

## Kansas Conservation Partnership

Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Department of Conservation  
Rob Reschke, Executive Director  
(785) 564-6700  
rob.reschke@kda.ks.gov

USDA Natural Resources  
Conservation Service  
Eric Banks, State Conservationist  
(785) 823-4500  
eric.banks@ks.usda.gov

Kansas Association of  
Conservation Districts  
James (Jim) Krueger, Executive  
Director (785) 479-1369  
jimkrueger222@gmail.com



[www.kacdnet.org](http://www.kacdnet.org)

James (Jim) Krueger  
KACD Executive Director  
1008 2500 Avenue  
Abilene, Kansas 67410

(785) 479-1369 - office  
(785) 479-1369 - cell

jimkrueger222@gmail.com

## KANSAS CONSERVATION:

### Preserving A Historic Commitment



*“The nation that destroys  
its soil destroys itself.”*

President Franklin D. Roosevelt  
*in a letter to state governors*  
February 1937



On April 14, 1935, an estimated 300 million tons of soil blew from the land.



That day, known as “Black Sunday,” people of the Great Plains suffered the devastating effects of a massive drought. It was one of the darkest periods in Kansas history.

But just as every cloud has a silver lining, out of those dust clouds came a firm commitment to soil conservation. The Kansas Legislature passed a bill that created conservation districts in Kansas, which was signed into law by Governor Walter Huxman on March 25, 1937.

**With that action, Kansas began a commitment to conservation that has lasted more than seven decades.**



### **What Lawmakers Can Do...**

- Safeguard funding for conservation cost-share programs that have a proven track record for preserving the state’s natural resources.
- Communicate with conservation officials to gain awareness of ongoing efforts to improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, conserve water, reduce flood potential, and provide local water supply.
- Maintain the current conservation structure with the State Conservation Commission administering Conservation District Law through long-term, solid working relationships with local conservation and watershed districts.
- Continue the practice of selecting the SCC board from among the 525 locally elected supervisors because of their thorough knowledge of conservation and understanding of the diverse needs of districts statewide.

### **What Landowners Can Do...**

- Incorporate conservation practices to preserve the soil for future generations.
- Apply for financial assistance on eligible conservation projects by contacting the county conservation district.
- Attend the annual meeting of the conservation district held in January or February to learn more about conservation programs.
- Play a leadership role in local conservation efforts by running for the county Board of Supervisors.
- Communicate with elected officials about the vital importance and success of the state’s current Conservation District Law and partnership structure.

### **What Individuals Can Do ...**

- Conserve natural resources wherever possible.
- Take advantage of available opportunities to learn about the critical work being done by conservation districts and promote conservation stewardship in both rural and urban environments.
- Make a commitment to foster the conservation experience initiated in 1937 to the youth and future leaders of Kansas.