

Calvin Kissick

Kissick was raised on a farm near Mt. Hope which his family homesteaded in the 1870s. Upon the death of his father when he was 14 he farmed the family quarter for eight years to finance his college education at Wichita State University with a B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering. Later he received an MBA at Southern Illinois University.

After graduation, Kissick served 20 years in the Air Force retiring as a Lt Colonel. His career included assignments at the Presidential Unit at Andrews Air Force Base, three years in Ramstein AB Germany and as Program Manager responsible for purchasing the aircraft currently serving as Air Force One. This was followed by a 16 year career as a Captain with United Airlines.

Along the way he never lost his interest or appreciation of agriculture. He inherited part of the original family quarter and was able to improve the farm with irrigation and expand the acreage into three counties. He serves on the boards of the Groundwater Management District #2 and Halstead Farmers CO-OP and is also a member of the Kansas Forest Service Advisory Council.

Kissick feels his global travel experiences and local farming operations have allowed him to see firsthand how vital water is to a region's economy and society. More importantly since returning home to Kansas, he's gained a new appreciation and understanding of the hard work and visionary leadership our people continue to provide in managing this critical resource.

"I'm honored to serve on the KWA. I hope my experience and knowledge will make a meaningful contribution to our state in maintaining this critical resource," said Kissick.

He and his wife Trish enjoy traveling, especially visiting their two children; daughter Sara Marie and husband Edward who are teachers residing in Tochigi, Japan and son Calvin Jeffery who is a chemist living in Lawrence.