

Douglas County Legislative Priorities 2025
 DCFPC Recommendations

DRAFT 10/16/2024

Note from staff: I have provided the option to submit legislative recommendations from all DCFPC members and partner liaisons. Below is the list of recommendations received to date. If you or your liaison organization *have* additional recommendations to contribute, please email them to me by October 18th. During our next full council meeting on October 21st, the DCFPC will vote on whether to adopt some or all of these priorities.

DCFPC partner liaisons: Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB), Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health (LDCPH), K-State Extension (KSE), and Douglas County Conservation District (DCCD).

Kansas Food Action Network (KFAN) 2025 Legislative Priorities are also included on the chart below.

DCFPC individual member recommendations will include the member’s initials.

Initials/ Acronym	2025 Legislative Recommendation as Proposed by DCFPC Members or DCFPC Liaison Organization	Language recommended by staff:
B.S	Maximizing best farming practices for sustainable production. Nationally, we are up to 70% for no till/mulch till (https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/chart-gallery/gallery/chart-detail/?chartId=105042). I couldn't easily find what it is for Kansas alone. How do we get the last 30%? As water resources dwindle in W Kansas, what high water use efficiency (WUE) crops and markets can we tap to reduce center pivot reliance and aquifer drydown. We need leadership and legislation.	Water Conservation. We support legislation that promotes the adoption of no-till/mulch till practices to close the remaining 30% gap in sustainable farming, while incentivizing high water-use efficiency (WUE) crops and markets in Kansas to reduce center pivot reliance and mitigate aquifer depletion.
B.S	Focused, forward-looking best practices, incentives for research, and regulation on agrivoltaics. These have been rapidly developed for wind energy in KS. We need equally rapid rollout for solar. The solar farms are coming whether legislature likes it or not, as the demand is high and cost is low. Legislation to show how sustainable land use including farming can (or should) be produced under these is needed.	Renewable Energy & Agrivoltaics. We support the rapid development of best practices, research incentives, and regulations for agrivoltaics in Kansas to ensure sustainable land use and farming alongside the inevitable expansion of solar energy.
B.S	Production and use of green ammonia in Kansas. High demand in Kansas, both for fertilizer and increasingly as potential energy storage to go with wind/solar	Green Ammonia Production & Land Use. We support the production and use of green ammonia in Kansas to meet the state's high demand for fertilizer and its

	intermittency. Utilizing renewable wind (or solar) to produce could make KS a net exporter, even with high usage for crops. More detail in this review: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0196890423012153	potential as an energy storage solution for wind and solar power. With proper legislation, Kansas could become a net exporter of green ammonia, while supporting local agriculture and encouraging innovation in this growing sector.
KFAN	Provide universal free school meals	Provide universal free school meals to ensure that all children have access to food.
KFAN	Reduce restrictions on SNAP enrollment and increase access to SNAP for additional populations	Reduce restrictions on SNAP enrollment and expand access to more populations.
KFAN	Include Food as Medicine in Medicaid programs	Integrate "Food as Medicine" programs into Medicaid, recognizing the critical role of nutrition in healthcare.
KFAN	Provide state funding for Farm to School staffing and local food procurement	Allocate state funding for Farm to School initiatives, including staffing and local food procurement, to strengthen local food systems and student nutrition.
KFB	n/a	
LDCPH	<i>Support efforts to expand WIC and SNAP services. For WIC, we would like to pursue expanding the Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) in Kansas to allow participants to use their regular WIC benefits at farmers markets to promote access to fresh local foods. In addition, we would like to explore opportunities to expand eligibility for SNAP benefits, including lifting the requirements that custodial parents applying for food assistance cooperate with child-support.</i>	<i>Support efforts to expand WIC and SNAP services. For WIC, we would like to pursue expanding the Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) in Kansas to allow participants to use their regular WIC benefits at farmers markets to promote access to fresh local foods. In addition, we would like to explore opportunities to expand eligibility for SNAP benefits, including lifting the requirements that custodial parents applying for food assistance cooperate with child-support.</i>
K-State	<i>Federal funds recipients – unable to advocate for legislative priorities.</i>	
DCCD	<i>Federal funds recipients – unable to advocate for legislative priorities.</i>	