

# Post Rock Extension District Column

Week of March 16-20, 2026

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Crop Production Agent

## Thank a farmer TODAY!

For 250 years, agriculture has been the vital thread in the fabric of our nation. America's farm and ranch families represent the cornerstone of our freedom and way of life – now and in the future. American agriculture is the backbone of our nation's economy, and we express our appreciation for all who contribute to the U.S. agriculture industry.

National Agriculture Week, March 15-21, features the recognition of the strong agriculture tradition in Kansas and across the nation and the role the agriculture industry plays in the Kansas economy. **This year's theme, "Agriculture: Together We Grow!" describes the significant importance of our producers and that Agriculture is a part of all of us.**

This special recognition helps the consumer understand how food and fiber products are produced along with building appreciation of the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products. In addition, the recognition will build consumer awareness and value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy as well as acknowledging and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food and fiber industry.

According to the Kansas Ag Statistics, each Kansas farmer feeds approximately 165 people around the state which is a dramatic increase from 25 people in the 1960's. While farmland may stretch far and wide, the actual percentage of the U.S. population involved in agriculture is only 1.3%, or 2.6 million people! But quite simply, American agriculture is doing MORE and doing it BETTER!

Have you ever considered how agriculture starts with the growing and harvesting of food and fiber, and it ends with almost everything we eat, wear, and use and therefore helps make us...WHO WE ARE! From the food we eat and the fuel for our vehicles, to the fiber in the clothes we wear, and the oil used to make kids' crayons, agriculture touches everyone in some way. Consumers around the nation will be learning about agriculture's important role in their daily lives as part of National Agriculture Month during March along with **National Agriculture Week, March 15-21, 2026.**

Now more than ever, American agriculture is working together with the consumer to provide wholesome, safe, affordable and environmentally friendly products of the consumer's choice. To make this happen, the various production and marketing segments within American agriculture are forming new and unique alliances, working together to better serve the global consumer.

More and more, students and individuals are finding careers in agriculture. The industry needs scientists, biologists, food safety technicians, livestock nutrition specialists, arborists, or conservationists— one doesn't have to be a farmer or have a direct on-farm job to be involved in the agriculture industry.

Agriculture is a complex and constantly changing industry, striving to meet the needs and concerns of its customers—consumers. It is very important that the public understand agriculture and how closely each person is tied to it. Our food and agriculture industry need the support of all Americans. **Agriculture has always and will continue to be our country, state and county mainstay.** American agriculture is the foundation of our country. It's the backbone of a healthy and prosperous nation, made possible by the hard work of America's farms and farm families who lead the way in preservation and innovation for the health of our planet. Let's make sure it stays that way! For more information on **agriculture** contact me at any Post Rock Extension District Office in Beloit, Lincoln, Mankato, Osborne or Smith Center.

*Post Rock Extension District of K-State Research and Extension serves Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Osborne, and Smith counties. Sandra may be contacted at [swick@ksu.edu](mailto:swick@ksu.edu) or by calling Smith Center, 282-6823, Beloit 738-3597, Lincoln 524-4432, Mankato 378-3174, or Osborne 346-2521. Join us on Facebook at "Post Rock Extension" at [www.postrock.ksu.edu](http://www.postrock.ksu.edu), our weekly Ag News Roundup every Friday and my twitter account is @PRDcrops.*