

# 2022 KCSAAC ANNUAL REPORT

The Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops (KCSAAC) is a resource for producers and professionals for information about diversified, sustainable agriculture practices. These are highlights from 2022.

## 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 as prescribed in K.S.A. 76-4,103. The Center is advised by a committee of producers, extension personnel, non-governmental organization representatives, and governmental agency personnel. Program focus areas for 2022 were: Local Food, Beginning Farmers and Ranchers, and Diversified Farming Systems.



## LOCAL FOOD INITIATIVE

Availability of local food continued to be a hot topic in 2022. Growing the local food system in Kansas was the focus of two projects supported by KCSAAC – Common Ground/Pearson’s Farm Educational and Grower Expansion Project in Wichita, establishing a Community Resilience Hub in Salina, and research into culinary and medicinal mushrooms in Manhattan. KCSAAC also supported the international Urban Food Systems Symposium held in Kansas City in September.



## BEGINNING FARMERS & RANCHERS

KCSAAC continued its focus on experiential learning projects for active-duty soldiers and veterans by providing time and resources for a hoop house garden project with the Soldier Recovery Unit at Fort Riley and Ag Demo Days at the S.A.V.E. Farm for veterans in Riley County. The Center also provided support for the Kansas Rural Center’s Farm Beginnings Program, a series of workshops for beginning and aspiring farmers.



## DIVERSIFIED FARMING SYSTEMS

KCSAAC has helped expand knowledge about alternative farming systems through assistance provided to Kansas State University for research on fertilizer and inoculant recommendations for dry beans and cowpeas and occultation in high tunnel production systems. Assistance was also provided for soil health projects that included a bus tour in Central Kansas and the creation of a dryland soil health network of farms in western Kansas.



## 2022 NCR-SARE GRANTS

13 North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grants were awarded to Kansas farmers, educators, students, and researchers in 2022. The total amount of funding provided by these grants was \$491,491. Since 1988, Kansas has received \$5,226,963 in total NCR-SARE grant funding for 187 grant projects. The SARE program in Kansas is administered through KCSAAC.

