

Jean Steiner graduated from Manhattan High School and received a B.A. in environmental geology from Cornell College and M.S. and Ph.D degrees in Agronomy and agroclimatology from Kansas State University. Following post-doctoral research with CSIRO Centre for Irrigation Research in New South Wales, Australia, she joined the US Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in 1983. She worked first in the Texas Panhandle, focusing on water conservation, crop residue management, and energy balance research in dryland agricultural systems. She then led research in the Georgia Piedmont region, focused on sustainability of agriculture at farm and watershed scales, prior to joining the Grazinglands Research Laboratory in El Reno, Oklahoma in 2001. From 2006 through 2018, she served as the Laboratory's Director, where she led and conducted research on watersheds, climate, and sustainable forage-grazing systems. During that time, the laboratory took leadership roles in the ARS's Long Term Agroecosystem Research Network as well as the USDA Regional Climate Hubs.

Dr. Steiner was a Co-Lead Author on the Agriculture and Rural Communities Chapter of the 4th National Climate Assessment. She has been recognized as Fellow of four international scientific societies and has served as President two scientific organizations, the Soil and Water Conservation Society and the American Society of Agronomy.

Jean and her husband, Bert Allen, now reside in Manhattan and are members of the First Congregational United Church of Christ. She continues research collaborations as an Adjunct Professor at Kansas State University, an affiliate faculty member at the University of Oklahoma, and as a cooperator with researchers at New Mexico State University. Jean says "My appointment as a member of the Kansas Water Authority is a tremendous honor and provides me opportunity to apply my knowledge and experiences to foster sustainable management of Kansas's abundant but fragile water resources for the benefits of Kansas citizens".