

JOHNSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU® The Voice of Agriculture®

As a valued member of Johnson County Farm Bureau, you're a part of a non-profit, grassroots organization Committed to the future of agriculture and the communities in which we live. Through advocacy, education and community outreach, we work together to help secure future food and fiber for all. Whether you live on the farm or in the city, Farm Bureau's services, benefits and programs are designed to benefit you and your family.

Celebrating 106 Years of Service

Spring 2024

AG AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

Last year, Johnson County Farm Bureau launched a NEW Ag Ambassador program for high school seniors (graduating in 2024). The Ag Ambassador Program's purpose is to provide leadership opportunities for Johnson County seniors interested in agriculture, provide students with an opportunity to learn about Farm Bureau and how it works from the grassroots up, and to develop students to be spokespersons for agriculture. An application is required and the program is limited to three Ag Ambassadors per year. Recipients will receive a \$3000 scholarship upon completion of their year of service to Johnson County Farm Bureau. Applications for the 2024-2025 Ag Ambassador Program is due July 1, 2024. Email johnsonfb@kfb.org for application.

CENTURY FARM

Call for application (913) 782-0235 or visit www.kfb.org.

Kansas Farm Bureau "Century Farm" program will recognize family farms whose current owner/operator is related to the owner/operator of the farm in 1924 or before. The applicant must be a Kansas Farm Bureau member and have ownership within the same family for 100 years or more by Dec. 31, 2024, with at least 80 acres of the original Kansas farmland. Qualifying farmers will receive a farm sign designating "Century Farm" status and recognition from Kansas Farm Bureau. Applications due May 15, 2024.

HUNTER SAFETY COURSE

Bass Pro Shop
12051 Bass Pro Dr.
Olathe, KS 66061

Thursday, April 11 6-9 pm
Saturday, April 13 9-4 pm

Participants are required to attend both class dates and times and must be at least 11 years old by April 11, 2024. Saturday's session will include a working lunch at Noon. Lunch is not provided so please bring a sack lunch with you. Parents do not need to stay with their child, but must arrive 20 minutes prior to the conclusion of class. Registration is free and is only open to Johnson County Farm Bureau members. Register by March 10th by visiting www.johnsoncountyfb.com and click on Events tab.

MEET OUR 2023-2024 AG AMBASSADORS



Our Ag Ambassadors from left to right:

Kylie Rogers
Carter Meek
Kairi Quinn

All 3 are from Spring Hill High School.

SESQUICENTENNIAL FARM

The Mission of the Sesquicentennial Farm Program

Tradition and heritage are a part of what makes agriculture an attractive way of life for Kansas residents. The history of these farms and ranches is rich, with many stories to tell. In that spirit, Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's leading agriculture advocacy organization, started this program to honor those family farms that have been passed down through family heritage for more than 150 years.

Applicant must be a voting or associate Farm Bureau member in Kansas. Ownership within the same family for 150 or more years by December 31, 2024 with at least 80 acres of the original Kansas farmland. Present owner must be related to original owner. Application MUST be submitted to local county Farm Bureau office by deadline date, May 15, 2024. (913) 782-0235

Consider Agritourism



If you hang around farmers much, you're likely to hear conversations about the weather, crop yields, and the economics of farming. They're all related. You also probably know that with expensive land and machinery, it's difficult to get a start in farming. So, what's your option if you only have a few acres and a passion to be involved in agriculture? Or maybe you have a traditional crop or livestock operation but want to explore other farm income possibilities. The answer might just be Agritourism.

Agritourism can be so many things. It may be selling some type of farm produce right off the farm like fruits and vegetables, meat, specialty grains, wine, or processed foods. It might be sharing your farm experience with those who have never been on a farm or who have memories of the farm only as a child. It may be offering hunting and fishing, overnight camping, wedding venues, or a hundred other ideas. In its simplest form, agritourism combines some part of agriculture with tourism. Yes, people will pay to see and experience the farm.

The good news is that many organizations in Kansas support the growth and development of agritourism, including Kansas Farm Bureau. In fact 20 years ago, the Kansas legislature passed the Agritourism Act. The Act promotes the growth of the agritourism industry in Kansas by offering educational support, free promotion through the Kansas tourism website, and some limited liability protection for those who register as an agritourism business. There's even some additional legislation that's being considered in the state to ensure registered agritourism sites receive the same use value appraisal as traditional farms.

But how do you get started? The Kansas Agritourism web site is a good place to begin. Their newly revamped website lays out their resources including the Kansas Agritourism Manual, a monthly newsletter, FAQ page, how to register your site, and most importantly a listing of all registered agritourism sites in the state. It's a great place to explore what others are doing. The website link is <https://www.travelks.com/travel-industry/programs-and-resources/agritourism/>

And finally, an Agritourism Informational Meeting is planned in Northeast Kansas for February 29th in Holton Kansas. The program starts at 10:30 and ends at 2:00. There will be many local and state professionals there to get all your agritourism questions answered! Register today for this free event by clicking the link below! Lunch will be provided!

Rick Miller, Johnson County Farm Bureau Association Governmental Relations Manager
