

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



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- Global Food Systems
- Water and Natural Resources
- Health
- Community Vitality
- Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

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Grand Challenge: Global Food Systems

Title: Central Kansas District (CKD) Land Leasing Program

Why is this issue important?

It is estimated that 50% or more of all farm and pastureland in Kansas is leased. Since these leasing situations can vary from operation to operation, it is important that both parties understand the details of their lease agreement, laws that affect their lease, responsibilities they have as a landlord or tenant, and how to properly enter and terminate the lease. Leases can be agreed upon via writing or oral agreement, but both are legally enforceable. Either way, its vital our producers and landowners have a understanding of the importance of a good, accurate lease as they play an increasingly important role in production agriculture as fewer and fewer producers manage and operate our state's agricultural resources.

How did Extension address this issue?

To bring light to the importance of good leasing practices, CKD Livestock Agent Justine Henderson and Jay Wisbey, CKD Crops Agent, hosted timely Leasing Basics programs in both Ottawa and Saline Counties. The program also included representation from the Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services (KAMS), which is a free resource offered to all producers in Kansas needing mediation assistance.

Main presentation topics included:

1. Land Leasing Basics: written vs. oral, lease provisions and proper termination
2. Pasture Leases: rental rates, landlord & tenant responsibilities, stocking rates, and drought situations
3. Crop/Farmland Leases: rental rates, factors affecting rates and lease types
4. Renting Crop Residue: types of arrangements and rental rates

Between the two counties, 35 individuals attended the Leasing Basics program. Participants were educated on vital information regarding their current and future lease arrangements, proper landlord and tenant relationships, and current rental rates in their respective counties. They engaged in good, useful conversations with agents, KAMS employees, and other producers.

What was the impact?

With a majority of the attendees being either a producer or a landowner, survey feedback indicated:

> Approximately 90% of the respondents increased their knowledge on pasture, crop, and residue leasing.

> Most implied they would either adopt a written lease agreement, review their current lease, or make efforts to improve their landlord-tenant relationship because of the program.

> All but three individuals indicated they have a greater understanding of KAMS and what the organization can offer to Kansas landowners and tenants.

> Numerous attendees indicated they would explore the idea of grazing crop residue as a result of the program.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
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