



KFU TENTATIVE Convention Schedule ~ Wednesday, November 20

8:00 AM – Registration Opens

9:00 AM - Welcome, Flag Salute, & Call to Order - KFU President Donn Teske

9:05 AM – Keynote Speaker Dănia Davy began her legal career protecting the rights of farmers and rural homeowners during the Great Recession which allowed her to deeply connect with her clients and understand the devastating emotional and mental burdens these communities experience. Using her own experiences as a racially ambiguous, Black immigrant woman living and working in the South, Dănia, will challenge us to face our individual and collective land histories so we can recognize the critical role we each have to play in restoring our internal and external ecosystems.

9:45 AM - Farmer Mental Health Session Part One with Gail Fuller - American farmers are sicker and more depressed than the average American and Kansas is losing 25-year-olds faster than any state in the nation. What happened to the greatest people in the greatest state? Can we reverse these trends? **Gail Fuller** will discuss his own personal journey of failing physical and mental health, how it affected his life, farm and family and the changes that he has been able to make.

11:00 AM - Farmer Mental Health Session Part Two with Gail Fuller

12:00 PM - KFU Leadership & NFU Convention Delegate Caucusing & Nominations

12:15 PM – Lunch sponsored by Kubota-Great Plains

1:00 PM – 2025 – International Year of Cooperatives - Doug O'Brien, NCBA-CLUSA

1:30 PM - Running Out - Lucas Bessire is an American writer, filmmaker and anthropologist. His work focuses on politics, environment and media in the Americas. An avid traveler, Bessire has conducted ethnographic fieldwork and collaborative research across the hemisphere. His most recent book is *Running Out: In Search of Water on the High Plains* (Princeton University Press, 2021).

3:00 PM - Bowersock Mills & Power Company Hydroelectric Plant Tour - Comprised of 11 hydroelectric turbines, the plant can produce 7 MW of environmentally friendly energy. The Bowersock Mills & Power Company is the only operating hydroelectric plant in Kansas.

4:30 PM – SPEAKER TBA

5:00 PM - Convention Recesses

5:30 PM - Social & Convention Banquet

Thursday, November 21 – TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

8:00 AM - Farmers Union Washington & Topeka Updates - NFU GR Rep & Sean Gatewood

9:00 AM – Kansans for Conservation – Kansans for Conservation is a coalition of more than 40 organizations working to ensure a sustainable future for Kansas. The mission is to establish dedicated state funding for conservation, with a focus on three key resources: working lands, wildlife, and parks and recreation. **Dawn Buehler**, Kansas Riverkeeper and Executive Director of Friends of the Kaw, will share more about this initiative and how you can get involved.

9:30 AM - Current Conditions and Trends of the Kansas High Plains Aquifer - Brownie Wilson, Kansas Geological Survey - The High Plains Aquifer (HPA) is the primary water source for western and south-central Kansas is economically the most important groundwater resource in the state. This session will look at water resources and use patterns across the entire state with particular emphasis on water level changes and trends of the HPA and its subsystems- the Ogallala, Great Bend Prairie, and Equus Beds.

10:30 AM - Immigration Law - Immigration is always a favorite talking point for politicians, but what does it mean for Kansas? Attorney **Valerie Sprout** will present on the immigration programs and policies that help sustain agriculture, and what changes could be made to the immigration law to continue to help rural communities.

11:15 AM - Agriculture, Animation, and the War Effort - Max Aguiar, Smoky Hills PBS REAL Ag - Discover how animation promoted food conservation and production during both World Wars, turning everyday tasks like rationing and farming into patriotic acts. These early shorts made agriculture a key part of the war effort, inspiring people to contribute on the home front. Today, they remind us how media can mobilize communities around critical issues, from wartime efforts to modern-day sustainability challenges.

12:00 PM – Lunch sponsored by Kansas Department of Agriculture

12:30 PM - Kansas Department of Agriculture's From the Land of Kansas Program - The From the Land of Kansas program's goal is to help businesses that grow, produce, process or manufacture products in Kansas. In addition, the program works with and supports restaurants using Kansas products and retailers selling Kansas ag products and ingredients.

1:00 PM - KFU Business Meeting - Credentials, Elections, Policy, Special Orders of Business

Kansas Farmers Union Board reorganization meeting upon adjournment of convention

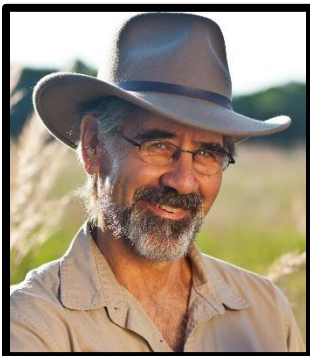


Screening 7:00 PM Tuesday, November 19 ~ SpringHill Suites Ballroom

As our planet continues to warm, we are experiencing an increase in extreme weather of all types. How is the changing climate impacting us and what's being done locally to address the challenges we face?

A feature-length documentary entitled "Hot Times in the Heartland" explores a range of activities taking place in Kansas and across the Great Plains. It spotlights individuals and organizations directly involved with various approaches designed to mitigate the impact of climate change and to help communities adapt to changing conditions.

This program has been produced by Dave Kendall of Prairie Hollow Productions, former host of the "Sunflower Journeys" series on public television, with the assistance of Rex Buchanan, director emeritus of the Kansas Geological Survey, and Laura Mead, a multimedia artist grounded in the tallgrass prairie of the Flint Hills.



With a BA in cultural geography and an MA in media anthropology from KU, **Dave Kendall** directed his first documentary in 1982 and has since produced dozens of programs related to Kansas history and culture. After serving as host of the "Sunflower Journeys" series on public television for 27 years, he retired from his position as Executive Producer at KTWU to form Prairie Hollow Productions, an independent production company through which he continues to produce documentaries. A fifth generation Kansan, his great, great grandfather served as a teamster on the Santa Fe Trail before settling down to farm in Morris County shortly before Kansas entered the union.

Rex Buchanan is Director Emeritus of the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS), based at the University of Kansas. Rex grew up near Little River, in Rice County, Kansas, on the edge of the Smoky Hills. He has an undergraduate degree from Kansas Wesleyan University and graduate degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Buchanan began his career at the KGS in 1978 and was the Interim Director from 2010 to 2016. He is the co-author of numerous books, is active in various professional organizations, and has been recognized nationally for his contributions to the field of geoscience.

