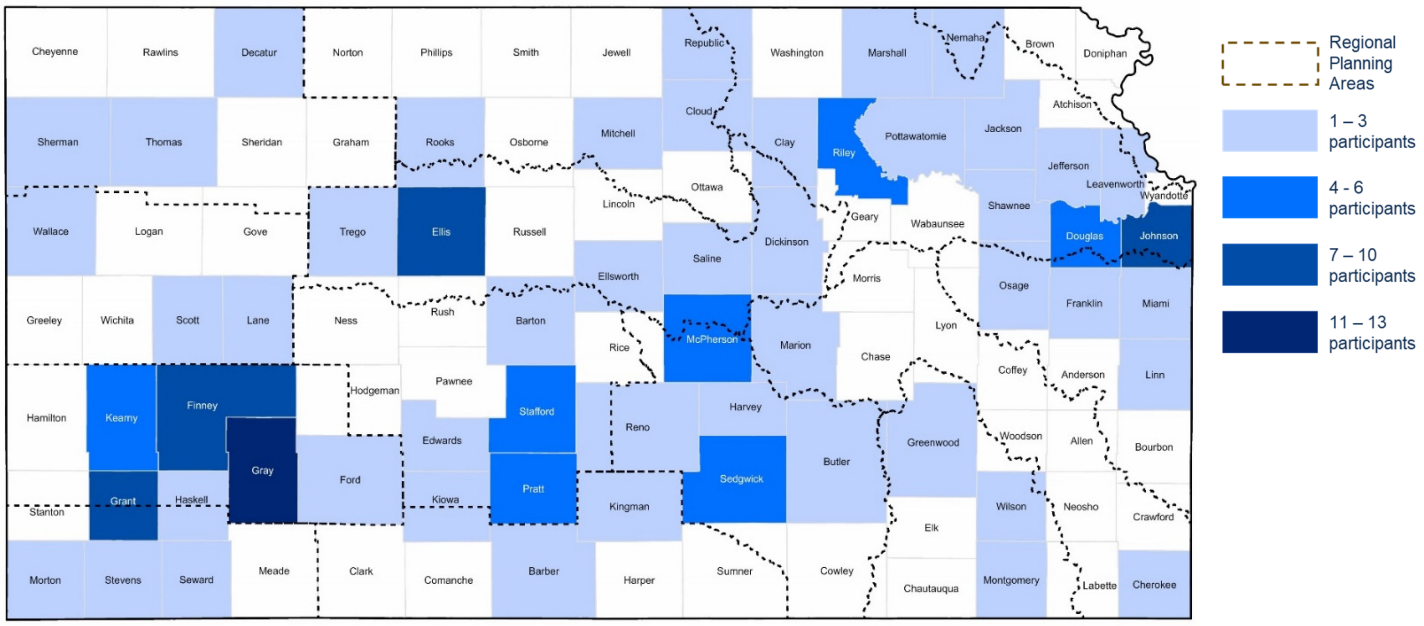
Special Webinar for Ag Community on Kansas Water Implementation Plan Development
August 13, 2024

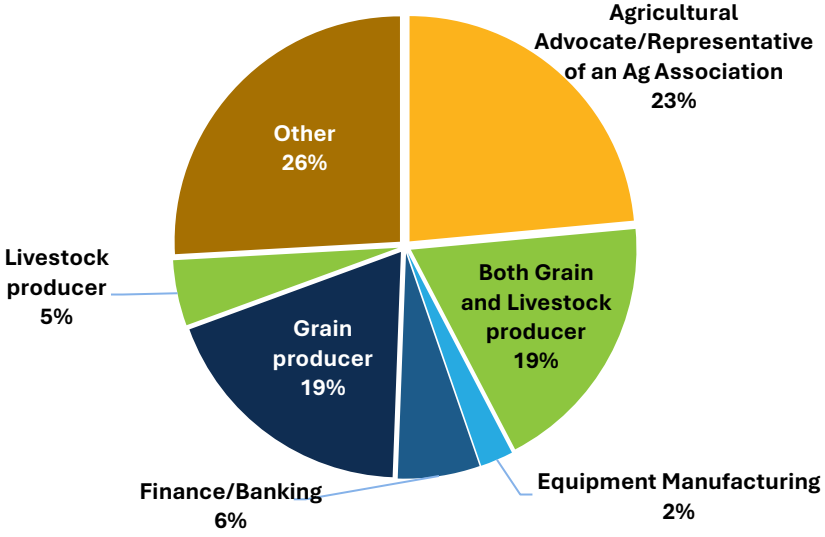
The Kansas Department of Agriculture, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and the Kansas Water Office invited Kansas farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural stakeholders to participate in a special webinar regarding the state's efforts to develop an implementation program for the Kansas Water Plan. Because state budgets must be completed during the same timeframe that our agricultural producers are engaged in harvest, irrigation, and planting, additional opportunities for ag stakeholders and producers was provided to learn more about the program development process and provide feedback regarding state investments for our most important water issues.

Attendees

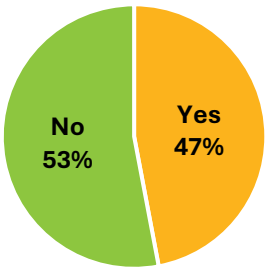
208 participants from across Kansas joined the webinar on August 13, 2024.



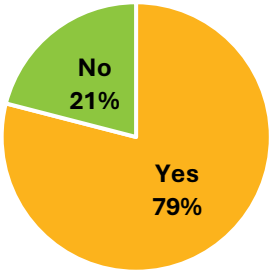
Which best describes your role in agriculture?



Do you/your business hold water rights?



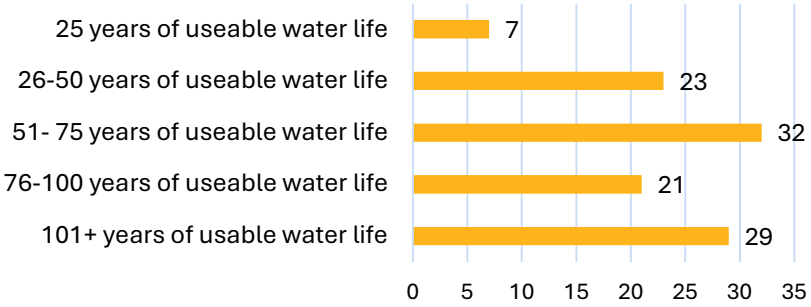
Do you plan on your children/grandchildren taking over your operation in the future?



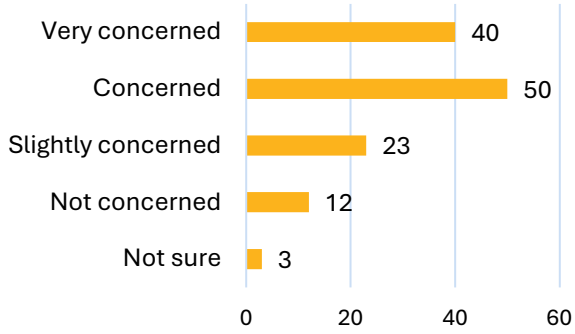
What We Heard

Attendees were asked multiple poll questions during the webinar. Following are the responses from those that responded.

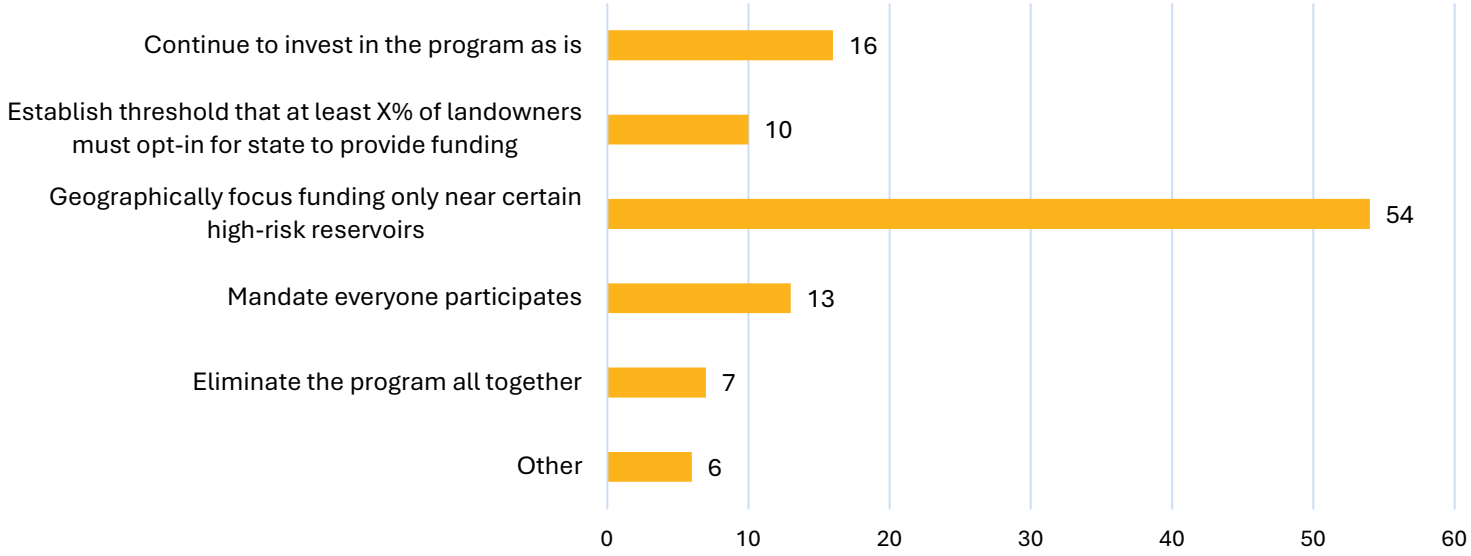
What level of certainty in your water supply would provide your business/industry the security you need to stay in your community?



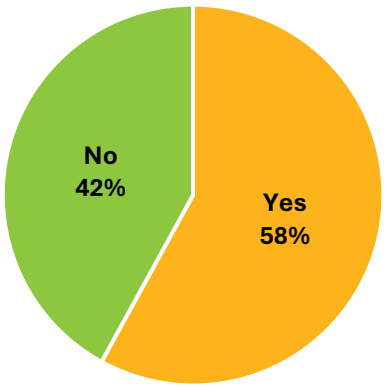
How concerned are you about contaminants in your water supply?



We can not afford to waste tax dollars. One challenge is recruiting landowners to participate in best management practice programs. As an example, enrolling landowners willing to install sediment-reducing buffer strips to reduce the rate of sedimentation



Do you participate in any programs administered by the Kansas Department of Ag, Kansas Department of Health and Environment or Kansas Water Office?



What We Heard – *continued*

Two open-ended questions were asked during the webinar. Following is a high-level recap of the feedback received along with the full text of all responses submitted.

Question: Irrigation is by far the top water use in the state, which may make conversations about conservation feel like they are singling irrigators out. What suggestions do you have for how we can have productive conversations without it feeling like we are singling anyone out?

Attendees had a wide range of opinions in response that ranged from:

"most irrigators have or are conserving now we need to acknowledge this and ask the other users to reduce instead of expand"

and

"Irrigators aren't the PROBLEM they are the SOLUTION! Don't demonize them! Keep it positive! We all want the same thing!"

to

"Suck it up buttercup. As the largest user (80%+) the conversation should be focused on Irrigation. Avoidance of the problem/discussion is what led us down the course we are not trying to rechart."

Throughout the comments, two themes that emerged included:

- The importance of talking about the economics of irrigation. This included the impact that irrigation has on the Kansas economy as well as the impact that conservation efforts.
- Local input has to be a part of any solution.

Full text of all responses submitted

1	Irrigation IS singled out at an 83% usage of our water supply. And need be. Perhaps regulations on irrigation equipment that is improved for conservation. Rules around when water can be used\timeoday
2	I believe that we focsus needs to be put on economic benifit of what is produced and how many time the dollar is turned in the communities. Prove how we are using water more efficiently and using less
3	Make water conservation a STATE WIDE priority...for all - Municipalities, Rural Water Districts, etc. Lead by example...Universities and other state properties should be water efficient - no excuses!
4	most irrigaters have or are conserving now we need to acknowledge this and ask the other users to reduce instead of expand
5	Talk about the interdependency of irrigators and the economy and how that would impact taxes and quality of life across the state.
6	Sun, water and land grow food. Without water people don't have food.
7	I'm not sure this is an issue, but if it is, perhaps talk about conservation strategies among all types of uses, as long as relevant conservatoin strategies exist for each use.
8	Focusing on longevity of water in KS. Map previously showed 25 years or less for much of the state. With no water, communities will literally dry up, making KS unhinabitable, including farmable.
9	Discuss innovations in agriculture that have decreased water usage and highlight those happening in the state. Then discuss what next steps could be taken for continued positive impact.

10	no comment
11	N/A
12	Focus on the $$ savings of saving irrigation water pumping. Possible property tax incentives for proof of implementation of water saving tech on irrigated land.
13	Highlight what good irrigation does to the regional economy and highlight success stories throughout the state. Success does not necessarily mean reduced usage
14	Ask irrigators for their input or ideas, they would know best what should be done to encourage conservation. Let the irrigators be a part of the soulution. Farmers generally make good decisions.
15	Support more education and communications regarding the importance of irrigation. Tell the story about our farmers that are making progres and programs like TAPS that are promoting water security.
16	They must accept that its a problem first. Perhaps structring it that they could be the ones to make the biggest impact, be the heros persay. I'm an irrigator.
17	Stress the advances in efficiency that have been made to date. Encourage efficiency as an economic benefit. Stress cost-share sources that are available.
18	To many people don't understand the impact of irrigated agriculture and what would happen if we loose irrigated agriculture. Need to provide public awareness of this.
19	Let them know you are providing suggestions. Everyone needs water so they shouldn't take it personal and their needs are no more important than anyone else's needs.
20	Your not going to.
21	Sorry but we can't avoid the conversation around irrigation. Yes there are improvements in idustrial use of water but meaningful change will have to come from irrigators.
22	Suck it up buttercup. As the largest user (80%+) the conversation should be focused on Irrigation. Avoidance of the problem/discussion is what led us down the course we are not trying to rechart.
23	They are 83% users so consequently they should be 83% of the conversations. That's not singling anyone out that is a fact.
24	Talk about solutions like new technology and help that may be available to upgrade existing methods.
25	It feelsl like you need to at least segregate those who irrigate into different categories as not one size fits all on this topic. This may still feel like you are singling a group.
26	Economic incentives are needed to move to more water conservative crops and away from large water users such as corn and alfalfa.
27	Education and Communication. A poll is flat without back ground information and and opportunity to communicate. A lot of conservation goes into the farming water use and reused in other ways
28	water and soil are interconnected. 100% of people eat food. irrigation is used to produce food fiber and fuel. ultimately irrigated acres are used or eventually consumed by human ne ks has diff use
29	It's time to stop talking. It's time to start doing. Everyone knows it's a problem. We need leadership, somewhere, to start doing something.
30	There is emerging technology out there for irrigators and many programs to help in implentation I don't know that there is a way to not single them out. We should all help where we can.
31	Efficiency and conservation by all to meet reduction goals are great but adhering to principles of state water law must be incorporated into the conversation.
32	Show that the largest percentage of investment in solutions is to the largest threat.
33	Include data on economic contribution to the state and workforce information and how that impacts Kansas for the betterment.
34	A few items: 1. Apply LEMA's to ALL users, not just areas of decline. 2. Stop water augmentation projects that pump groundwater to satisfy surface water. 3. Stop use-it-or-lose-it thinking.

35	What about bottling companies?
36	Make information and discussion more available and accessible by general public before it just becomes law.
37	Make sure all types of voices are at the table and/or changes improvement tactics are being discussed. At least shared the content outside the specific water user type to create more awareness.
38	Listen to local users and don't try and dictate from Topeka steps to take. LEMA were developed and pursued by local efforts. Water sources vary differently across the state and each has different cha
39	We need eucation across the population explaining how irrigation benefits the other uses--municipal, industry, recreation--and the problems that will hit all Kansans if irrigation if severly reduced
40	make sure irrigators are in the room for discussion
41	I would like to understand water levels in my area and how they affect my water allotment. I need to understand the water shed that affects water levels in my area.
42	Honesty and education. Irrigators can no longer ignore that ag usage for irrigation has a very dim future if producers do not want to explore conservations steps.
43	Stress that the need and importance of irrigation is understood and is obviously a valuable need for all Kansans. Focus on the need to protect the availability of water for generations to come.
44	Irrigators arent the PROBLEM they are the SOLUTION! Dont demonize them! Keep it positive! We all want the same thing! -develop new, alternative, & diversified sources of supply to augment native suppl
45	By emphasizing the economic driver that irrigated agriculture is for the state makes it everyone's issue. Not just an irrigator's issue.
46	Seeing the arce foot useages of all municipalities in contrast to acre foot useages by irrigation. A break down of what irrigation water is from streams, well, and irrigation resivor.
47	I think reminding everyone that we all use water and all need to consider our whole state not just one section of the useage.
48	irrigation directy supports the beef industry in western kansas so the 1percent stock water use is just for drinking water for livestock
49	Highlighting opportunities to decrease water usage with the same (or better) outcomes as you did here. Focus on real use cases and specific farming techniques,how it will extend water on site
50	Why can't we just follow the current water laws?
51	Focus on benefits of improved farming practices (cover crops, irrigation technology, alternatative crops, soil health best practices) rather than 'just stop irrigating'.
52	Limit all irrigation wells to 500 gallons per minute
53	Stop having long drawn out conservations. Stop having the same conversation over and over again. Just give them the number they need to cut back to get to stability and let them do it.
54	Keep asking the question. "do you want future generations to have access to groundwater irrigation at 40-60% of what's being used annualy today? If yes, should the state or GMD require less pumping?
55	Connect irrigators with others across the supply chain that are dependent on the continued success of grain production. I also think it is very important to add value to every commodity in the state.
56	People need to understand that if we are not able to produce the grains Livestock are not able to produce their end product to feed people. Also the loss of jobs and people move out of the state
57	Make people realize that they use the products that irrigators produce. Such as food they raise, or beef that is fed by feed that may be irrigated. And that irrigation is a part of thier business
58	Highlight the uses of irrigated crops and how they impact quality of life globally

59	Must protect first in time, first in right! Priority means everything. Economics will drive "highest and best use" meaning if a muni or stockwater or industral user needs water they will purchase!
60	Ask the question: As an irrigator - what assistance/information do you need to reduce irrigation water usage on your land?
61	statewide goal for everyone to save water, including every consumptive use category. If irrigators save 20% or 30%, that'll make a big difference in future supplies of water.
62	There needs to be more empathy regarding the economic impact of farming in the state of Kansas. Lack of community empathy often leads to irrigators being on the defense and feeling more singled out
63	The cattle and recreation is only 1% what about all the feedlots and dairies
64	Re: irrigation. Hard to believe that the 1 gallon/year saved with my kitchen faucet washers will make that much of a difference compared to one irrigator's hundreds of thousands of gallons/year
65	'- Present data about irrigation water in a variety of ways - Visit irrigators personally; ask for their expertise and share yours - Present historyof irrigation in the state to provide perspective
66	Have data supporting how municipalities are also being efficient and sustainable. I saw this morning on the way to work landscape irrigations running after an inch of rain!
67	The focus today on interdependency is an excellent segway into the "singling out" conversation. Reminding folks that agriculture in Kansas feeds the world would be a positive regarding irrigators.
68	I think it would be a good idea to get a forum of irrigators from the Sheridan 6 LEMA and get real world feedback on the successes and challenges with the implementation of this LEMA.
69	How can we ignore the elephant in the room?
70	I think addressing both the irrigation practices while at the same time tackling the issue of reservoir conditions is important. This way you include more folks in the problems as well as the solution
71	Focus on looking at more drought resistant crops that require less irrigation. Also, I think it would be benifical to "audit" irrigation pivots to find inefficencies that could help reduce water waste
72	I feel like showing producers the success story of how the Wichita Co LEMA is working would help them feel less singled out.
73	Could start by teaching Irrigation and Irrigation Water Use in all schools...
74	With the high percent of water used by Ag. There is no way to lower use with out cuting ag use.
75	Make sure that irrigators are at the table to help with the solutions. They need to be able to suggest what they feel they are able to do to reduce usage.
76	Reassure those who feel like they're being singled out that it might seem like they're being singled out but they're not. However, the reality of the situation should take precedence.
77	Educate the public as to all of our needs regarding consumption, and how it is all interconnected.
78	Crops with less water usage
79	Make the irrigators feel like they can be part of the solution by allowing their input and hearing their ideas on how they can help solve the issues we face.
80	No doubt irragators need to make use of technology to conserve, however, lawns, golf courses, home conservation need the same consideration.
81	I think the slide that shows where water will run out in 25 years is good place to start. As a business owner in Montezuma, I was surprised to see that stat and will strive to perserve water now.
82	Focus on conservation options and focusing on crops that are more suitable for our climate / need less additional water.
83	Not an irrigator.
84	determine the optimal usage from ground water and resiviors for the local areas
85	Continue to emphasis the broad uses of water in KS.
86	how much water is used on lawns in Kansas, good place to cut water use.

87	What about the dairys and feedlots water consumption. I also think conservation can be implemented for municipalities such as hard scaping lawns
88	Everyone is capable of using less water. We can make irrigators not feel singled out by not singling them out.
89	Conservation will provide generational access to farming and ranching, preserving opportunity for future generations and protecting the economy of the state.
90	It is a difficult topic and the less accusation, and more empathy, the better. Noone has more at stake or takes more responsibility than the irrigator.
91	Need more local input. Located in Southwest Kansas.
92	Start with meeting sponsored by the major (Ag Organizations). Go over many topics and then discuss the (water used by irrigation farming).
93	What are other ways to eliminate irrigation use in drought areas (SWKS) without sacrificing production? I thinking speaking with the producers directly and gathering their standpoint is the best start
94	Have local meetings showing them the numbers so they know they are the top water users and that they can be more efficient and be able to continue to irrigate for more years if they all help.
95	Educating the public and irrigators
96	utilize our laws in place to manage water rights.
97	Define the negative economic and social affects across all parties in order for all to see the specific impacts to each "group"...
98	I wish we could find alternate crops to grow which did not rely on so my water. Also using technology to reduce irrigation water to maintain profitability. We must maintain asset value.
99	I think this problem is bigger than people's feelings, so we need to focus on irrigation issues even if that makes a very small group of people singled out.

Question: Any suggestions for how to improve specific programs or how to improve how the state addresses water challenges overall?

Common themes that emerged from the responses submitted included:

- Incentives and rewards are a preferred approach to more regulations.
- People want flexible and adaptive programs and approaches. This applies to schedules, regional differences, etc. It should be easy to apply/participate.
- Education and outreach is important.
- Locals need to be involved in decision-making. Farmers, ranchers and producers were specifically mentioned by multiple people.

Full text of all responses submitted

1	Are there professional supports or consultants that can be made available to farmers by the state as the farmers weigh the economic costs and benefits of changing irrigation practices?
2	Reward growers for saving water not punnish
3	conservation money stops at the road right-of-way and that is usually where the majority of the sediment is starting from need to work somthing for both
4	There is already quite a bit of regulation on irrigation, livestock operations, etc. Now monetarily supporting conservation is the next best step.
5	We need a higher level of incentive funding that is more secure.
6	Better ability to Educate landowners/users by being able to mesh program goals with economic and environmental data to communicate to potential users/partners to increase participation
7	Better communication between local land owners who may have solutions and regulatory group to help implement the solutiom. The specifics of this is a hour + conversation. Example, sedimentation.
8	Conservation program goals should be flexible and adaptable to different situations and regions. The state should not have a standard goals that must be met in every situation.
9	Education and outreach. We can have robust programs but they are of limited value if they are unknown or under utilized. Using existing producers/users to connect with others.
10	I am very new to this conversation and learning, so I don't have any suggestions. But, I appreciate the opportunities you are providing to educate and inform.
11	educate all kansans on water conservation not just rual
12	Ability to encumber funds for ag cost share so producers can implement practices on their own timeline, which doesn't always line up with state fiscal year.
13	manage the reservoirs better.
14	Statewide stream buffer for sediment and water quality would go a long way towards investment dollars.

15	All reservoirs should have a "mini" reservoir up stream allowing the sediment to settle out before entering the main reservoir. These mini reservoirs can be dredged out much easier then the main one.
16	Increase availability of contract or grant programs that don't rely on state employees to develop grassroots relationships and implementation
17	Focus on creating programs that do not treat every area as the same. Water issues are unique to each area and painting them with a broad brush is absolutely inappropriate. GMDs are geared up to lead.
18	Fewer requirements to participate will yield more farmers participating.
19	Continue to support education and outreach such as programs like TAPS that bring together farmer to farmer networksers, industry, research, and growers. These could be adapted to address water challen
20	Irrigation-Do we really need to be irrgating the crops we are? I believe a change is coming to how we produce food-less grain more grazing. Quality-Farmers have to accept that ag has been a big contr
21	As before, simplify program application processes would help both users and local administrators.
22	KDHE needs to allow more funding for terraces. They have a longer life span than cover crops and provide great water quality benefits.
23	Highlight the return on investment of these programs (like highways) so that when the state has budget shortfalls in the future we do not end up where we were 8 years ago w/the water funds being cut.
24	Any changes to the water use and conservation programs should include farmers and ranchers at the discussion around the table, not just in focus groups. Don't rely on suits or consultant groups.
25	Focus on common sense solutions, not fantastic water agmentation schemes.
26	Open programs to not just the landowner. It makes it hard for the land tenant or the operator to get projects done. They know it needs to be done but the landowner doesn't want to jump through hoops.
27	It feels like we need to provide more technical assistance to citizens on these water related topics. Webinars and meetings are one thing but actually executing on the work requires a different skill
28	Are new housing developments held to the same standard as ag uses such as feedlots or dairies?
29	Having more funding for conservation programs, such as through DOC, would provide more incentives for landowners along the high risk areas to implement protections for water quality. Keep it local.
30	decrease regulations and long application process
31	yes
32	What do YOU see as the primary barrier in the way of conservation efforts?

33	I think that the biggest challenge is finding out where producers go to find information about programs. I think that they should all contact there local conservation districts.
34	Local input should be top priority for solving issues.
35	GW-use KGS data and through efforts by DWR/GMDs define hotspots and set decline limits, accomplish this by voluntary incentive based programs with KWAA as backstop; SW, target WQ and more storage
36	Continue seeking input from stakeholders and then have the experts find ways to implement them - sooner rather than later!
37	In addition to my other suggestions, I would add that we need to raise the stakes with our surrounding states to stop the decline in the aquifer, starting with putting an end to the augmentation proje
38	Are you looking into all water use by all companies? Do you have data on what bottling companies are using? Do they share that information? I know in our region, Coca Cola is pulling our area.
39	Ensuring all district conservation offices can implement all types of the programing despite the county approved practices. There is so much variables in almost every county to say itcan'tbedoneiscraz
40	Education and distribution of program details is critical to put programs on the ground.
41	We have particpated with K State testing various irrigation technologies, and we would encourage more opportunities for irrigators to participate. We have learned much from these studies.
42	Streamline efforts. Extremely dificult to participate due to lack of flexibility and hoops and hurdles to jump through
43	I would like information on how water levels are changing in my area and the geographic area that recharges my water level. This would help in making investment decisions that affect water usage.
44	Education. working with local counties/municipalities to educate ag producers in certain regions. We need to have producers recognize the impact of irrigation. More geographically based programs.
45	keep Kansas water in Kansas - playa lake restoration - reduce water use - new sources - revisit enforce compacts - water technology & infrastructure modernization - efficiency testing & enhancement -
46	Education is going to be a key component to the success of this plan. Both adults and students need to understand that this is an ongoing issue that needs to be addressed in a holistic manner.
47	Introduce the idea of the useage of brackish water blending into streamflows to increase the available acre feet.
48	As I am just beginning to be the primary decision maker for our farm I am learning as I go with programs and challenges
49	Improve clarity of programs - there are almost too many to choose from, including privately funded cover crop programs for example. Nearly impossible to figure out how they interact, which to pick.

50	Provide credible economic ROI and/or years of life of water gained for various land management strategies.
51	Provide meaningful incentives for growers to be willing to partiipate. Education is key which I know staff are meeting with farmers but how to get them to listen and understand and TRUST the programs
52	?
53	Right arm doesn't know what left arm is doing. Local/county is ofen inept. Similar to NRCS programs I sign up year-after-year but never get funded or made aware of a new program. Increase cost-share!
54	The process for enrolling needs to be streamlined so that producers can easily access the programs.
55	It seems our water problems (depletion, sediment, nitrates, etc.) are really agriculture problems. Conventional ag should pay for excess use above recharge, pay if not using BMPs, & for contamination
56	i think drip irrigation so be better utilized in the entire state. I think thatr the cost should be subidized due to the upfront cost for farmers. coming from an area that has depleted ground water
57	Continue to utilize technology, but also invest real face time, to create and build relationships of trust and transparency among all individuals who hold/care about water rights in the state.
58	Water EDU for all levels w-this providing a certificate for those who complete "water education program" this can be for ag, municipalities, residents, developers, industrial, etc. Incentives!
59	Statewide education-from individuals to businesses-ALL of us-regarding water conservation I think would yield very positive results. Attending a local consult made me very aware personnally to conserv
60	If new programs are implemented should be some flexibility for early adopters of new technologies and conservation that may already be doing these practices.
61	when in the crep program to retire water rights, grass planting programs must be molded to actually match biological need of the grass seed and plant to grow and survive. Current program does not .
62	Baby steps are not up to solving the problem.
63	Have a one stop shop for programs
64	Coming from a rural community that is part of KDHE's DWP, it would be nice to see the State provide more financial assistance to rural communities to help address water issues (ex: high nitrates)
65	I like the idea of the dept of Transportation: sustain funding for maintenance and rehab
66	It is better to get consevservation with out regulations. When there are regulations they need to be enforced.
67	We need to do as much as we can to keep things voluntary if possible. Education of water users is very important to show what technologies or ways that they can save water. Maybe try to have users tes

68	Pay ag producers 100% to implement specific water quality and water quantity conservation practices rather than cost-share. Also, develop programs for pond clean-outs for livestock producers.
69	Start by making small cuts in water (I.e. SW Kansas aquifer) and then increase cuts to the thresh hold of zero water in and zero water out, by similar area of water use. We can be more effecient.
70	Very difficult since one change can affect each industry
71	Implement more climate smart programs, especially in highly critical areas. Fund conservation practices that are competitive with current rental rates for farmland to encourage specific land uses.
72	I was not aware that there was a local consult meeting for water. I think that is a great idea. I suggest you continue to promote meetings like this for farmers and ag producers.
73	I'm not sure. Certain large producers in my area ignore the issue and programs, making it difficult to make significant progress. Thus the need to mandate certain conservation / water quality projects
74	The State needs a Water Conservation person to be the POC for all industry.
75	Meetings with local produers to get their input and what they will participate in
76	let us combine all our water rights acre feet, and cut that use by say 10% and let us use the water where we need it.
77	Education and Meetings on how to implement these programs, and have custom fit programs, specific to farming practices
78	I know the challenges of streamlining government are difficult, but as a producer streamlining the conversation would be helpful.
79	No Comment
80	Continue with additional educational programs for the landowners; businesses; people who live in cities, etc. These type of meetings are great for everyone, thanks for today.
81	Possibily have programs at community colleges and state universities. Cordinate.
82	Educate the local staff on enrollment so farmers can enroll and get approved for these programs. Many growers are not able to enroll due to staff not understanding programs.
83	determine safe yield for all sources and effectively administer water rights to meet safe yields.
84	I think it would be beneficial to have information if residential users conserved 1% of their water use compared to 1% of the Ag & Industrial sectors. Just to show how impactful each area would be.
85	I think we need to be more aggressively proactive on these issues. I realize this is tied up by the Legislature, but I think we have a sense of the problem, and it is really irrigation and ag

Input received via email following the webinar:

Kansas Water Plan Implementation

Goals

CONSERVE • CONNECT • RESTORE

- Conserve Kansas lands and waters for the benefit of all people
- Pursue a collaborative and inclusive approach to conservation guided by regional input (RACs)
- Support locally led and locally designed voluntary conservation efforts
- Honor Tribal sovereignty and support the priorities of Tribal Nations
- Improve resilience in historically underrepresented communities
- Pursue conservation and restoration approaches that create jobs and support healthy communities
- Honor private property rights anpd support the voluntary stewardship efforts of private landowners
- Use science as a guide
- Couple and build on existing tools and strategies to achieve voluntary conservation enrollment & adoption
- Leverage a collaborative process including all stakeholders with an emphasis on flexibility and adaptive approaches
- Balance innovation and preservation to maintain continuity and stability

Actions

- reduce water use
- develop new alternative & diversified sources of supply to augment native supply
- keep Kansas water in Kansas
- visit and rewrite compacts with neighboring states
- playa lake restoration
- irrigation efficiency testing & enhancement
- water technology & infrastructure modernization
- motivate responsible resource management through effective voluntary conservation-minded stewardship
- build on existing strategies and tools to achieve voluntary conservation practice enrollment & adoption

Outcomes that benefit the life of our aquifer

- promote robust economic activity
- achieve effective conservation-minded stewardship

- reestablish streamflow
- establish healthy wildlife habitat
- boost local recreation & recreation economies
- solidify a resilient healthy landscape
- contribute to thriving healthy communities
- incentivize behavior & management change
- make it easier for private landowners, farmers, ranchers, and communities to be successful
- aquifer recharge acceleration
- provide safe drinking water
- protection of our most valuable resource, Water!

Questions and comments shared during the webinar.

The following questions and comments were submitted in writing during the webinar. Responses can be heard in the recording of the webinar. Any question that was responded to in writing has its answer included below.

I am worried about Wichita's water right on the Republican river. This water should not be allowed to be taken out of the basin, it should be used to benefit those in the Republican river basin!!
I'm committed to this area and will stay regardless.
Will you share this preentations with attendees after webinar?
I know that there are water drinking quality standards for humans. Are there standards for cattle?
What ACTIONS can we take?
I have more ideas for on engaing farmers on water preservation but ran out of space in poll. Will send to email.
Have you all looked into what bottling companies use? They waste alot of water.
Is there any regulations on dairys/deed lots and towns.
Regarding partnership programs, I would prefer that you educated farmers and city officials on preserving water rather than invest money in sediment control.
We need to establish a dedicated state conservation fund, as introduced in 2024 legislative session.
Do you mean personally?
Do you have staff who live full time in rural Kansas in the communities affected?
what is meant by changing land use to affect stream flow?
Explain "Modernize land designs" please.
what was the % of those who use practices and state programs?
I'm curious how much flexibility the KWO office has in designing solutions to the various issues and how much is prescribed by statute?
Will there be any discussion of long-standing water law? The outcomes/solutions presented look counter to our existing state water laws and regulations.
Has the percentage been gathered on participation in water conservation programs led by private entities, rather than state agencies? Is there a difference in uptake?
Are neighboring states working with Kansas to help conserve water.
Following off Mr. Lewis' comment, how can we work to integrate or leverage Kansas' efforts with conservation funding from federal Farm Bill?
Have building Terrance’s affected water move into creeks , rivers, lakes, etc

Have the LEMA participants been successful in improving their conservation of water? Have they been successful in maintaining their profitability? Are the irrigation regions across the state similar where they could all benefit by the past efforts of current LEMA participants?
Farm bill shouldn't drive our state programs! Farm bill is almost a year expired, with no new one in sight. Hate to think of good programs suffering in KS because of lack of getting the job done in DC.
Leveraging of even more federal funds would be available with a dedicated state conservation fund.
Do you currently have local consult meetings on the calendar? Canyou share dates?
I am a Board Member for Miami County Conservation District. Water conservation is a big interest to me.
Really curious about this data source as it conflicts with the information in Central KS.
changing crops to less water requirement, grain sorghum vs corn
Curious about the Medicine River impairment that was just shown on the last slide. I was not aware it was impaired. A: The Medicine River is impaired for bacteria and sulfate.
ACTIONS
Question 3 is space limited. Listeners likely have more thoughts than fit in the space allowed.
While not a drinking water standard for cattle, K-State recently updated the stockwater handbook. In the handbook, we include peer-reviewed research which provides some guidance on quality standards. https://www.kcare.k-state.edu/pubs/watering_handbook.html
kwo-info@kwo.ks.gov
Can you share KSU contact name? A: That information came from Susan Metzger at KSU.
keep it LOCAL and VOLUNTARY
I am unable to answer the Partnership Program question due to my lack of understanding on where the program is currently functioning..
I put no for current year, but I have in the past
We will review all your comments in detail later both through the open ended polls and in the chat. Thank you for the thoughtful input.
Poll question closed on me… we need to FULLY fund existing programs. We have a long history of conservation success! WRAPS and state cost share overlap, state cost share is the senior program and has much better representation and account for management across the state.
build on existing tools & strategies to achieve voluntary conservation practice enrollment & adoption
This is possibly silly, but I have noticed considerable erosion events happening on old/little-traveled county roadways that are not graveled or poorly maintained. Can these roadways be returned to landowners or the roadcuts be seeded or something done to stop sediment flows off these bare soil surfaces?

Earl, don't forget that Davids is on Ag too
Isn't Rep. Sharice Davids still on the House Ag Committee too?
KDA Conservation Districts have lots of opportunities for irrigation technology projects!
For this to be a transparent process, the actual comments and responses received from this and other meetings need to be compiled and provided for review in next stages. Otherwisse it will be perceived that KWO is filtering the information and not listening to the public.
Need more advertising for farmers on water programs and the benefits of each. Ex., water bank, deposit / lease, etc. there's lots of farmers that aren't internet savvy while there are lots of young farmers that are but are unaware of DWR websites or how to navigate the website to find info.
Emails to water right holders would be an inexpensive way to get information out to the producers / land owner.
over 70% of earth's surface is covered with WATER
Thank you!!!