

Pottawatomie County

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION NEWS

Agriculture and Natural Resources

pottawatomie.k-state.edu

November 2025

Pottawatomie County Extension

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Extension Winter Programs

It is that *magical* time of year...time for Extension winter agriculture programs. I will use this newsletter to highlight local and regional educational opportunities.

Coming up soon is our area Ag Profitability Conference in Manhattan on December 9. Further details are on page 2 of this newsletter. Registration is due December 5, so do not delay!

In addition to the events and opportunities shared here, others are in the early planning stages. Expect more information about a precision agriculture and technology (likely including drones) event in late February to be held in Pottawatomie County.

Four new volunteers have or will complete Extension Master Gardener training in early December. Our Pottawatomie County Extension Master Gardeners are planning to host their third "Spring Gardening Classes" event at the Senior Center in Wamego on Saturday morning, March 7, 2026. This educational event will include several horticulture topics of interest to new and experienced gardeners alike.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me if you have questions or suggestions for agriculture and/or horticulture program needs. Please contact me to schedule an on-farm visit. My favorite days as an Extension agent are those where I help local producers come up with solutions to their specific issues. I can always be reached by email at sblocker@ksu.edu or our office phone number is (785) 457-3319.



Shannon Blocker

Shannon Blocker
County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources
K-State Extension, Pottawatomie County

Ag Profitability Conference: December 9th at Pottorf Hall



Many of our farmers across the US are experiencing one of the most challenging periods in our US agricultural economy in recent history. With low crop prices, elevated input costs, and slim margins, it can be a difficult time in agriculture.

Our K-State Ag Economists share that in 2021, only about 4.4% of Kansas farmers had a negative net farm income. But in 2024, that number jumped to 28.5%. That is a staggering statistic.

It's been a roller coaster for agriculture-related headlines in recent weeks, from tariffs, the China soybean deal, and the USDA's new plan to "fortify the American beef industry". How does all this agriculture government policy affect our Kansas farmers and ranchers?

Area Extension offices, including Pottawatomie County, are teaming up with K-State's Department of Agricultural Economics to address the current financial pressure and uncertainty and shed some light on current agricultural policy.

All are invited to join us at our upcoming event, Making "Cents" of a Shifting Ag Economy. The conference will focus on preparing producers to navigate economic downturns, manage input costs, and help them think through what they

can do now to position themselves for when profitability improves.

Topics for the day include presentations on:

- Crop Profitability
- Agriculture policy
- Farm bill changes
- Land values
- Farm transition

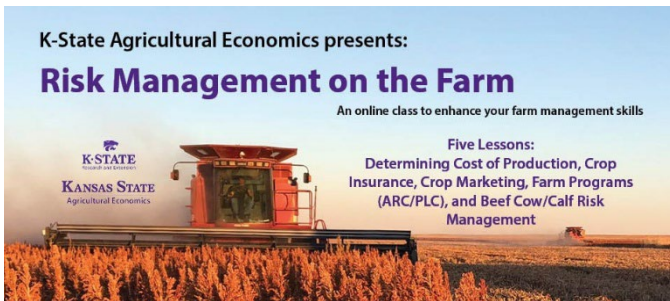
The event will be hosted on December 9th at Pottorf Hall in Cico Park in Manhattan, KS. There is a \$10/registration fee for materials throughout the day. You can register with the Pottawatomie County Extension Office by calling 785-457-3319 or online [here](#). Further information, including the full conference agenda, can be found at this [link](#). Registration is required by December 5, 2025. We appreciate the Riley State Bank for providing lunch for our conference attendees.

K-State Swine Day



K-State Swine Day will be held Thursday, November 20, 2025, in Manhattan. Although pre-registration is closed, you can still register at the door for \$50. There will be a trade show, applied nutrition research updates, and a presentation on understanding China's ever-changing swine production landscape. For more information, please see <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/events/swine-day/>

Self-Paced Online Agriculture Economics Extension Courses



<https://www.agmanager.info/events/risk-management-farm-online-class>



<https://www.agmanager.info/events/finances-and-farm-online-class>

Using Uncrewed Aerial Systems (Drones) on your Farm or Ranch



There continues to be increased interest in using UAS in production agriculture. The first step is to earn a commercial remote pilot license, part 107, from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Unlike pesticide applicators, UAS pilots must get their commercial license even to use a

UAS on their own farm or ranch. If the UAS will help you make or save money (which is the case for anything more than a toy/recreational use) you need a commercial pilot license.

One effective way to obtain your commercial remote pilot license, part 107, is to attend a ground school. Kansas State University at Salina does offer a 3-day class followed by the FAA written test on the 4th day. I participated in this short course in 2018 and do recommend it. The link below provides more information. The next class is January 12 - 14, 2026 with the test date of January 15.

<https://www.salina.k-state.edu/professional-education/uncrewed-training/training.html>

ATTENTION FARMERS

Survey Participants Needed

Inclusive Criteria

Anonymous Responses

10-15 Minutes to Complete



Help us discover the needs in Kansas Digital Ag & AI

If any of the following apply to you, you qualify to take our survey:

- Row crop production
- Specialty crop production
- Livestock ranching/operation

Scan Here



https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bwoxVYFC5t10Wge



https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bwoxVYFC5t10Wge?Q_CHL=qr

Livestock and Forage “Alphabet Soup” Workshop: LRP, PRF, AF, and RAP January 21, 2026, in Onaga

LRP – Livestock Risk Protection Insurance
PRF – Pasture Rangeland Forage Insurance
AF – Annual Forage Insurance
RAP – Rangeland Analysis Platform

Plans are underway for a livestock and forage workshop to be held at Onaga High School on the evening of Wednesday, January 21, 2026. Topics will include livestock and forage risk management tools by Jenny Ifft, Kansas State University Agricultural Policy Specialist, and a hands-on activity using the Rangeland Analysis Platform, led by Shannon Blocker, Pottawatomie County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources. Producers should plan to bring a laptop if they have one, but a limited number of Kansas State University Agricultural Economics computers will be available for use at this workshop. Registration will start in mid-December.

Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Insurance Deadline Approaching

December 1, 2025, is the sign-up deadline for Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage (PRF) insurance for the 2026 coverage year. PRF crop insurance makes automatic payment (indemnity) for hay or grazing acreage when local rainfall (precipitation) falls below the historic average.

Payments are triggered by rainfall/precipitation in your local area, or USDA-defined grid (approximately 17 by 13 miles). Producers can select different triggers for payments, or

coverage levels. 90% is the maximum and pays whenever rainfall drops below 90% of the historic average. 70% is the minimum. Producers must select at least 2 intervals and at most 6 intervals per year. Intervals are 2 adjacent months, for example June and July. Like other crop insurance, the Federal government pays for part of the crop insurance premium depending on the coverage level selected.

A decision support tool for PRF is available at <https://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/prf> and you can also contact a local crop insurance agent for more information.

Save the Date: Women Grow the Farm Conference



<https://www.womengrowthefarm.com/>

Women Grow the Farm is the new name for the Women Managing the Farm conference in Manhattan coming up in February. The agenda is still being finalized, but I encourage you to save the date, February 12-13, 2026, for this great conference. Please see the link below the graphic for more information.

Pond with Beaver Issue?

If you have a pond within a 30-minute drive of Manhattan you would allow a K-State professor to demonstrate how to trap beaver for class, please let Shannon Blocker know ASAP. Email sblocker@ksu.edu or call at (785) 457-3319.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension

Pottawatomie County

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Events and Dates

November

- 20 K-State Swine Day; Manhattan
- 27-28 Pottawatomie County Extension Office
Closed

December

- 9 Ag Profitability Conference; Manhattan
- 24-2 Pottawatomie County Extension Office
Closed

January

- 3 Pottawatomie County Extension Office
Reopens 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- 21 Livestock Risk Protection (LRP), Forage
Rainfall insurances (PRF & AF), and
Rangeland Analysis Platform (RAP)
Workshop; Onaga