

PRESS RELEASE



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The Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) have announced a 2nd year of funding through the Kansas WRAPS (Watershed Rehabilitation and Protection Strategy) Partnership grant. \$325,000 is available to fund water quality improvement practices in nineteen WRAPS areas covering all or parts of 50 counties in Kansas.

This partnership provides funding for the installation of best management practices (BMP's) within 19 high priority watersheds across Kansas. The goal is to promote a reduction of phosphorous in the identified targeted areas and assist local farmers and cattlemen in making water quality improvements to their operation.

Eligible BMP's may include relocation of feeding pens or pasture feeding sites; off-stream watering systems; implementation of rotational grazing plan; riparian area fence; terraces/waterways as part of a long term no-till system; no-till incentives; implementing nutrient management plans; riparian buffers; and cover crops. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Section 319 and the Kansas State Water Plan provided the funding for the WRAPS program with the goal of addressing water quality concerns. Implementation of the partnership funds will be administered locally through the county conservation districts.

Landowners and operators who have resource concerns related to soil health and water quality on their land are encouraged to contact their local Conservation District to determine practice types and eligibility and make application for possible cost-share and incentive payments which will be available April 1, 2020. Applications are available at your local County Conservation District Office at the USDA Service Center.

The Kansas Association of Conservation Districts is a voluntary, nongovernmental, nonprofit, incorporated organization established in 1944. Its members are the conservation districts located in the state's 105 counties. KACD helps to forge key partnerships among federal, state, and local entities all committed to a common goal: wise and efficient conservation practices to protect the state's natural resources. These partnerships have been highly effective and mutually beneficial, allowing for shared space, equipment, and knowledge.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Phosphorus is an essential element for plant life, but when there is too much of it in water, it can speed up a reduction in dissolved oxygen in water bodies caused by an increase of mineral and organic nutrients of rivers and lakes. A sign of this is excess algae in water sources.

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