

# 2021 KCSAAC ANNUAL REPORT

The Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops (KCSAAC) is a resource for producers and professionals providing information about diversified, sustainable agriculture practices.

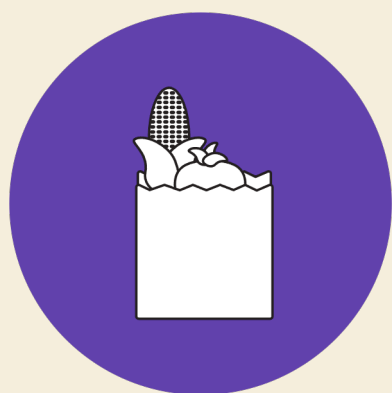
## ABOUT KCSAAC

KCSAAC, a part of K-State Research and Extension, facilitates research, education and outreach activities about sustainable agriculture practices and alternative food, fiber, and medicinal crops in Kansas. The Center is advised by a committee of producers, extension personnel, non-governmental organization representatives, and governmental agency personnel. Program focus areas for 2021 were: Local Foods, Beginning Farmers and Ranchers, and Diversified Farming Systems.



## LOCAL FOOD INITIATIVE

Availability of local food continued to be an issue in 2021. KCSAAC provided assistance to the Kansas Specialty Crop Growers Association for a project to enhance networking capabilities among specialty crop growers in the state. The Center was also able to help the Cultivate KC and Kansas Farmers Union provide educational and technical support to urban growers as they respond to increased demand.



## BEGINNING FARMERS & RANCHERS

KCSAAC continued to provide time and resources for a hoop house garden project with the Soldier Recovery Unit at Fort Riley and the S.A.V.E. Farm for veterans. In addition, the Center provided assistance to the Common Ground Incubator Farm to introduce urban residents to gardening through training and community garden experience.



## DIVERSIFIED FARMING SYSTEMS

KCSAAC has been able to help expand knowledge about alternative farming systems through assistance provided to Kansas State University's Willow Lake Student Farm for projects to educate students and producers about mushroom and hugelkulture production systems. The Center also assisted Kansas Watershed Specialists with development of a prototype slow sand filter to help eliminate bluegreen algae.



## 2021 NCR-SARE GRANTS

Nine NCR-SARE grants were awarded to Kansas farmers, educators, students, and researchers in 2021. The total amount of funding provided by these grants was \$519,739. Since 1988, Kansas has received \$4,774,731 in total NCR-SARE grant funding for 175 grant projects. The SARE program in Kansas is administered through KCSAAC.

