

KANSAS BANKERS ASSOCIATION AWARD CRITERIA

Soil Conservation Recognition Program

- Use of land according to its capabilities
- Completeness of conservation plan
- Balance of farm enterprise
- Quality of conservation work completed and maintenance of practices
- Special practices such as grassland development, forestry, pollution abatement, riparian management, water quality, and residue management

Windbreak Recognition Program

- Provides protection from damaging winds for residential areas, livestock, or fields
- The original windbreak must consist of planted trees or shrubs. Volunteer trees/shrubs may be utilized to increase density, fill in gaps, or otherwise supplement the original planted trees and shrubs
- Plants must be managed and in healthy condition with no significant gaps in the windbreaks
- Windbreak location, density, and length must be adequate to provide the desired protection
- Windbreaks should be a minimum of three years old

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

- Actively engaged in farming or ranching business as owner, lessee, or operator-manager
- Land must be under private ownership or control
- Nominee must have made the decisions about land management activities for a minimum of 5 years
- At least 50% of the land under ownership or control must be devoted to farming or ranching.
- Selection will be made on overall habitat quality, quantity, maintenance, and enhancements on the entire farm
- Some parameters to look for include: grazing and haying practices, field borders, food plots, tillage practices, waterways, terraces, crop rotation, native grass, winter cover, nesting cover, brood rearing cover, fenced out areas, and farm pond enhancement

Energy Conservation Recognition

- Efficient use of energy in farmstead buildings, equipment, and operations including but not limited to building insulation; heating & cooling such as ground source heat pumps; lighting; and striving for peak fuel efficiency in high energy consumption components such as irrigation pumping, refrigeration, power units for tillage, harvesting equipment, etc.
- Production of energy from renewable sources such as solar; wind; biomass; biofuels such as biodiesel, methane, ethanol, etc
- Utilization of renewable energy sources

Water Conservation

- Adoption of improved irrigation management techniques, such as irrigation scheduling, system improvement, and remote monitoring and/or control
- Adoption of cropping systems to match irrigation system capacities
- Adoption of appropriate tillage systems to reduce soil water evaporation and improve soil water storage from precipitation
- Evidence of field tests for the evaluation of irrigation system performance
- Submission of crop water budgets that track soil water levels, irrigation applications and rainfall events and yield performance
- Improvement and/or development of on-farm or ranch water supplies

Water Quality

- Quality of water quality improvement and protection work
- Adoption of cropping, grazing, and animal feeding operation practices to reduce sediment, nutrient, and bacterial contamination of surface waters
- Practices may include, but are not limited to: Conversion of cropland to total no-till farming systems, planting grass or forested riparian buffers, development of a nutrient management plan, installing livestock waste management systems, rotational grazing, improved livestock watering distribution systems, moving livestock operations out of riparian areas, creation of stabilized stream crossings, and mortality management

Grasslands Award (KACD AWARD):

- Provide exceptional service and support to the conservation, management and/or education of the grasslands
- Provide Leadership within their county regarding grassland management
- Practices sound conservation to improve / maintain the health and vigor of plant health on range and or pasture land