KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | College of Agriculture
Department of Agronomy
Crop, Soil, and Range Sciences

10/20/2026

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

This letter announces the 2026 Kansas Bankers Association Conservation Awards Program. It is a pleasure to join with the Kansas Bankers Association and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in sponsoring and promoting the recognition of farmers, ranchers, and landowners who have completed projects designed to improve environmental quality or conserve natural resources. In 2025 we recognized 87 Kansas farms and ranches for their efforts! 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 and Parks
- 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 September or 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 https://www.agronomy.k-state.edu/outreach-and-services/ 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.

2004 Throckmorton Plant Sciences Center, Manhattan, KS 66506-5501 | (785) 532-6101 | fax: (785) 532-6094

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 7, 2026.** 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

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