

SERVICEMEMBER AGRICULTURAL VOCATION EDUCATION (SAVE)

Monthly Newsletter

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Announcement

We are continuing to develop new ways to help out our transitioning service members, veterans, and anyone who has an interest in agriculture. Whether it's a passion for farming in your backyard, maintaining your inner harmony through beekeeping, or a drive to work on the open range with cattle, we are making it part of our mission to ensure that we are able to provide the knowledge and skills for you to be successful.

Look for future training opportunities this spring that fits you schedule. We are dedicated to the success of our agriculturist. Body, mind, and spirit all three in harmony is the road map to happiness and success.

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Starting the Year with Congressional Visits

On January 26, 2021, Congressman Tracey Mann was selected to serve on the House Agriculture Committee. He ran with the intentions of advocating for Kansas agriculture and the conservative values of Kansas. Agriculture dominates the Kansas economy with 60,000 farms and is crucial to the Kansas way of life.

Growing up on a farm just south of Quinter, Kansas, his roots in agriculture run deep. Spending thousands of hours on a tractor and working on the family's feed yard, Congressman Mann states that he understands agriculture and has a passion for the Kansas rural way of life.

The day following his appointment, Congressman Mann visited the SAVE Farm. His appreciation of the work that we are doing to help veterans and to help grow the base of farmer in Kansas was echoed from multiple sources. "This visit was on the books already, but to announce this week, to find out that we got on the ag committee and the veterans' affairs committees, this is the perfect merger of those two worlds," Mann said Wednesday morning in an interview with the Manhattan Mercury.

We here at the SAVE Farm would like to say thank you to the elected officials, supporters, volunteers, and community for their unwavering dedication and support.



Getting back to work!

Congressman Mann said he wants to get people back to work, and children back in school and vaccinate those who want the coronavirus vaccine as soon as possible.

Congressman Mann hopes the country focuses on these three things after his visit.

"Agriculture is the driver of our economy in Kansas and the Big First, certainly the Manhattan community," he said. "All of our communities are impacted heavily by agriculture and I am excited to be a part of improving and helping the industry."

For more visit, the Manhattan Mercury's article on the visit to SAVE Farm in the January 28, 2021 edition. Story by Hailey Dixon.



How to Use Hay

1. Water the bale or pile of hay thoroughly or leave it out, exposed to the elements, during rainy weather for about a month. This is only necessary if the hay could contain a moderate or large amount of weed seeds.
2. Alternatively, break up and spread out the hay when the weather is hot and dry it out to kill any sprouted weeds.
3. Spread out the hay promptly following weed removal to allow it to dry before it begins to rot.
4. Pull the weeds from the area where you will spread the mulch.
5. Spread the hay evenly around trees, shrubs or other vegetation in your landscape beds or garden, creating a loose layer about 3 inches deep.
6. Pull hay back at least 6 inches from the trunk of woody plants and an inch or two from herbaceous plants. Where hay mulch is directly in contact with the plant stem or trunk it can trap moisture and leave the vegetation to rot.
7. Fluff up the hay if it becomes compacted or faded and unsightly on the surface.
8. Add more hay as needed to maintain a 2- to 3- inch layer of loose hay.

Why do we Mulch?

Having generally young trees in the orchard, our trees typically benefit most from a 2 to 3-inch layer of mulch around their base. Mulching trees keeps down weeds, thus eliminating the competition for water from grasses and weeds. Additionally, much of the water otherwise would be evaporated by the sun can soak down through the mulch layer and into the soil around the tree roots.

Mulching with hay has some surprising benefits. It does indeed break down, but unless the environment is very wet, it shouldn't get moldy. Instead, it will start to compost, creating a rich layer of nutrients for your plants. Our trees thrive in the warm, moist and nutritious cover and soil provided by the hay.



BEE BOOTCAMP

On Thursday March 11, 2021 Come join us at GPHF for a day of bee bootcamp! This is a good place to start if you are interested in becoming a beekeeper. Taught by our master beekeepers, you will learn about preparing to receive bees, bringing them home, caring for your bees, honey production and preparing your colony for winter.



Due to COVID-19, the class is limited to 50 participants. Attendance is \$10/person. Please purchase a seat for each person attending. Kids are welcome and lunch is provided.



Hey Fort Riley!!

This weekend, February 5th and 6th, we will be setup in the main lobby area of the Fort Riley Post Exchange. We are asking for our supporter with access to the installation to support our efforts to spread the word about the SAVE Farm and Golden Prairie Honey Farms.

Due to operations being held at the post exchange, the bee shop will not be open for normal operations on those days. If you have any questions or just are need of assistance, contact us online or call at:

785-370-3642 or gphfarms@gmail.com

OPPORTUNITIES



ATTENTION KANSAS COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY STUDENTS!

The Nature Conservancy is now accepting applications for the Summer 2021 David T. Beals III Healthy Streams for Kansas Fellowship.

The Beals Healthy Streams Fellow may do research and review scientific literature, map data, assist with fieldwork, attend meetings with partners, and other work to advance the Healthy Streams Initiative.

The Fellow will work 35 hours per week for up to 10 weeks from June through August and will be paid \$13.63 per hour. The Fellow will work primarily virtually but may travel around the state to visit project sites, as circumstances allow.

The ideal candidate will be at least 18 years old, studying natural resources or a related field at an accredited Kansas college or university, and will have an interest in streams in Kansas. To apply, visit <https://careers.nature.org>, search for position number 49315, and upload a cover letter and resume. All applications must be submitted in the system prior to 10:59 p.m. Central on February 25th, 2021.

Interested in Making a Living of Farming in a Rural Kansas Community

Owner is pretty invested in finding someone who wants to put down roots and become part of the local community in Downs, KS. Currently growing wheat, corn, soybeans, and sorghum. It's mostly dryland, but there are a couple of irrigated pieces of ground as well. It's a pretty traditional single-family farm for North Central Kansas. Any current or former SAVE Farm students interested in making a living of farming in a rural Kansas community, please feel free to contact Edie by email at ediedoane@gmail.com or by phone at 703-568-1377.

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SOUTHEAST KANSAS

SOIL HEALTH CONFERENCE

IOLA, KANSAS
MARCH 5TH-6TH

Join us as we network with producers across Kansas to learn about the latest Soil Health practices and how you can become more profitable on your farm.

Keynote Speakers:

Darin Williams
Doug Peterson
Candy Thomas
Dale Strickler
Zach Louk
Westin Holloway
Mac Kincaid
and several other local producers

FEATURING AN
INDOOR
COVER CROP
PLOT TOUR

\$50 per person Great food will be provided!

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