SOIL CONSERVATION sign(s)	@ \$76.00 each	\$ _____
_____ 2025 WILDLIFE HABITAT sign(s)	@ \$76.00 each	\$ _____
_____ 2025 WINDBREAK AWARD sign(s)	@ \$76.00 each	\$ _____
_____ 2025 WATER CONSERVATION sign(s)	@ \$76.00 each	\$ _____
_____ 2025 WATER QUALITY sign(s)	@ \$76.00 each	\$ _____
_____ 2025 ENERGY CONSERVATION sign(s)	@ \$76.00 each	\$ _____
_____ (Custom) “ _____ ”	@ \$76.00 each	\$ _____

AMOUNT DUE FOR SIGNS

\$ _____

Shipping & Handling Charges:

A flat rate of \$30.00 for the first sign ordered. An additional charge of \$5.00 per additional sign.

EXAMPLE 1 SOIL, 2 WILDLIFE HABITAT, = \$40.00 SHIPPING AND HANDLING.

Total Charges: ***All Orders Are Tax Exempt, No Form Required**

A) Total Amount for <u>SIGNS</u>	\$ _____
B) Total Amount for <u>SHIPPING & HANDLING</u>	\$ _____
C) Add lines A & B, This is the <u>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE</u> for your order.	\$ _____

*Please enclose payment for TOTAL AMOUNT DUE payable to FASTSIGNS
Orders will not be processed without prepayment.*

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on Credit Card _____ Verification Code _____

Zip Code for Credit Card _____

Email address for a receipt _____

Please PRINT Shipping Address:

SHIP TO: _____

STREET: _____

(Must list street address; UPS will not ship to P.O. Box)

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE#: _____ BANQUET DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____