WELCOME
2021 Kansas Governor’s Summit on Agricultural Growth
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Stress in Agriculture
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Kansas Ag Heroes

Jacob is a third-generation farmer in Leavenworth County. When COVID hit in 2020, Jacob stepped forward to make sure the community had access to wholesome, local food. He provided access and availability to both those in need and those with resources. This commitment has continued throughout 2021.
Alice Mannette
Wichita, Kansas

Alice is the statewide agriculture reporter for Gannett, the USA Today media company, and her home base paper is the Hutchinson News. Over the last year, she has increased the exposure of agriculture news in Kansas, providing timely, accurate coverage of current events and interesting, thoughtful features about agriculture businesses and issues. She is an asset to the field of agriculture journalism in Kansas.
Greg Mick
Osborne, Kansas
As a 4th generation owner of the family farmstead and owner/operator of a large 5th generation farm in Osborne, Greg Mick knows that it takes a strong community to raise and support the next generation of Kansas agriculture producers. Greg has long served as a trustee for the McFadden Trust where he has perennially supported community services, local infrastructure projects and college scholarships.
Jaimie Needham
Pomona, Kansas

Jaimie has voluntarily served as the Overbrook Farmers Market Manager since 2019 when it began with seven full-time vendors. Today, the market has nearly 30 vendors who participate throughout the season. Thanks to Jaimie’s hard work, the Overbrook Farmers Market has been a blessing for many in Overbrook after the loss of the local grocery store in the spring of 2020.
Rev. Doreen Rice
Junction City, Kansas

Reverend Doreen Rice is very passionate about feeding the hungry. Every Tuesday evening in Junction City, Kansas, the Church of the Covenant located at 314 N. Adams Street makes home cooked meals and hands them out to those in need, free of charge.
Ag Heroes Honorable Mention

Rod Vorhees
Tom & Cindy Hoffman
Laura Handke
Teresa Brandenburg
Eric Atkinson
Kansas Ag Sector Highlights
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

• Technology-related ag ed at the high school level
• Ag tech, data management, entrepreneurship at technical, 2-year, 4-year schools
• Innovative educational programs, hands-on experiences
• Federal immigration reform: long-term visa for ag workers
• Automation: how will this have an impact on workforce?
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

• Additional processing facilities (meat, dairy, pet food, oilseeds, more)
• Ag business development assistance
• Network between entrepreneurs, investors, mentors
• International market development
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- Increased educational opportunities for producers
- Mentorship and networking opportunities
- Additional extension personnel (equine, forage, horticulture)
- Industry-led proactive public outreach (media and social media)
- Ag advocacy in school systems
RESEARCH

• Increased funding for research
• Both public and private investments
• Expanded info and data via surveys
INFRASTRUCTURE

- Traditional infrastructure: roads, bridges, rail, inland waterways, multimodal
- Statewide reliable broadband, seamless connectivity
ANIMAL DISEASE PREPAREDNESS

• State preparedness plan, regularly exercised
• Secure Food Supply plans
• Continued animal disease research
AGRICULTURE’S ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

• 72 agriculture and ag-related sectors
• $47.3 billion in direct output
• 135,000+ jobs in the Kansas economy
• Reports available for each Kansas county: agriculture.ks.gov/KSAg
THANK YOU
for your continued support of the Kansas agriculture industry