

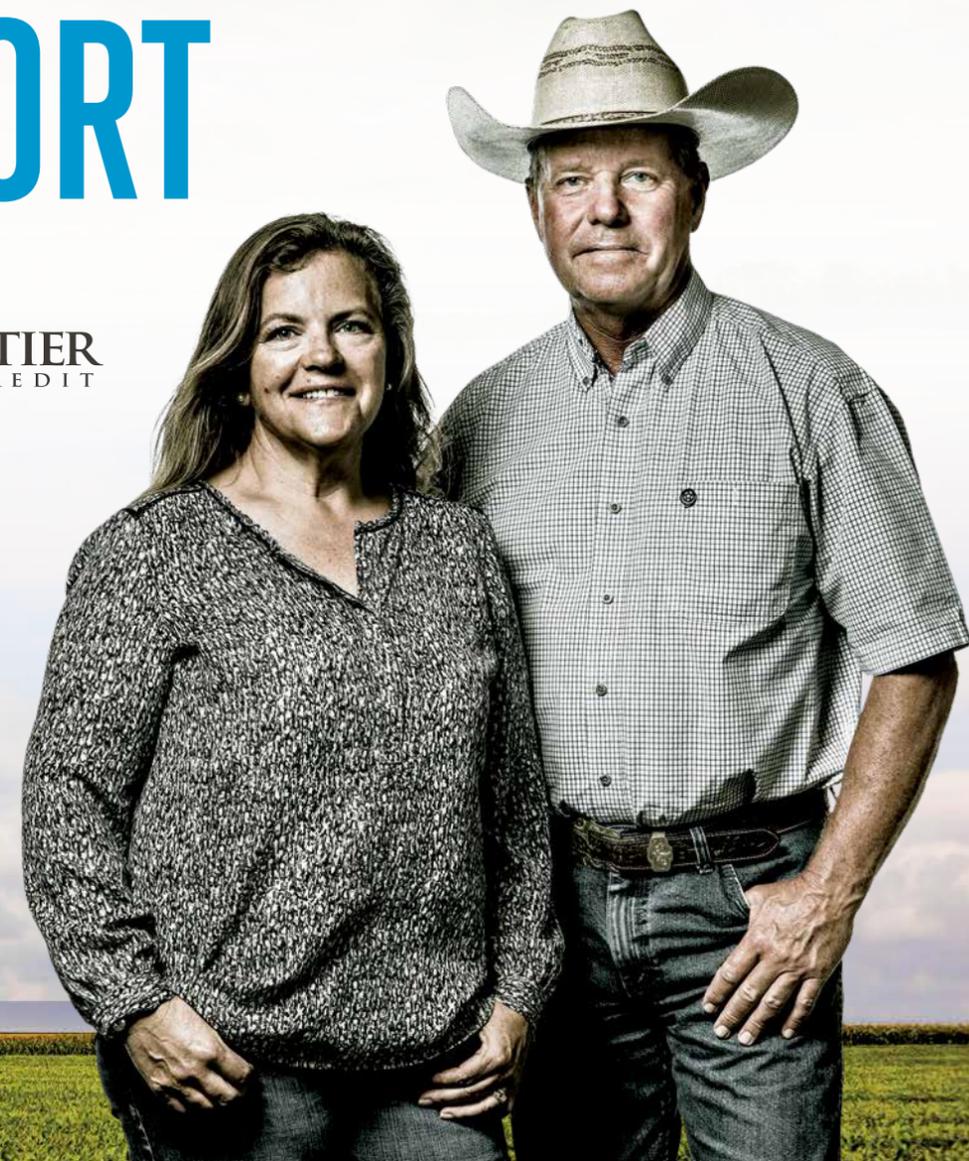


FRONTIER  
FARM CREDIT

# 2021 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



FRONTIER  
FARM CREDIT



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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY  
LENDER

# STRENGTHENING THE RURAL COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

At Frontier Farm Credit, our dedication to serving rural America means more than meeting the financing needs of those who farm and ranch. As a mission-driven financial cooperative, we believe in enriching the rural communities where we live and work.

Our community involvement program focuses on ag education, young and beginning producer programs, hunger and nutrition, rural disaster relief and essential services. We support these initiatives through employee volunteering, financial contributions and nonprofit donation match programs.

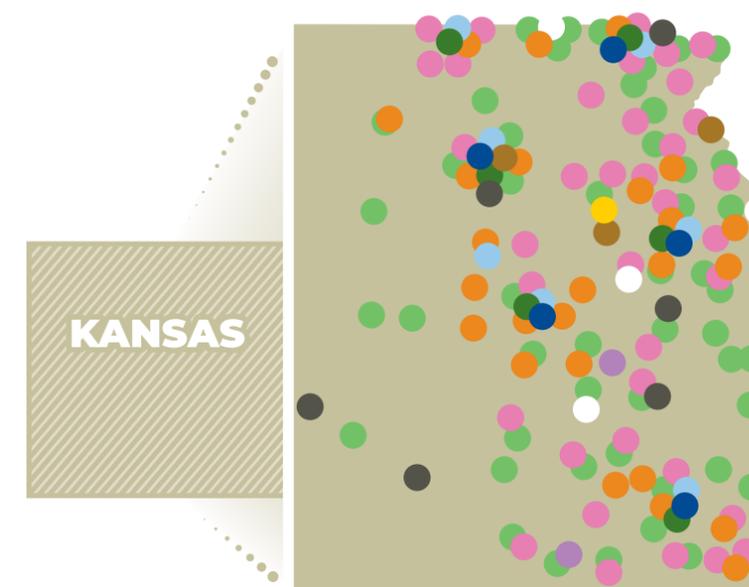
In 2021, our efforts helped support and strengthen the diverse groups within our communities – including students, teachers, residents and community leaders – through contributions to nonprofit organizations that support schools, community gardens, mental health, rural outreach and more.

The impact map provides a snapshot of the projects, programs and organizations supported in 2021.

Along with our Board of Directors, I am truly proud of the dedication and time spent working across eastern Kansas to help our communities grow and thrive.



Mark Jensen  
President and CEO



- **4-H Stall Cards:** Provided more than 2,400 stall cards to livestock exhibitors.
- **Employee Match:** This program matches employee and Director contributions, up to \$300 for the year, to causes that are meaningful to them. Due to increased need in our communities, we doubled our match ratio to 2:1 for a total of \$11,629 in matching donations.
- **Employee Volunteers:** Frontier Farm Credit employees volunteered for nonprofit organizations in their local communities through virtual and socially distanced efforts, totaling over 670 hours.
- **Expanded Grants:** Up to \$10,000 per grant, totaling \$18,000 for hunger and nutrition, ag education, rural disaster and essential services, and young and beginning producer programs.
- **FFA Support:** Provided funding for FFA handbooks and to support eastern Kansas FFA chapters.
- **Grain Bin Rescue:** Donated grain bin rescue equipment and training to volunteer fire departments in our communities.
- **Grants:** Provided 46 *Working Here Fund* grants totaling \$84,440 for hunger and nutrition, ag education, rural disaster relief and essential services, and young and beginning producer programs.
- **Hunger Relief:** Provided funding for mobile pantries, food rescue and food distribution to underserved counties with high percentages of food insecurity.
- **Local Contributions:** Each of our six offices impacted communities with donations for local programs and initiatives.
- **Scholarships:** Awarded eight \$2,500 land grant university scholarships and four \$2,000 community college scholarships to students pursuing a career in agriculture.
- **Key Partnerships:** Contributed to the funding of AgriSafe community training for stress and mental health in Kansas communities.

**For more information about our community involvement, visit [frontierfarmcredit.com/community](https://frontierfarmcredit.com/community).**



# CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

## Tower Gardens Promote Cross-Curricular Learning

The installation of two aeroponic tower garden growing systems at Crest Unified School District is creating engaging projects for students in the areas of agriculture, family and consumer science, business and marketing.

The district has a strong agricultural education program and is using the tower gardens to grow produce in the school greenhouse. After the produce is harvested, students in the family and consumer science program create products such as salsa, seasonings and salads.

Students following a business and marketing pathway promote the fresh, locally grown goods to other students and the community.

Additionally, elementary students will have opportunities to utilize the greenhouse and tower gardens.

**“The project delivers hands-on learning opportunities for students while also providing a tangible product for our food service program, staff and community. This will have the greatest impact on non-traditional students within our agriculture pathways and promote cross-curricular learning.”**

*Shane Walter  
Crest USD Superintendent*

## 6 REASONS TOWER GARDENS ARE A GREAT TEACHING TOOL

- 1 **Grow more in less time** with fewer resources
- 2 **Save space, grow inside** the classroom
- 3 **Less mess, no digging** or weeding required
- 4 **Get up to 30% higher yields**
- 5 **Provide students with a real-time look at how food is grown**
- 6 **Fresh produce** year round



# HANDS-ON LEARNING

## Fostering Ag Awareness

Several eastern Kansas schools are increasing STEM education and teaching youth about agricultural career pathways thanks to Frontier Farm Credit support.

Funding for school greenhouses, for example, has been used to purchase newer portable greenhouse units, install irrigation systems and complete renovations and other updates.

The greenhouses are integral to plant and soil science classes and serve as a hands-on learning environment for cultivating seeds, conducting research and building partnerships within the community.

**“Students learn how to grow food, work as a team, run a business, interact with the public utilizing appropriate soft skills and give back to their community through established food donation efforts.”**

*Allyson Gilmore  
Lawrence Free State High School Ag Teacher  
and FFA Advisor*

## 8 Ag Career Pathways

- **Animal systems**
- **Agribusiness systems**
- **Biotechnology systems**
- **Environmental service systems**
- **Food products and processing systems**
- **Natural resources systems**
- **Plant systems**
- **Power, structural and technical systems**



# BREAKING THE HUNGER CYCLE

## Local Farms Help Fight Hunger | Empower Families

To help make a difference in the fight against hunger, Frontier Farm Credit supports farm and garden programs, including New Roots for Refugees.

Operated in partnership between Juniper Gardens Training Farm and Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, the New Roots for Refugees program empowers families from the refugee community to start and run their own small farm business.

The project supports a diverse population of farmers, who bring their own skills and agricultural and culinary heritages to the farms.

Each refugee farmer leases one-quarter acre of land to farm over the course of the four-year program that teaches Midwest agriculture practices, organic farming and selling fresh produce in the local market.

Intensive training and assistance in the following areas prepares the farmers to pay expenses and own their farm by the end of year four:

- **Business planning**
- **Financial management**
- **Ongoing technical assistance**
- **Seeds and supplies**
- **Operational support**

Cultivate KC provides the land, infrastructure and development support for the project and manages an on-site community garden.

Contributions from Frontier Farm Credit helped New Roots for Refugees farmers make infrastructure improvements to the training farm's coolers and washstands and purchase soil amendments.

## New Roots for Refugees Milestones

Each year, the program trains 16 refugee participants, 10 community garden participants and their families.

2021 included:  
**72 crop varieties**  
**158 farm share customers**  
**16 farmers**

To date, the program has helped  
**40 refugee families**

Over  
**78%**  
of graduates are  
**still farming**

more than  
**15 acres**  
of urban land has been  
**converted into farms and gardens**



# AG EDUCATION

## Engaging Students, Empowering Teachers

Frontier Farm Credit supports a variety of efforts related to ag education, including the start-up of new programs, Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE), local FFA chapters and more.

Valley Falls School District established its first-ever Agricultural Education Department within the middle school and high school. Contributions from Frontier Farm Credit were used to complete the CASE curriculum needed to better serve the needs of students and ensure they graduate with strong agricultural knowledge and skills.

Similarly, a new agricultural education and FFA program was started in Perry-Lecompton High School. Grant funds were used to purchase official FFA dress, station markers, a gavel and other curriculum needs.

### CASE Support and Contributions

- Classroom equipment
- Lab supplies
- Certification fees and professional development training
- Plant, animal science and natural resources curriculum

## SAE Projects Inspire Entrepreneurship

Former Kansas FFA member Blake Chance is changing the way farmers and ranchers think about unhooking implements through the redesign of an innovative product called Quick-Pin.

The idea originated during Chance's senior year of high school when a baler bearing went out and almost caused a fire. Chance prototyped a new hitch pin that would make it faster and safer to unhook in the event of an emergency.

He credits the success of Quick-Pin to his experience and connections as a member of the Royal Valley FFA chapter and encourages students to pursue and expand their Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) projects.

## Kansas FFA Enhances Website Outreach | Kansas Future Farmer Magazine

In response to COVID-19, Kansas FFA recently redesigned its website to improve outreach and access to educational resources. Since the relaunch, online engagement has increased among students, teachers, family members and alumni.

As a tangible touchpoint for reaching students in their homes, Kansas FFA also reintroduced the Kansas Future Farmer, a quarterly publication that was originally published from 1929 through the 1980s.

Donations for both projects were possible thanks to Frontier Farm Credit support.



# AG SUPPORTING AG

## Increasing Access to Mental Health Services

Communities across eastern Kansas have more access to specialized mental health professionals thanks to Frontier Farm Credit's continued partnership with AgriSafe.

Through AgriSafe's Total Farmer Health model, clinically trained nurse coaches address the unique factors faced by agricultural producers, families and communities to improve physical and mental health outcomes.

Program goals for 2021 included training more than 600 community leaders, ranchers, farmers and health professionals in the following areas:

- QPR Approach to Suicidal Behaviors
- Mental Health First Aid
- Opioid Abuse Prevention



# EMPLOYEES GIVE BACK

2021 brought Frontier Farm Credit teammates back into the community through individual and group volunteer efforts.

Donated by employees  
**\$7,660**

Frontier Farm Credit  
match donations  
**\$11,629**

Teammates volunteered  
**673 hours**

Volunteer  
match donations  
**\$25,500**

## Nonprofit Donations by Frontier Farm Credit

Below are some of the nonprofit organizations Frontier Farm Credit provided donations to in 2021. For a more comprehensive list of more than 150 nonprofit organizations, visit [www.frontierfarmcredit.com/communitydonations](http://www.frontierfarmcredit.com/communitydonations).

### Ag Education

Allen County Community College  
Atchison County Extension  
Cherokee County Extension Council  
Cultivate Kansas City  
Dickinson County Conservation  
Doniphan County Extension  
Douglas County 4H  
Frontier Extension District  
Johnson County Extension  
K-State Research & Extension  
Kansas State University  
Kansas Women Managing the Farm  
Master Gardeners  
Lyon County Extension  
Marshall County Extension  
Nemaha County Fair  
Riley County Extension  
Wilson County Fair Association  
Woodson County Extension

### Agriculture Organizations

Kansas Grain & Feed Association  
Kansas Livestock Foundation  
Kansas State University Foundation  
Linn County Soil Conservation District

### Disaster Relief and Essential Services

Bern Fire Department  
Brown County Extension  
Brown County Fair  
City of Coffeyville Fire Department  
Delia Rural Fire District #5  
Everest Fire Station Fund  
Firemen's Relief Association  
Independence Fire & EMS  
Kansas Farm Rescue  
Labette County Emergency Assistance

### Disaster Relief and Essential Services

*(continued)*  
Northwest Fire Dept Station #1  
Saint Paul Mission Township Fire Department Auxiliary  
Sedan Area Emergency Medical Service District 2  
Summerfield Rural Fire Department  
Woodson County Rural Fire

### Employee and Volunteer Match Donations

ALS Association  
Beauties and Beasts  
Central Missouri Honor Flight  
Community Health Ministry  
Convoy of Hope  
Galesburg Relief Fund  
Hope House  
Humanity House  
Just Food of Douglas County  
Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Kansas Children's Service League  
Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation  
Little Hands Incorporated  
Madison Public Library  
Marshall County Agency on Aging  
Morris County Hospital Foundation  
Morris County Care & Share  
North Central Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging  
Ottawa University  
Ronald McDonald House  
Wesley House  
Wounded Warrior Project

### Hunger and Nutrition

Abilene Area Food Pantry  
Abundant Harvest  
Agriculture Future of America  
Allen County Food Bank

### Hunger and Nutrition

*(continued)*  
Beacon Food Pantry of Bourbon  
Caney Valley Agape Network  
Community Food Pantry  
Eleanor's Food Pantry  
Kansas Food Bank Warehouse  
Main St. Ministries Food Bank  
Marion County Food Bank  
Nemaha County Food Pantry  
Oz Food Pantry  
Pantry of Hope  
Prescott Reach Out Food Pantry  
Severy Harvest House

### Young and Beginning Producer Programs

4-H Allen County  
4-H Douglas County  
4-H Nemaha County  
Anderson County 4-H Council  
Doniphan County 4-H Council  
Douglas County 4-H  
FFA National  
Franklin County 4-H Council  
Greenwood County 4-H Foundation  
Hiawatha FFA Chapter  
Iola FFA  
Jefferson County 4-H Council  
Kansas 4-H Foundation  
Kansas FFA Foundation  
Leavenworth County 4-H  
Linn County 4-H Council  
Lyon County 4-H  
Madison FFA Chapter  
Miami County 4-H  
Nemaha Central FFA  
Riley County 4-H Foundation  
Shawnee Heights FFA  
West Franklin FFA Chapter  
Wildcat Extension District