USDA Boosts Kansas agricultural economy through $ 808 million in Safety Net and Conservation Program Payments

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) is delivering approximately $808 Million in farm safety net and conservation program payments to Kansas farmers, ranchers and landowners. USDA recently announced nationwide historic safety net assistance totaling $13.8 billion in gross payments through the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2025 crop year and an additional $1.8 billion in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual payments for 2026.

"These dollars help producers and landowners in our state cover operating expenses, purchase supplies and equipment, and do business with local companies, creating a positive economic ripple effect throughout our rural communities," said David Schemm, State Executive Director in Kansas. "It's a tremendous investment in Kansas agriculture and, collectively, in American agriculture."

ARC and PLC Working Families Tax Cuts Act Improvements

The Working Families Tax Cuts Act (WFTCA) strengthens ARC and PLC beginning with the 2025 crop year, including higher statutory reference prices and improvements to the effective reference price calculation. Additionally, for the 2025 crop year only, producers automatically receive the higher payment rate of either ARC or PLC, regardless of their program election. The WFTCA also increases the ARC and PLC payment limit from $125,000 to $155,000, starting with the 2025 crop year with annual adjustments based on inflation. The payment limit for the 2025 crop year is $160,000.

The following 10 crops in Kansas triggered a PLC payment for the 2025 crop year: canola, corn, oats, peas-dry, safflower oil, seed cotton, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower, wheat.

Producers receiving ARC and PLC payments are reminded that this does not account for payment limitation reductions and the 5.7% sequestration rate required by statute that will be applied to all ARC and PLC payments. ARC-County (ARC-CO) payments are based on county level revenue and therefore trigger at the county level. FSA will issue payments to eligible producers as calculations are completed.

Also, the ARC and PLC election and enrollment period for the 2026 crop year opened Sept. 16 and runs through Dec. 11, 2026, and for the 2027 crop year from Nov. 2, 2026, through March 15, 2027. The WFTCA added an additional 30 million new base acres to farms nationwide. Because eligible acres exceeded the nationwide 30-million-acre cap, FSA applied an across-the- board, prorated reduction of 3.69% to all newly allocated base acres. In Kansas,1.67 million additional base acres were added. These additional base acres impact ARC and PLC starting with the 2026 and future crop years, further improving the farm safety net.

Through annual election and enrollment on covered commodities, ARC and PLC protect producers from substantial declines in crop prices or revenues. PLC provides income support when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its effective reference price. ARC provides income support when actual crop revenue falls below a guaranteed level. Depending on the coverage elected, ARC protection is based on either county-level revenue or the revenue of an individual farm.

Producers with questions about ARC or PLC enrollment or 2025 crop year payments should contact their local FSA county office.

CRP Acres and Impact

CRP payments to agricultural producers and private landowners for 2026 cover 182,537 acres currently under active CRP contracts in Kansas. These annual rental payments are made to eligible landowners who establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative covers. CRP payments support participating landowners while protecting natural resources, enhancing wildlife habitat and strengthening rural economies.

Grassland CRP continues to play an important role in working lands conservation. Following 2026 enrollment, Grassland CRP is expected to account for more than 40% of all CRP enrolled acreage nationwide including 98,956 acres in Kansas, helping ranchers conserve valuable grasslands while maintaining livestock grazing and haying operations.

Questions about participation in CRP and 2026 annual rental payments should be directed to the local FSA county office.

Market Report

At the Close Tuesday

Brought to you by:

Wheat 6.11
Milo 3.97
Corn..... 4.97
Soybeans 11.48

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ACLU Kansas
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS & VOTE
November 3rd
If you have any issues voting early or in person, call the nonpartisan, Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE.
If you're in line when polls close at 7PM, stay in line, you can still vote!
www.aclukansas.org/ep

KLA Convention offers timely insights

The decisions livestock producers make today can have lasting effects on their operations, from how they respond to rural development pressures to how they meet changing consumer expectations and manage market uncertainty. The 2026 Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) Convention & Expo will offer timely information and expert perspectives on these issues and more for ranchers, cattle feeders, dairy farmers and other industry stakeholders planning to be at the Hilton Garden Inn and Convention Center in Manhattan November 18-20.

The event will start Wednesday afternoon with the new KLA Branding Party, a fundraiser for the Kansas Livestock Foundation (KLF) Scholarship Program. For a $250 donation, members can burn their brand into a wooden plank that will be displayed in the KLA office in Topeka. All proceeds will benefit youth in agriculture through KLF's scholarship fund. The come-and-go party will run from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Later that evening, convention attendees can enjoy the Cattlemen's Banquet, sponsored by FERA Diagnostics & Biologicals, INTRUST Bank, MWI Animal Health and Tyson Fresh Meats. Long-time KLA members will be honored, scholarship recipients recognized, and a live auction will be held to benefit the KLA Political Action Committee, KLF and Ranchland Trust of Kansas. Tim the Dairy Farmer, a Florida dairyman and stand-up comedian known for his humor about agriculture and rural life, will round out the evening. He performs at agricultural events, comedy clubs and festivals across North America and can be heard on SiriusXM. MWI Animal Health is sponsoring his performance.

Thursday morning's Beef Industry University, sponsored by the Farm Credit Associations of Kansas, will focus on data center development and its implications for rural communities. Speakers Robin Roberts and Autumn Lankford Higgins will discuss the factors driving data center expansion and considerations for livestock producers when projects are proposed in their communities, including utility usage, zoning regulations and noise levels. Roberts grew up in rural Kansas and owns Central Power Systems & Services, which he acquired in 2015. Higgins joined the American Farm Bureau Federation in 2025 as director of government affairs, focusing on agricultural policy issues involving technology and rural development.

The Kansas Beef Council's (KBC) Consumer Trends Forum, sponsored by the Kansas Soybean Commission, will take place Thursday afternoon. KBC staff members Scott Stebner, Abby Heidari and Hailey Gilbreath will examine how social media, health professionals and educators influence consumer perceptions of beef, nutrition and cooking. They also will discuss how KBC uses marketing and educational programs to build demand for beef.

The convention will conclude Friday with the Membership Breakfast, sponsored by the Farm Credit Associations of Kansas, Smithfield and U.S. Premium Beef. CattleFax Chief Executive Officer Randy Blach will provide a cattle market outlook addressing historically high cattle prices, tight supplies and ongoing market uncertainty. Elanco Animal Health is sponsoring Blach's presentation.

A complete schedule, hotel information, and both online and printable registration forms are available at www.kla.org under Events & Meetings. Those preferring to register by phone can call KLA at (785) 273-5115. All livestock producers and industry stakeholders are welcome to attend the KLA Convention & Expo.

KLA works to advance members' common business interests on legislative, regulatory and industry issues affecting producers at both the state and federal levels. The association's work is funded through voluntary dues dollars paid by its members.

Senior Lifestyles

624 S. Main, Hugoton • 620-544-2283

Hello everyone. I hope you enjoyed the wonderful rain! This Thursday is Bingo Night! The doors will open at 6pm and the games begin at 6:30. Concessions are also available. Looking into November, the first is the end of daylight savings, so don't forget to reset your clocks. The 3rd is voting day. If you have not early voted, Tuesday the 3rd is your last chance. We hope to see you here at the Center!

Menu

October 28 .....Chicken .....Corodon
October 29 .....Stew
October 30 .....Sloppy .....Jo
November 2 .....King .....Ranch Chicken
November 3 .....Roast .....Beef
November 4 .....Meatloaf
November 5 .....Chicken .....Strips

Activities

Wednesday, October 28
Cards .....12:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 29
Bingo Night.....6:30 p.m.
Friday, October 30
Bingo .....12:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 31
Cards .....6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 3
Dominoes .....12:30 p.m.
Wednesday, November 4
Cards .....12:30 p.m.
Friday, November 6
Bingo .....12:30 p.m.

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Time...Keeps On Ticking
But Our Deadline Is
Always The Same!
Monday at 5:00 p.m.
The Hugoton Hermes -
620-544-4321

PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in The Hugoton Hermes, Thursday, October 29, 2026) 3t

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF STEVENS COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CHARLES E. CRANE, A/K/A CHARLES EUGENE CRANE, DECEASED
AND
THEO A. BROWN, A/K/A THEO A. CRANE, A/K/A THEO GOOCH CRANE, DECEASED
(Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

Case No. SV-2026-PR-000028

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Deborah J. Donaldson, one of the heirs of Charles E. Crane, deceased, and Theo A. Brown, deceased, requesting:

Descent be determined of the following described real estate situated in Stevens County, Kansas:

Undivided mineral interest in E/2 SW/4 of Sect. 19-T33S-R36, and S/2 SW/4 of Sect. 36-T34S-R37, and N/2 SE/4 of Sect. 7-T35S-R35 West of the 6th PM;

and all other Kansas real estate owned by decedent at the time of death. And that such property and all other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before December 3, 2026. at 9:30 a.m. in the city of Hugoton, Stevens County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

/s/ Jeremiah Johnson
Jeremiah Johnson, #21968
Graber & Johnson Law Group, LLC
701 Vilymaca, PO Box 450
Elkhart, KS 67950
(620) 697-2163
Attorneys for Petitioner

PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in The Hugoton Hermes, Thursday, October 29, 2026) 3t

IN THE TWENTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT, STEVENS COUNTY, KANSAS
PROBATE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PAMELA K. FULTON, Deceased.
PURSUANT TO K.S.A. CHAPTER 59

Case No. SV-2026-PR-29
Title to Real Estate Involved

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that on October 22, 2026, a Petition was filed in this Court by Gerald D. Fulton, heir of Pamela K. Fulton, deceased, requesting:

Descent be determined on the following described real estate situated in Stevens County, Kansas:

An undivided one-half interest in and to all of the following:

The surface and surface interest, including water rights, in the Northwest Quarter (NW/4) of Section Twenty-five (25), Township Thirty-one (31) South, Range Thirty-eight (38) West of the 6th P.M., less eight (8) acres located in the northwest corner, Stevens County, Kansas;
AND
An undivided one-fourth (1/4th) interest in and to all of the oil, gas and other minerals of whatsoever kind of nature lying in and under or that may be produced from the Northwest Quarter (NW/4) of Section Sixteen (16), Township Thirty-four (34) South, Range Thirty-six (36) West of the 6th P.M., Stevens County, Kansas, together with the right of ingress and egress and the right to use so much of the surface of said land as is reasonably necessary or convenient for the exploration, development, production, storage and transportation of such minerals;
AND
An undivided one-fourth (1/4th) interest in and to all of the oil, gas and other minerals of whatsoever kind of nature lying in and under or that may be produced from the Southwest Quarter (SW/4) of Section Twenty-three (23), Township Thirty-one (31) South, Range Thirty-eight (38) West of the 6th P.M., Stevens County, Kansas, together with the right of ingress and egress and the right to use so much of the surface of said land as is reasonably necessary or convenient for the exploration, development, production, storage and transportation of such minerals;
AND
An undivided one-eighth (1/8th) interest in and to all of the oil, gas and other minerals of whatsoever kind of nature lying in and under or that may be produced from the Southeast Quarter (SE/4) of Section Twenty-two (22), Township Thirty-one (31) South, Range Thirty-eight (38) West of the 6th P.M., Stevens County, Kansas, together with the right of ingress and egress and the right to use so much of the surface of said land as is reasonably necessary or convenient for the exploration, development, production, storage and transportation of such minerals.
EXCEPT AND SUBJECT TO: Surface and mineral interests owned by others as appears of record, and further subject to oil and gas leases, lease modification agreements, unitization agreements, and easements of record, restrictions and rights-of-way, if any, insofar as the same are valid,
and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by decedent at the time of death, and that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the Family Settlement Agreement.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before December 3, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in this Court, in the City of Hugoton, Stevens County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course on the Petition.

Gerald D. Fulton, Petitioner

Kelsey A. Ebert, #26437
Larson, Brown & Ebert, P.A.
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(316) 729-0100
Attorney for Petitioner