



# Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops

## Our First 10 Years: 2001-2010

### KCSAAC Enabling Legislation

KSA 76-4, 103 – "...Functions and duties of the center of excellence on sustainable agriculture and alternative crops shall include but not be limited to:

- Emphasizing research, education, outreach and marketing for sustainable agriculture and alternative food, fiber and medicinal crops.
- Assisting farmers increase their share of the food system dollar.
- Collecting and analyzing basic information on the Kansas food system and opportunities for production and direct marketing.
- Focusing research on value added processes and new crops that offer low-volume, high margin niche opportunities.
- Assisting small farmers to access lower input costs through a delivery system with expanded access to sustainable agricultural practices.
- Marketing assistance to promote products produced and processed in Kansas.
- Expanding small farm research to include: Organic products; less capital intensive investments; energy saving technology; and agricultural practices that reduce soil erosion and restore soil health.
- Developing and distributing a guide of all state services for small farms and value added agriculture...."



### Since 2001 KCSAAC has:

Facilitated and/or assisted with the development of grant proposals that have resulted in more than \$4.4 million of funding for alternative crop and sustainable agriculture practices -- a \$6 return on investment. Here's a sample of funded projects:



- Grow Your Farmers' Market
- Helping Families Make Sound Business Decisions
- 4-State Cropping Systems Workshop
- Prairie Hay Market Research
- Guided Exploration of Value Added Enterprises
- Post Harvest Handling and Production Facilities for Horticulture Crops
- Comparing Organic and Conventional Fertilization Methods for Cut Flower Production in Haygrove High Tunnels
- Business Planning and Coaching for Kansas Farmers
- Commodity Partnerships for Risk Management Education
- Helping Farm Families Manage Successful Businesses
- Training for Organic Farming and Ranching in the Great Plains

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House Ag & Natural Resources  
January 25, 2011  
Attachment 1

# KCSAAC 10 YEAR REPORT 2001-2010

## ***Since 2001 KCSAAC has:***

*Continued...*

Sponsored more than 50 farm tours and on-farm workshops focusing on such topics as:

- Low Stress Animal Handling
- Forages to Extend the Grazing Season
- Integrated Management Strategies for Sustainable Cropping Systems
- Farmer/Rancher Grant Writing
- Healthy Foods, Healthy Farms
- Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Improving Your Financial Skills
- Organic Producers School
- Kansas Sustainable Agriculture Conference
- Great Plains Vegetable Conference and High Tunnels Workshop

- Kansas Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)
- North Central Region SARE
- Kansas Department of Commerce
- Kansas Department of Agriculture
- Kansas Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE)
- Growing Growers Program
- Kansas Organic Producers
- Kansas Farmers Union
- Kansas Cattlemen's Association
- Tallgrass Legacy Alliance
- Small Business Development Centers
- Kansas Conservation Districts

Collaborated with more than 25 state and regional agencies, organizations, and programs on outreach and education activities including the grants and workshops listed previously. Collaborators include:

- Kansas Graziers Association
- Kansas Rural Center

Produced the Kansas Family Farmer and Rancher Resources and Services Guide. More than 8,000 copies of the first and second editions have been distributed across the state. Third edition will be available in 2011.

## **2010 and Plans for 2011**

Projects and activities with KCSAAC involvement from 2010 include:

- Kansas SARE Professional Development Program
- Organic Transition Training for NRCS
- Water and the Future of Kansas Conference
- Kansas Sustainable Agriculture Conference: Connecting Cows, Carbon, & Carrots
- Kansas Family Farmer and Rancher Resources and Services Guide – 3rd Edition



**2010 Sustainable Ag Conference**

### ***Plans for 2011...***

KCSAAC plans to provide assistance with:

- Beginning Farmer Conference, co-sponsored by Kansas and Nebraska SARE and the Center for Rural Affairs
- Organic Transition Training for NRCS and Extension educators
- Good Agricultural Practices (GAPS) Training
- National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conferences
- Farmers Market Conference