

Workshops

11:00

Konza A

Title: Words Matter: Purposefully Choosing Words and Phrases to Achieve Results

Description: Words are powerful. They can ignite innovation, foster collaboration and build meaningful connections. AND they can just as easily shut down ideas, stifle creativity and create discord.

In this session, we'll explore how the intentional use of language can transform communication, nurture collaboration and achieve specific outcomes. We'll break down the difference between words that kill conversations and those that invite curiosity and connection.

Attendees will learn to recognize conversation killers vs. conversation invitations, master conversation extenders and discover how to disagree without being disagreeable.

Speaker: Kelsey Neff, BecomeMore Group

Konza B

Title: From the Ground Up: Practical Stewardship for the Bottom Line

Description: Reducing input costs and lowering exposure to large losses is a goal of every operation. This panel will discuss conservation and management strategies that provide tangible cost benefits through utilizing regenerative agriculture, efficient stocking and wildfire mitigation.

Speakers: Michael Doane, Polysi Advisors
Keith Harmoney, Kansas State University
Dennis Carlson, Kansas Forest Service

Konza C

Title: AI in Ag



Description: During this breakout session, we will explore how entrepreneurs are catalyzing the collision between AI (artificial intelligence; not the other kind) and agriculture. This panel-style session will introduce varying perspectives and approaches to technology.

Speakers: Graduates of Oklahoma Farm Bureau's AgCelerate Oklahoma Program

Kaw Nation/Big Basin

Title: Farm Policy and Economic Outlook

Description: Join Dr. John Newton, vice president of public policy and economic analysis from the American Farm Bureau Federation, for a timely look at the forces shaping farm economics and policy going into 2027. Dr. Newton will break down the key policy and economic trends driving farm country today — from commodity markets and farm input costs to trade, risk management and the broader federal policy landscape shaping your bottom line.

Speaker: Dr. John Newton, American Farm Bureau Federation

McDowell/Tuttle

Title: Kansas Animal Health Overview and Update

Description: This workshop will provide an update on current animal health issues from both a state and national perspective as well as an overview of the efforts within the Kansas Division of Animal Health.

Speaker: Dr. Justin Smith, Kansas Animal Health Commissioner

Alcove

Title: Property Valuation Assessment and Tax Distribution

Description: Attendees will learn how values are assessed and how taxes are distributed at the state and local level.

Speaker: Veronica Dean, Kansas Department of Revenue



Tradeshow

Title: YF&R Mock Discussion Meet

Description: Step into the Discussion Meet ring and see how young leaders collaborate to tackle real-world challenges facing agriculture. This workshop will demonstrate the Discussion Meet format so you can learn how it works, explore the skills it develops, and hear what it takes to compete. Whether you're considering participating yourself or encouraging others to get involved, this session will give you a firsthand look at why Discussion Meet is such a valuable leadership experience.

Speakers: YF&R committee members



1:30

Konza A

Title: Hidden Influence of Decision Making

Description: People are tasked with making an average of 34,000 decisions each day, yet there are hidden factors quietly steering our choices. In this workshop, you'll uncover those unseen influences and learn how to navigate them into tools for stronger volunteer engagement, more thoughtful leadership and better agriculture advocacy.

Speaker: Maegan Meredith, American Farm Bureau

Konza B

Title: Let's Talk Specialty Crops

Description: Join three innovative Kansas producers for a panel discussion on the opportunities and challenges shaping specialty crop production and agritourism. Melissa, Jacob and Andrea will share their experiences building successful businesses, diversifying farm income, connecting with consumers and creating new opportunities within Kansas agriculture. Whether you're interested in specialty crops, direct-to-consumer marketing, agritourism or farm diversification, this panel will provide practical insights, lessons learned and plenty of time for audience questions.

Speakers: Melissa Nelson, Performance Crop Research/South Bend Industrial Hemp
Andrea DeJesus, A&H Farm
Jacob Thomas, JET Produce and Meats



Konza C

Title: Starting the Succession Planning Discussion

Description: Learn the value of planning ahead for your operation's transition. Experienced members will share strategies for navigating tough family or business conversations and maintaining open communication throughout the planning process.

Speakers: Barb Downey, Downey Ranch
Randall Debler, Rock Hill Ranch
Cameron Peirce, Peirce Farms

Kaw Nation/Big Basin

Title: Data Centers: Community Impacts, Energy Needs and Local Decision-Making

Description: Join a candid discussion with a local leader and energy expert about the realities of data center development. Hear from a vice mayor who has negotiated with developers, addressed community concerns and navigated the local decision-making process. You'll also hear from an electric cooperative about preparing the grid for large energy users, protecting ratepayers and planning for future demand. This interactive panel will provide an opportunity to ask questions and gain practical insights into the opportunities, challenges and key factors communities should consider when evaluating data center proposals.

Speakers: Corey Linville, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation
Michael Burns, City of Dodge City

McDowell/Tuttle

Title: Chef Alli's Protein Party

Description: Eating more protein and fiber doesn't have to be complicated or boring. Chef Alli will show you how to prepare delicious, high-protein dishes and share easy everyday ideas for adding more fiber into your day to keep you full and satisfied. Come on in for the cookin', stay for the inspiration!

Speaker: Chef Alli



Alcove

Title: Medicare Basics

Description: Medicare is all about making the right decision at the right time and there are a lot of decisions. This session will go over what Medicare is, how it works and will provide a timeline for you to help make those decisions.

Speakers: Erin Petersilie, KFB Health Plans

Tradeshow at 1:30 p.m.

Title: How Deep Are Your Roots?

Description: The depth of a root system can determine the endurance and tenacity in plant growth. Similar to plants, our root system, which provides us the ability to ground ourselves during times of trials and difficulties, can determine our growth in unfavorable conditions. How deep are your roots? What resources do you already have that can lengthen your roots? What resources can you glean to strengthen your roots as well as the roots of others?

Speaker: Erica Schlender, Shine Integrative Therapy