

Kansas

AGGROWTH

GROW SMARTER. GROW STRONGER. GROW KANSAS.

KANSAS ADVANTAGE

As the nation's agriculture industry positions itself for growth in order to meet the needs of a growing population with changing demands, Kansas is well-suited to be the home for **strategic agricultural growth**.

The Kansas **climate** is highly conducive to effective and efficient livestock production and provides for good growing seasons and harvesting conditions.

Kansas **transportation** systems, including high quality roads and rail systems, provide easy access to markets and make moving people and goods in the state simple and reasonable.

The foresight of agriculture leaders has resulted in environmental regulatory standards allowing production agriculture and **environmental preservation** to work hand-in-hand.

Kansas was four decades ahead of its peer states in passing legislation that **protects animal agriculture** and minimizes the threats of activist groups by not being a ballot initiative state.

Business-friendly tax exemptions, long-standing property tax policy, being a Right to Work state, and a business- friendly regulatory culture make Kansas **a great place to start and own a business**.

Kansas is the home to Kansas State University — the first land-grant university in the U.S. — and Fort Hays State University. These institutions, along with the other Regents universities, community colleges, technical schools and high school agricultural education programs, are all key partners in **growing the workforce** needed to serve Kansas agriculture.

The long-term availability of water in Kansas is dependent on local leadership, responsible use, management and policy development, all which have been greatly enhanced in recent years by the **innovative water policies** in the Governor's *Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas*.

Kansas is represented by **leaders** in state and federal government who understand and respect the importance of agriculture.

Kansans embody the **pioneer spirit** that brought their forefathers to an uninhabited prairie to seek their fortunes in a new land. The values of **hard work, family, faith, community, perseverance, entrepreneurship and achievement** have stood the test of time in Kansas.

Those values and that same pioneer spirit that converted Kansas from a vast sea of grassland into a major producer of our nation's food supply live on today as we proactively **pursue new and innovative opportunities to grow agriculture**.

GROW SMARTER..



CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses must balance a lengthy list of challenges and variables, many of which they cannot control, as they work to grow and raise food for families across the globe. When possible, those barriers to growth should be addressed.

Kansas farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses from all sectors are all interconnected and must continue to **work together** and support each other for industrywide growth to occur.

Kansas must continue to value its largest industry, and must continually pursue a greater understanding of the **importance of agriculture to the state economy**.

Kansas agriculture must work together to provide an increasingly **open and transparent food system** that meets consumer demands and expectations, highlighting where their food comes from and the story of the people who raised it.

Continued and expanded access to **international markets** and expanded global market share is critical to nearly all agriculture sectors in Kansas.

A focus on quality roads and expanded rail access accompanied by **agriculture-friendly transportation regulatory environment** is critical to agricultural growth.

Maintaining a regulatory environment at the state level designed to help agriculture rather than hinder it and pushing back on and, when possible, dismantling **over-reaching, excessive, burdensome federal regulations** targeted against agriculture is fundamental to short- and long-term industry expansion.

Kansas needs to be poised to work collaboratively to help craft quality legislation aimed at serving our farmers and ranchers in the next **Farm Bill** and other federal policy initiatives.

Kansas must continue to build private-public partnerships to **protect and conserve the state's water supply** and be good stewards of the land, embracing environmental, economic and social sustainability.

A focus needs to be placed on **adding value** to agriculture commodities before they leave the state, enhancing support networks for **entrepreneurs** and business start-ups, and creating greater access to **venture capital**.

Kansas must maintain a **tax-friendly, open-for-business environment** that tells enterprises across the globe that Kansas is good place to do business, and local communities who want to grow agriculture should be recognized and should have the tools they need to prosper.

Rural broadband and mobile networks providing faster download and upload speeds are needed for businesses in rural areas to grow and do business with the rest of the world.

Public/private partnerships to address shortages in **rural housing** should be investigated.

Kansas agriculture cannot grow significantly without building the **agriculture-related skilled workforce and talent pool** through expanded high school agricultural education programs, quality higher education programs, veterans' agriculture career programs, legal immigration tools, succession planning tools, and quality of life investments.

While challenges exist, the opportunity for growth and the willingness of the Kansas agriculture industry to work together to address these challenges is far greater. The following pages outline the desired outcomes identified by industry stakeholders for 19 agriculture and food sectors. Working together, these outcomes can be accomplished ... growing agriculture and growing Kansas.

GROW STRONGER...



GROW KANSAS

