



# KANSAS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

*Kansans for healthy woodlands.*

[www.KSForestryAssociation.org](http://www.KSForestryAssociation.org)



Winter 2021 • Issue XVI

## A Letter from KFA President Tom Hogard



One year ago, I took my wife on a Valentines getaway to South Padre Island, my how things have changed since we got back home. Personal, family, and professional lives have been affected by the pandemic; I am sure that applies to most of you. The pandemic response has influenced the operations of the Kansas Forestry Association as well. We normally have 3 board meetings each year, sponsor Forestry Field Days, Awards, and educational programs. Some of those events were postponed, others have gone virtual. Although I appreciate the interactions during face-to-face meetings, virtual meetings do have significant benefits. Primarily the savings in time and travel. Some KFA members travel several hours each way to attend an event. In addition to

the time investment for a meeting or program, you have to consider travel time, weather, and fuel costs. Being able to attend virtually may make it more feasible. Another benefit is that most virtual meetings are recorded so you can watch it later if the event doesn't fit into your schedule.

When pandemic restrictions ease, I expect that we will return to in-person events, but with a virtual component. In the meantime, please check out the KFA website and Facebook page, the Kansas Forest Service Resources page offers a wealth of information on maintaining your woodlands and new things to learn, even podcasts. I look forward to seeing you at one of our future events, in person or virtually. We also appreciate your support (annual KFA memberships and donations can be handled on-line).

Take care and be safe. - Tom Hogard, KFA President 2021

### Upcoming Events

- *Tuesday, April 13, 7-8 p.m.* – Virtual Tree Identification Workshop with Dr. Charlie Barden – For more information and to register, visit <https://events.tscpl.org/event/4886425>
- *December 2 - May 1* – Spring Conservation Seedlings Online at [kansasforests.org](http://kansasforests.org) or call 888.740.8733
- Virtual Events – Listed at [www.ksforestryassociation.org/virtual](http://www.ksforestryassociation.org/virtual)
- *July 15 – 1:00-4:00* – Kansas Forestry Association Board Meeting – Location and format TBD
- *October 2021* – Fall Forestry Field Day – Details to follow

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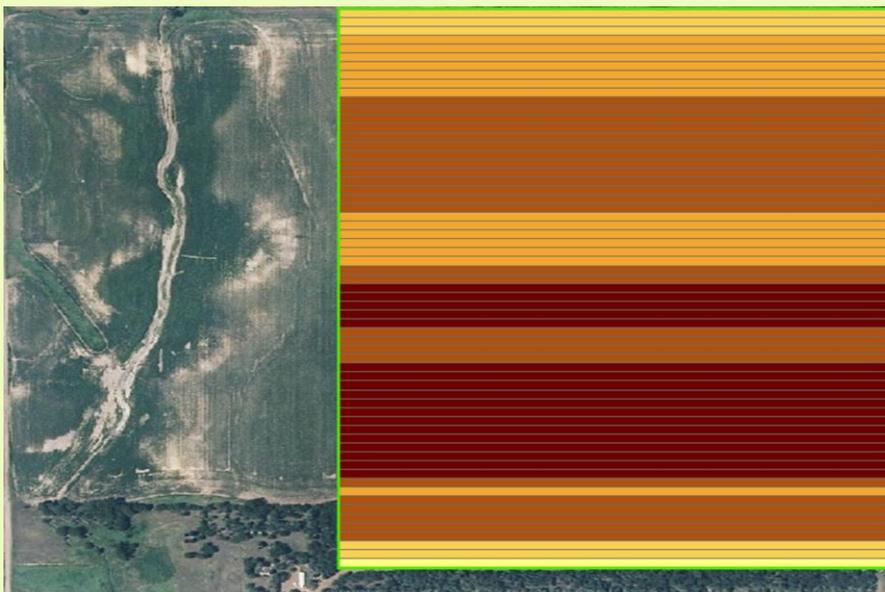
## Windbreak Crop Yield Study

The Great Plains Windbreak/Crop Yield Study compared multiple years of data from fields across the region with and without windbreaks. Because we are looking for relative crop yield changes and not absolute numbers, this approach will minimize the variables of rainfall, fertility, crop rotation, and farming methods. The key to this study is that the data already exists with farmers because many have crop yield monitors installed on their equipment. When combined with GPS, monitors can provide crop yield data for virtually every point in a field. Yield data was compared from protected and unprotected areas. The fact that many farmers maintain this data over several years also mitigated the variables that weather, location and different cropping systems might have on the overall results.



This retired Meade county farmer welcomed our interest in his windbreaks. He remembered helping his father plant and care for the seedlings, when he was just a boy, 75 years ago!

Windbreaks were originally promoted across the U.S. Great Plains to reduce wind erosion. A review paper published nearly 30 years ago showed yield increases for a variety of crops associated with windbreaks. However, with the widespread use of no-till cropping systems and advanced crop genetics, the question is "Do windbreaks still provide a yield benefit?" This study compared data from protected and unprotected fields over multiple years across Kansas and Nebraska looking at relative soybean (*Glycine max L.*) and winter wheat (*Triticum aestivum L.*) yield differences. Farmer's pre-existing georeferenced data, generated by automated combine yield monitors, were analyzed with ArcGIS 10.3.1 to visualize windbreak interaction with crop yield. Statistics were conducted to determine if the yield in protected areas of the field was significantly different from the yield in unprotected areas. Also, yield loss was estimated from the windbreak footprint to assess if yield increases were enough to compensate for the area taken out of crop production. Results showed: soybeans (57 crop/years) presented the most positive response to windbreak effect with significant yield increases 46% of the time, with a 16% (283 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) average yield increase. Wheat (44 crop/years) yield increases were significant 30% of the time, with a 10% (319 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) average yield increase. Narrow windbreaks (1-2 tree rows, average width of 13 m) and those on the north edge of fields resulted in yield increases that compensated for the footprint of the windbreak more often (71%) than wider windbreaks on the south edges of fields (38%).



A Mitchell county crop field. Note the darker color red in the protected sweet spot of the field, indicating higher yields.

I currently have a student completing his Master's degree with additional data.

This abstract was published in *Agroforestry Systems*.

Osorio, R.J., Barden, C.J. and Ciampitti I.A. 2019. GIS approach to estimate windbreak crop yield effects in Kansas-Nebraska. *Agroforestry Systems*. 93: 1567-1578.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10457-018-0270-2>. 10 pp.

Dr. Charles Barden  
Kansas State Extension Forester

## Bylaws and Election Results

The results from the 2020 elections and updated bylaws were as follows; Approval of the bylaws – 32 yes and 0 no; Approval of Carolyn Turney as a board member – 32 yes and 0 no; Approval of Wayne White as a board member – 30 yes, 0 no, and 2 abstained. Carolyn and Wayne have both served on the board for a number of years and are reelected to 2 year terms. The main change in the bylaws outside some wording and membership categories includes mailed newsletters. Only members who are Full members of KFA, (which includes annual membership dues of \$20, membership as both the Kansas Chapter of Walnut Council and the Kansas Tree Farm Committee, or those who have donated \$1000 at some point during membership) will receive a mailed copy of the newsletter. Affiliate members will only receive the newsletter digitally. If you would like to upgrade your membership, you can renew online at [ksforestryassociation.org/memberships](https://ksforestryassociation.org/memberships) or by filling out the form and following the mailing instructions. There also is an updated copy of the bylaws on the website. Thank you to everyone who participated in the process. We look forward to continued service and promotion of healthy Kansas woodlands.

### KFA has New Board Members

Two new board members have been appointed to serve a 2 year term on the KFA Board of Directors. KFA would like to extend a welcome to:

Clint Thornton

Phil Eastep

They both have extensive experience in forestry and natural resource management. More detailed biographical information will be included in a future edition. We are excited to work with these Kansas landowners to continue the KFA mission and vision.

### Welcome to Our 2020 New KFA Members

Kayla Garza - Lawrence

Jason Hartman - Manhattan

Lisa and Brian Jackson – Olathe

Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas

Carol Nickelson – Sabetha

Please join us in welcoming our new members. KFA is a great organization to collaborate and network with others who have similar interest in sustaining and improving our Kansas woodland systems.

## 2021 Field Day Options and Virtual Alternatives

Our current plan for field days in 2021 is our first in-person field day for the Fall Forestry Field Day in early October. With our partners, we are still working out the details of the event and will share that information in future newsletters. This will be our first scheduled event since the COVID pandemic altered most of our programming. We are excited to get back to our collaborative work with our membership.

A few details about the planned event include: Southeast Kansas location, pecan production presentation, pests and invasive species presentation, as well as other typical topics such as unique features of the farm, 2021 awards, and general KFA and partner programming.

If there are other topic suggestions, award nominees of landowners demonstrating sound stewardship, or you would like to be included in the planning, please contact Shane at [shane@ksu.edu](mailto:shane@ksu.edu).

Between now and the Fall, there are still going to be some smaller timber cruising trainings as well as several virtual options advertised on the website.





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**Special thanks to contributing authors: Tom Hogard and Charlie Barden  
Pictures by: Tom Hogard, Charlie Barden, and Cassie Wandersee**

**Nominate a deserving landowner or property for one of our  
annual awards that has been innovative in their stewardship  
practices and active in their woodland management.**

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please contact  
Shane Neel, Program Director with your email address at: [shane@ksu.edu](mailto:shane@ksu.edu)



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