

# Partnership is Progress

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Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation October 2023

#### TRAINING PARTNERSHIP BACKGROUND

- Prior to 2020, DOC staff spent one 8 hour in person session.
- During covid, created Teams meeting approach
- After covid: Hybrid approach
  - 3 Teams training sessions 1-3 hours in length
  - 1 in person training, DM led (4+ hours.)



#### WHAT WAS MISSING

- Assisting boards with recruitment and hiring
- Accounting/QuickBooks/Payroll
- Technical (mapping, etc.)
- Basic NRCS training



#### BACKGROUND CHECK VS. START DATE

- District computers for QuickBooks, but few have internet
- Primarily managers use NRCS computers
- Time delay waiting for background checks, which delays training





#### WHY CREATE A PARTNERSHIP?

- Train new managers sooner
- Strong relationship with KACD
- Value of training
- High District Manager turnover
- Better equip managers for success









# Collaborative Conservation Grants and Agreements (CCGA)

- "Building capacity in the Kansas Conservation Partnership to effectively communicate and deliver conservation programs"
- \$675,966 total for three years. Training share: \$229,500.
- Partnership breakdown to training:
  - Federal funds: \$124,500
  - KDA-DOC funds: \$75,000
  - KACD funds: \$30,000



# Collaborative Conservation Grants and Agreements (CCGA)

- Grant funds awarded for:
  - Leadership and Field Services Coordinator
  - Social media training for all districts
  - KACD website renovation
  - Enhanced training
- Former DM hired; Position started in December 2022



### Coordinator Position Description

- 1. Conduct training, leadership and outreach to conservation districts
- 2. Increase visibility and access to Climate-Smart agriculture and forestry
- 3. Increase awareness of soil health principles and practices
- 4. Promotes improved water quality in source water protection areas.



#### KACD Trainer is in office first week of hire

- Onboarding new hire
- Preparing for board meeting
- Payroll
- QuickBooks
- After LincPass is received, basic NRCS training is provided Pitney Bowes, copy machine use, ordering supplies, etc.

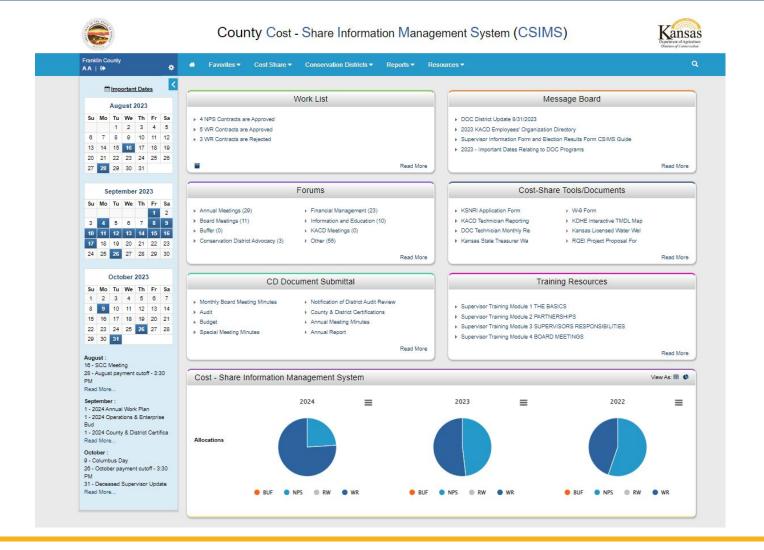


- DOC training after background approval
  - Introductory training for DOC staff and programs
  - Business session (minutes, financials, required reports, open records and meetings, etc.)
  - In-person DM led session



- DOC Training Cont. Database Training
  - CSIMS Cost Share Information Management System
  - Overall CSIMS
  - State Cost Share Process
  - Individual sessions when setting up contracts or payment







# **DOC and KACD Training Workshop**

- Three-day workshop held in August
- Developed and presented by DOC, KACD, and NRCS
- Each district received a \$300 to cover hotel costs (included in grant)
- 2022 workshop for ALL managers (90% attendance)
- 2023 workshop new managers only 13 attended



## **Annual Workshop Agenda**

- Building a Successful CD-NRCS Relationship
- NRCS Administrative Items
- CD Responsibilities Meeting the MOA Responsibilities
- NRCS Programs What they mean for districts
- Building the Capacity of the Kansas Conservation Partnership (Social media for districts)



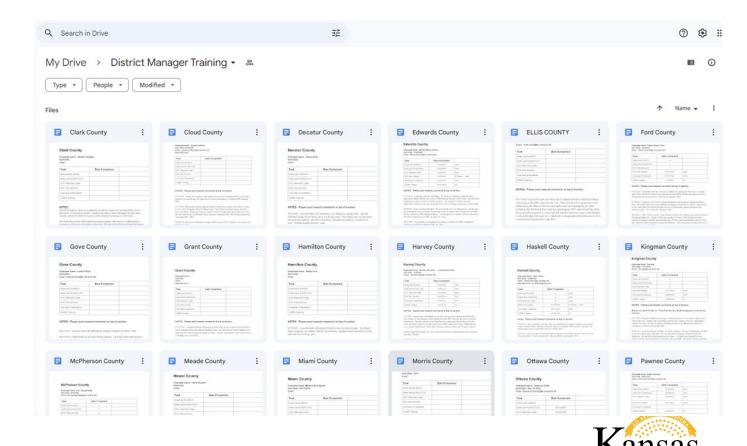
# Annual Workshop Agenda Con't.

- QuickBooks Basics and State Cost Share Program
- NRCS Tools/Map How to use tools to enhance both NRCS and District products
- CD Manager panel / Open Forum



#### Communication

- Google Drive page for each district
- DOC and KACD have access
- Call or meet every two weeks





# DOC and KACD Training Partner Communication

#### **Template County**

Employee Name:

Start Date:

Email:

Alternate Email:

Task	Date Completed	Initial
Name sent to KACD		
Name sent to KACD-EO		
DOC Welcome Letter		
DOC Intro Session:		
Overview of Handbook		
CSIMS Training:		I

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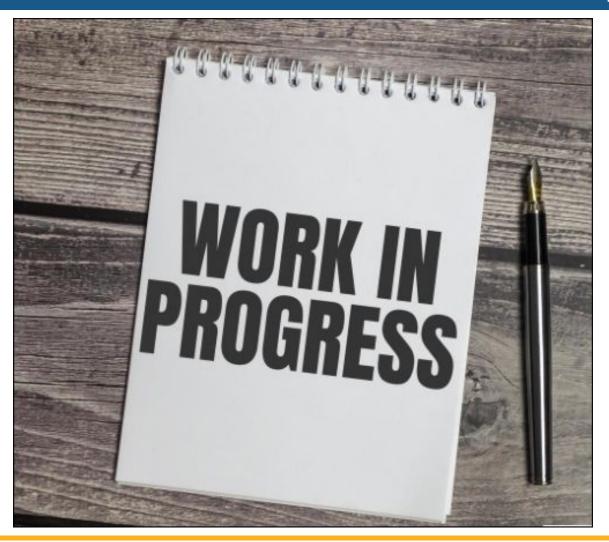


# DOC and KACD Training Results

- 2022 Q1 Q3
  - 22 new managers
  - 6 left before year end (27%)
- 2023 Q1 Q3
  - 11 new managers (plus 6 current vacancies all over 5 yrs exp)
  - 1 left before year end (10%)



# **DOC and KACD Partnership**





# Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation

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# THANK YOU



