



Andrew Larson, Jr. (right) was presented the Don Rezac Award by KACD President, William Simshauser (left).

Andrew Larson Jr. has a passion for conservation of all natural resources, and he is well-known for his commitment to the Kansas Conservation Partnership. As a leader in his home community of Finney County he is involved, dedicated, and trusted. Andrew works to uphold the SCC mission to work to protect and enhance Kansas' natural resources through the development, implementation, and maintenance of policies, guidelines, and programs designed to assist local governments and individuals in conserving the state's renewable resources.

Andrew has been a self-employed farmer for nearly half a century. During this time, he utilized his college degree in agriculture proficiently and gained vast practical experience and expertise in both dryland and irrigated land management. He has accomplished improved water conservation by increasing irrigation efficiency and used best management practices.

Andrew was elected to the Finney County Conservation District Board of Supervisors on January 17, 1978. One year later he was elected as chairperson of this board. To this day, Andrew is still active and serving on the board. In addition to his knowledge and advocacy for stewardship of natural resources, Andrew recognizes the importance of educational programs and events promoting these at the local, state, and national level.

Andrew began serving as a member of the State Conservation Commission in 1994, at which time he brought much wisdom of the function, relevance and operation of Conservation Districts and programs. At that point and to this day, he recognizes that the foundation for successful delivery and implementation of natural resource-related programs hinges on the relationship and trust that exists between Conservation District Managers and Supervisors, as well as the citizens of a county, many of which are land owners or operators.

Andrew embraces this grassroots approach: "Locally led, locally developed and locally implemented". He values the building and maintaining of relationships and partnerships that deliver unsurpassed conservation achievement.

Over the years, Andrew has faithfully attended and been involved in KACD and NACD conventions. His ability to communicate effectively, to be considerate and respectful of others, and to remain true to his convictions has been a great and positive influence on many.