

✓ National Meeting: NACAA sponsors an Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC) each year. It is hosted by the various states and is rotated around the nation. This conference offers an amazing variety and amount of professional improvement workshops, seminars, and tours. NACAA values our families, and offers wonderful programs for spouses, children, and retired life members at the conference. The cost for the conference may be paid in full, or partially, by your Extension Board. KACAA provides scholarships to first time attendees for up to \$350. The NACAA offers a reduced registration fee for all first time attendees. Almost every first-time attendee returns from an AMPIC and says, “I wish I had attended this conference earlier in my career.”

✓ Life Membership: KACAA pays a one-time life membership fee to the NACAA for all members who retire in good standing with the Association. This membership entitles them to participate in the AM/PICs.

✓ Leadership Growth Opportunities: Members are encouraged to become contributing members of our KACAA Committees. With experience, they may move up to committee chair positions. The KACAA has five directors making up the officer leadership team for the association. These positions require a fair amount of time and work, but also offer leadership growth opportunities. The NACAA also has officer positions and a committee structure that needs representation and leadership. Experienced members are encouraged to apply for and serve in these leadership positions.



As you can see, there are many benefits and opportunities for those who become KACAA members. Directors of the association will be delighted to visit with you about KACAA. They may be found at https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/agent_association/agricultural-agents/index.html.

KACAA

The Power of Membership

The Kansas Association of County Agricultural Agents (KACAA) is an association of Kansas Extension professionals at the county, district area, and state level. Its purpose is to promote professional improvement opportunities and help its member become successful in their work in serving the citizens of Kansas.

Membership in the KACAA will also make you a member of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, and give you access to all their benefits. Some of these include the National Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference, awards, scholarships, and *The County Agent* magazine. Please check out their web site at www.nacaa.com.



Members of KACAA who are local unit staff will also become members of the Kansas Joint Council of Extension Professionals (KS-JCEP), the umbrella organization for all Kansas Extension professionals at the county level. KS-JCEP works with administration to improve work conditions, salaries, and benefits for all Extension workers.

KACAA Highlights

- ✓ Dues: Are due by January 1 and are good for a calendar year. First time members and second year members are \$75. Renewing member dues are \$110. Associate Memberships (\$55) are also available for agents who hold primary affiliation with another association, but also want to support KACAA. Associates are granted full rights and privileges at the state level only.
- ✓ Spring Workshop: This professional improvement conference is open to all KACAA members. It is a two-day program rotated around the state. Counties take turns hosting the conference. Participants are able to choose from a variety of half-day tours, workshops, hear from KSU Extension leadership, and enjoy the fellowship with fellow members.

Members interact with other agents, pick up tips on how to handle the work, and have a little fun with friends. This is a great way to see Kansas agriculture, history, industry, and landscape.

- ✓ Scholarships: Members may donate to the NACAA scholarship fund. A silent auction, held at our annual meeting, and a “raffle,” held at our spring workshop, are fun ways to donate toward the scholarship fund. Members who have donated at least \$40 are eligible to apply for scholarships for advanced degrees and/or professional improvement travel. Kansas agents have received far more in scholarships than we have donated.
- ✓ Awards: Members are eligible to apply for a variety of awards. These include: Search for Excellence Awards in seven subject matter areas and Communication Awards in thirteen areas. Members may submit applications for as many award areas as they choose. State winners receive \$35, while regional and national winners receive cash awards of up to \$500. In addition, you receive recognition, which supervisors see.

- ✓ Life Insurance Program: The association offers a chance to participate in a life insurance program for members and spouses. Those who choose to participate sign an agreement that, in case of a death of an active member, they will contribute \$50 to KACAA, which in turn sends a check for the total amount of donations to the member’s surviving family. Spouses and children (under the age of 18) may participate at a \$25 level. This is a nice way to let the family know we care about our members and their families.
- ✓ DSA and AA Awards: The Distinguished Service Award, for agents with more than ten years of experience, and the Achievement Award, for agents with less than ten years of experience, program is offered by the NACAA. Kansas currently may select two AA and two DSA Award winners each year. These winners are recognized at the NACAA AM/PIC. Members may complete a simple application in order to be considered for these awards. The selections are made by past DSA winners.