

# First Impressions

# Burden, KS

K-State Research and Extension in Partnership with

The Dane G. Hansen Foundation





# The process

- Burden asked for First Impressions, obtained Goessel as its partner; 1.5 hour drive.
- I trained the volunteers about the visit and survey and took photos of Burden on October 16.
- Three Goessel visitors visited in two cars in December and January.
- Results were scheduled to be presented March 18, but COVID-19 prevented it.
- Burden uses the results for further discussion and action plans.



# Why: First Impressions?

#### Feedback:

How does a first-time visitor view my town?

- Evaluate successes,
- Set goals and priorities for next steps.

#### If you don't agree with the observation:

- Be curious, Why does the visitor see it this way?
- Is the observation worth considering?
- What can we do to change it— or the perception?

Curiosity: A strong desire to know or learn something.

-Oxford Living Dictionary



# Ben Winchester, Senior Research Fellow, U of MN We need to change the narrative about rural.

- Rural is changing, not dying.
- Brain Gain (30-49 year olds moving to rural) is a "new trend" that has been happening since the 70's and no one is noticing or talking about it.
- Only 36% lived there previously.
- People research a number of places before they move to a rural town.
- Rural is in the middle of everywhere. You live one place, work another and play another. With transportation and internet, it's all accessible to you.



#### Ben Winchester, Senior Research Fellow, U of MN

- 46% of Kansas households moved between 1995-1999.
- In a survey of newcomers to rural areas, the reasons they come are:
  - Simpler pace of life
  - Safety and Security
  - Low housing cost
  - "A job," isn't in the top 10 reasons.
- "In small towns everyone knows each other." false
- Get to know each other, invite them to a newcomers meal.



- If you bring 7 people to a 700 citizen town every year in 10 years you'll have a 10% increase. It matters! It is a challenge with housing, but it is achievable.
- We are our own worst enemies. We have to monitor our customer service and what we say. It matters.
- Don't say, "You have to live here twenty years to be an insider." And don't act like it either.

#### **RURAL HOUSING WEALTH:**

"Maybe one of the best things you can do for the future of your community is to ensure there is somewhere for people to live."





- 75% of rural homeowners are Baby Boomers and older. 30% are over 75.
- Housing will be freed up as the baby boomers retire.
- Rural communities need retirement housing (not nursing facilities, but maintenance free) to retain seniors.- Ben Winchester, Senior Research Fellow, University of Minnesota



Ben Winchester was our guest on the March 6, 2020 First Friday Call.

See the recording and slide deck at

https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/community/business/entrepreneurship/



 2010 Census Population 535 (down 5.1% since 2000\*)

$$KS = +6.1\%$$

 2017 Estimate is 528 (down 6.4% since 2000)

$$KS = +8.0\%$$

• 92.3% high school or GED, 12.5% college educated,

90.5% HS or equivalency, KS 32.3% college education,

Poverty rate 11.6%

(KS=12.8%)

Median Age 30.8 years

(36.3)

Median household income is \$44,583 (\$55,477)

<sup>\* 2000</sup> Census was 564



#### Website

At least 2 of the 3 visitors didn't notice the official website.

en.wikipedia.org→wiki→burden,\_kansas 🔻

#### Burden, Kansas - Wikipedia

**Burden** is a city in Cowley County, **Kansas**, United States. As of the 2010 census, the city population was 535. Contents. 1 History; 2 Geography ...

County: Cowley State: Kansas

Named for: Robert Burden

History · Geography · Demographics

www.cowleycounty.org > burden ▼

#### **Burden « Cowley County**

The Gateway to eastern Cowley County, **Burden** is a community of proud residents. ... Central USD 462 combines the education of students living in **Burden**, Atlanta, Cambridge and Grenola into a well-oiled machine. ... Robert **Burden**, founder of the City of **Burden**, is buried here.

www.mapquest.com > kansas > burden-ks-282038622 🔻

#### Burden, KS - Burden, Kansas Map & Directions - MapQuest

**Burden** is a city in Cowley County, **Kansas**, United States. As of the 2010 census, the city population was 535. **Burden** is located at 37°18′51″N ...

www.lovesmalltownamerica.com > burdenks 🔻

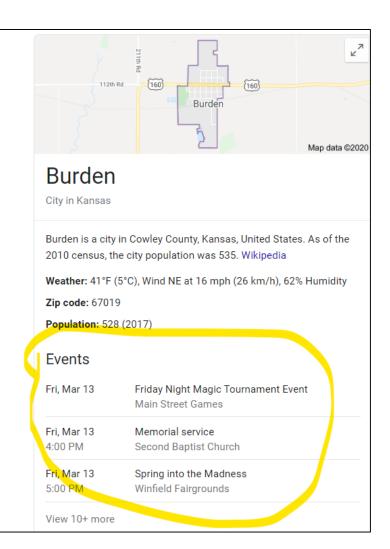
#### Burden, KS - Love Small Town America 🖣



www.city-data.com > city > burden-kansas 🔻

Burden, Kansas (KS 67019) profile: population, maps, real ...

Population density: 1,004 people per square mile (low). **Burden, Kansas** map. Median real estate

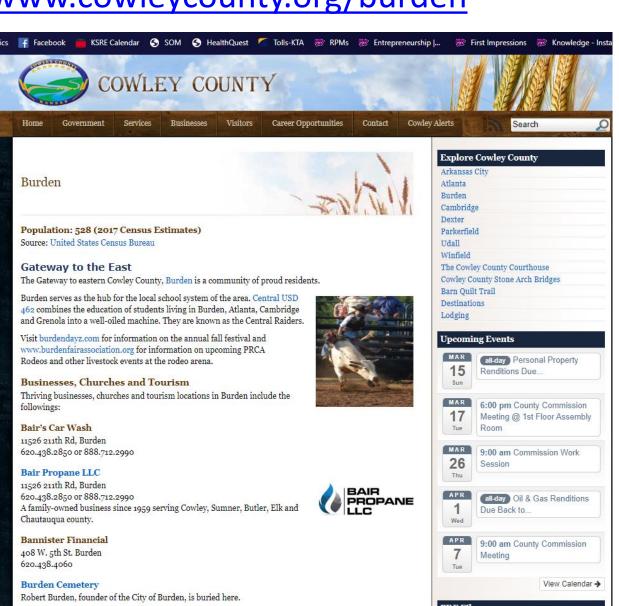




#### Website <a href="http://www.cowleycounty.org/burden">http://www.cowleycounty.org/burden</a>

- Some of these had links to community.
- Impressed
   with barn
   quilt tour map
   and stone
   bridge tour
   map.
- Calendar is nice touch.







DIRECTORY

COUNTY DIRECTORY

#### Website

#### https://www.lovesmalltownamerica.com/burdenks.php

- Official site
- **Businesses links** don't link to websites.



#### Burden, KS

No one knew how big Robert F. Burden's small discovery would become. His adventurous and enterprising spirit led him to Burden, where the fertile fields and neighboring natural spring water were ideal for raising livestock. This Cowley County Kansas town, established in 1879, was named after Robert Burden. The founding vision for the town continues to thrive in this tight-knit community, but don't be fooled by Burden's small town appearance. There are always big happenings going on like the annual town birthday celebration and the Burden PRCA Pro Rodeo. Of even greater importance are the friendly locals who value the preservation of hometown town values; helping neighbors, working hard, and enjoying the simple pleasures of life. Ask any resident and you'll learn there is no better place to live than Burden, Kansas. Close to large city conveniences, life in Burden allows you to escape the daily stresses of life. Small towns spawn big memories. Make memories to last a lifetime in Burden - the Biggest Little town in Kansas!!





County: Cowley

Elevation: 1.383 ft



Summer: 81° Fall: 60° Winter: 37° Spring: 59°

Average Annual Rainfall:

Longitude: 96° 45' 14" W



#### Town Slogan:

Biggest Little Town in Kansas

Phelps, the mayor.

#### Fun Facts:

Writer Alan Ryker grew up in Burden - writes about the town of Burden in his Vampire of the Plains series

· Robert F. Burden named President of Burden Town Company. Town was later named after

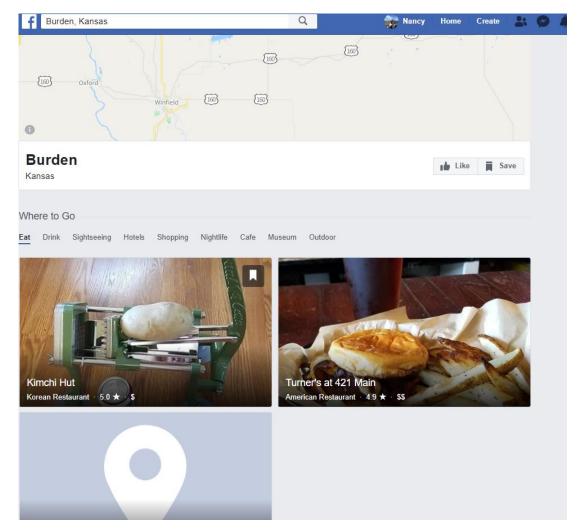
· February 27, 1883 first elected official R.R,





# Facebook <a href="https://www.facebook.com/places/Things-to-do-in-Burden-Kansas/105488016150251/">https://www.facebook.com/places/Things-to-do-in-Burden-Kansas/105488016150251/</a>

A Facebook generated page that can be personalized.







Facebook <a href="https://www.facebook.com/BurdenKansas/?">https://www.facebook.com/BurdenKansas/?</a> tn =%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARCIcuUiM50-

ICFsfYObod9QHYzVcpKnrSNv8ydMxF5baDMjN9LYCKq7Cuk2r86t 9wGiJoH6flOtEZT







### Facebook <a href="https://www.facebook.com/KansasPrideBurden/">https://www.facebook.com/KansasPrideBurden/</a>



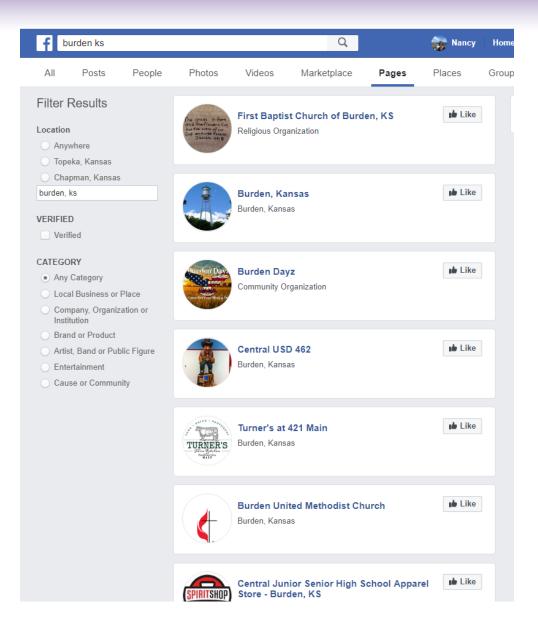




#### **FaceBook**

15 Facebook pages









- The park gives an excellent entrance impression.
- It looks clean and well kept.





- Town sign is adequate. Signs for other clubs give a sense that a lot is going on, but they are too small to read from highway.
- It seems like a larger community than it is.





• The old café building on the outskirts was a little disappointing; I thought we were in for a treat.















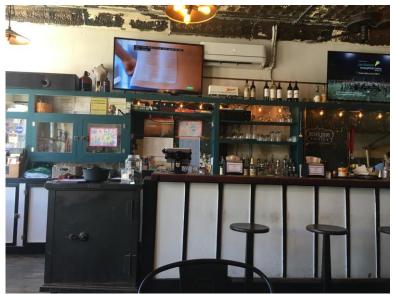
- Historic, charming stone buildings.
- City hall is evident.







Turner's Bar and Grill "oozes" character.









 A mix of decently maintained property, empty store fronts and abandoned buildings.























 Visitors commented on good service at Joseph's Storehouse and Turner's.

















































# **Other Retail Shopping Areas**

 1-Stop Convenience Store was easy to access, but not very attractive. Not bad for a gas station.





# **Other Retail Shopping Areas**









Knowledge for Life



# Industrial Parks/Commercial

 The railroad and grain silos made the commercial area larger than most small towns.





# Industrial Parks/Commercial

 A drive-by is not how industry will find you, check with your local Eco Devo director to make sure your site is listed on LocationOne @ Kansas Department of Commerce.

#### **Observation:**

- "Entrepreneurs who choose to start their small businesses are responsible for 63 percent of net new jobs created in the United States every year."
- Global marketing makes your town accessible to purchases all over the world.





### **Health Care Services**

None

Some small towns have a tab for health care on their website and list the number of minutes of travel to get health care.

Winfield 22 minutes to William Newton Hospital Doctors, Dentists, etc. (generic: where do people go? Winfield?)





# Housing

"Housing is the town's biggest need and concern."





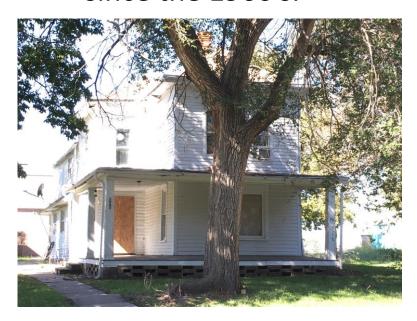






# Housing

• Many older houses from the 1940's and before, few built since the 1960's.











# Housing

Appears to be a variety of housing for all income levels.









# Housing

Some houses in need of major repair and general

maintenance.











- Rentals were not mentioned.
- Didn't see houses for rent.

A few apartments, but no indication that any are

vacant.





# Schools

 There is a K-6 and 7-12 Jr/Sr High. Both are fairly new and in excellent shape.







- Footsteps painted on the street were a nice touch; great word mural in commons.
- School attendance is M-TH.







## **School Information**

- One program mentioned "Zeros Aren't Permitted (ZAP)
- On-Line information wasn't great (about quality)

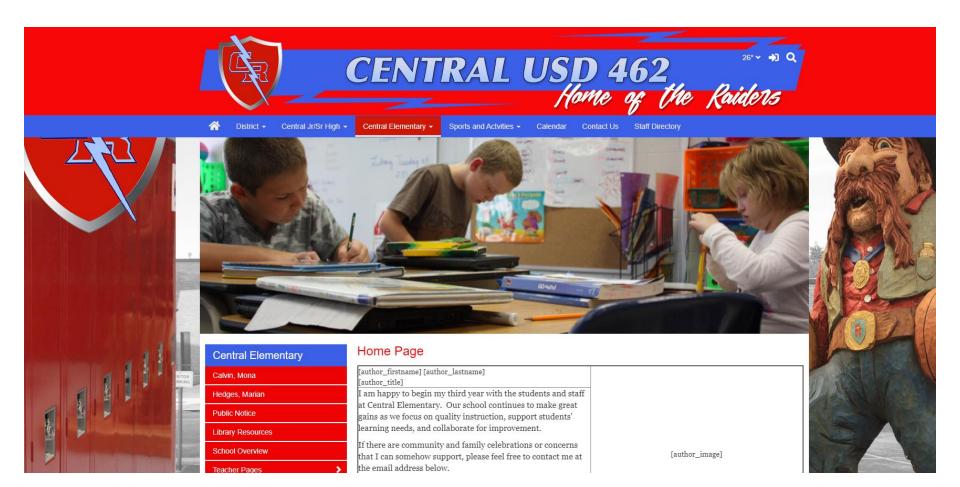






## **School Information**

- "Potential" students as well as current students are looking at the website—tell your story.
- Why do you love your schools?







- School staff identified these strengths:
  - Great teachers
  - Excellent facilities for hosting league sports events
  - In-school childcare for teachers
  - Art, Music, FACS, Vo-Ag
  - Business classes running a T-Shirt Printing business.



## **Childcare**

Only in school for employees.

## **Cowley County Data:**

•	Number of Children Under Age 6:	2,910
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Children with all parents in the workforce: 62%

Desired Capacity of Child Care Centers 643

Extent that desired capacity meets potential need 36%

• Creating a Child Care Action Plan
<a href="https://ks.childcareaware.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Draft-Child-Care-Supply-Demand-Action-Plan.pdf">https://ks.childcareaware.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Draft-Child-Care-Supply-Demand-Action-Plan.pdf</a>

Contact ks.childcareaware.org to get access to local child care specialists. 785-823-3343





# Faith/Religion

Methodist, Baptist Churches in town.







# Faith/Religion

 The church on the way into town on 160 was a very nice brick building with an electronic

sign.





# Faith/Religion

 Services: Joseph's Storehouse, Youth-centered believers club.







- Senior Citizens Center, with an active coffee group.
- Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star, 4-H, Kansas PRIDE.







## **Public Infrastructure**

- Most streets, are paved.
- Street signs are adequate.











## **Public Infrastructure**

- Streets outside of downtown needed work.
- Cars are easily bottomed out on valley gutters at intersections.
- Lots of street signs missing and some weren't reflective.







# City Hall

- City Clerk was very helpful with verbal information.
- City Hall was closed without an indication why.





# Fire, EMS and Police Services

- Police next to City Hall.
- Volunteer Fire fighters.







Welcome to Kansas Insurance Department

Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt





> The Department Auto/Home

Health/Life

Education

> Insurance Fraud &

Producer/Agency Services

> Company Services

Other Services

#### ISO Public Protection Classification

Most U.S. insurers of home and business properties use Insurance Services Office's (ISO) Property Protection Classification (PPC) in calculating premiums. In general, the price of insurance in a community with a good PPC is lower than in a community with a poor PPC, assuming all other factors are equal.

PPC Program: https://www.isomitigation.com/program-works/how-the-ppc-program-works.html

A community's PPC depends on:

- 1. Emergency communications systems, including facilities for the public to report fires, staffing, training, certification of telecommunicators, and facilities for dispatching fire departments
- 2. The fire department, including equipment, staffing, training, and geographic deployment of fire companies

3. The water supply system, including the inspection and flow testing of hydrants and a careful evaluation of



Home Contact Us search

Kansas Insurance Department

420 SW 9th Street Topeka, Kansas 66612-1678

Consumer Hotline: 800-432-2484 (KS only)

Email Us | Phone: 785-296-3071





 No public library, but there were books in the city hall lobby area for checkout.





 A walking track through the park, excellent playground.



Retrieved from Google Earth, 3-14-20 Image Captured 6-2016



- City Park far exceeds what I expected with a POOL, which is older, but well-maintained.
- Nice basketball court.









 The covered patio area at the park had a weird fencing around it. I guess to keep out animals or people after hours, but it was inhospitable looking.



















#### Well-Known for an attraction or event?

- Burden Dayz.
- PRCA Rodeo
- Horse racing and annual rodeo.





#### Natural or manmade features that can draw people?

- Timber Creek Lake, 6 miles WNW.
- Eastern Cowley County Historical Society by appointment only.
- Natural stone buildings, especially the original city

hall.

• Barn quilts.







#### Visitor's Center

- City Hall is easy to find; clear sign.
- Restaurant had a display of Cowley County attractions.





#### What would bring you back?

 Turner's Bar and Grill, Joseph's Storehouse. Maybe Burden Dayz.





## **Most Positive Observations**

- Schools are the crown jewel.
- Friendly and loyal people of Burden.

Kids on Christmas Break were even friendly and

smiling.







# Biggest Obstacles/Challenges

- Housing and code enforcement.
- No grocery store.





## **6 Months from Now**

## What will you remember?

• Turner's

People are positive





## Recommendations

- Eliminate or increase maintenance on some of the City Facebook pages.
- Make strengths of your schools more evident on school website. *Tell your story.*
- Consider Youth Community Perceptions as an opportunity with your 4-H or other group.
- Utilize this assessment to create work groups for the issues that are important to you.



#### Thank our leadership team

- Stacey Kielhorn
- Donna Jackson

- Chase Hobart
- Becky Reid, Agent

#### **Set Next Steps:**

— Which group will lead the discussion?

#### Contact me if you need resources or have questions:

Nancy Daniels
Community Vitality Specialist, K-State Research and Extension
785.410.6352

nkdaniels@ksu.edu





#### K-State Research and Extension

PRIDE: <a href="http://kansasprideprogram.k-state.edu/">http://kansasprideprogram.k-state.edu/</a>

 Local communities identify what they would like to preserve, create, or improve for their future and volunteers pull together to create their ideal community future.







## **Youth Community Perceptions (YCP)**

- Want to involve youth in your community?
  - Youth community assessment and improvement tool.
  - Gives youth opportunities to express their voice.
  - Meets Civic Engagement guidelines for Kansas Education Standards

https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/community/civicengagement/youth-community-perceptions/index.html







#### K-State Research and Extension

# Contact Nancy Daniels nkdaniels@ksu.edu to participate.

#### **Grant Writing Workshops**

Grants are a vital piece in your community's funding puzzle...and you can do it.

K-State Research and Extension's Community Vitality Team offers grant writing workshops for local communities.

#### Objectives

- · Conquer your grant writing fears and start writing.
- Learn new sources of data to document community needs.
- · Learn new sources of grant funding.
- Practice developing the Grant Elements: Problem, Outcomes, Activities, Evaluation, and Budget.

#### Short Term Outcomes

- 93% have increased confidence to write a successful grant.
- 94% learned new sources of data to document community needs.
- 80% learned new sources for finding grants.
- 91% have increased confidence to develop the elements of a successful grant.







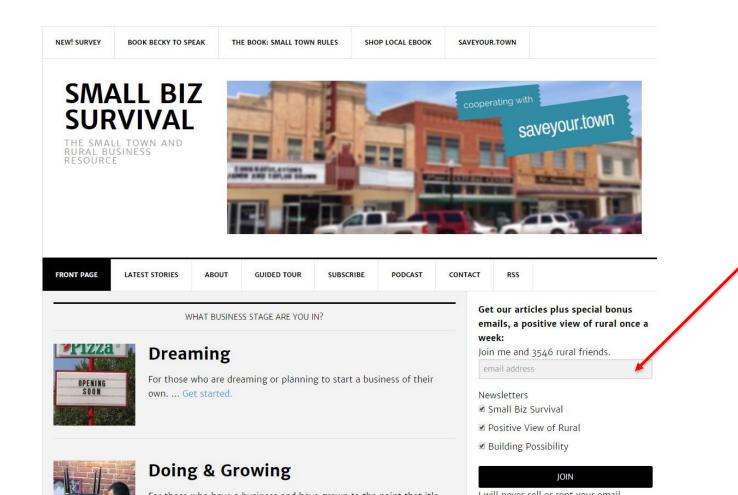
#### K-State Research and Extension

- First Friday e-Calls 9:30-10:30 am (CT)
  - Connecting small businesses and communities with the resources to make them successful.
  - Contact Nancy Daniels <a href="mailto:nkdaniels@ksu.edu">nkdaniels@ksu.edu</a> to participate.
  - Previous calls are recorded at
     <a href="http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/community/business/entrepreneurship/">http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/community/business/entrepreneurship/</a>
  - Community Vitality Calendar of events: <a href="http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/community/">http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/community/</a>



#### Resources I like

- http://smallbizsurvival.com/
  - THE SMALL TOWN AND RURAL BUSINESS RESOURCE

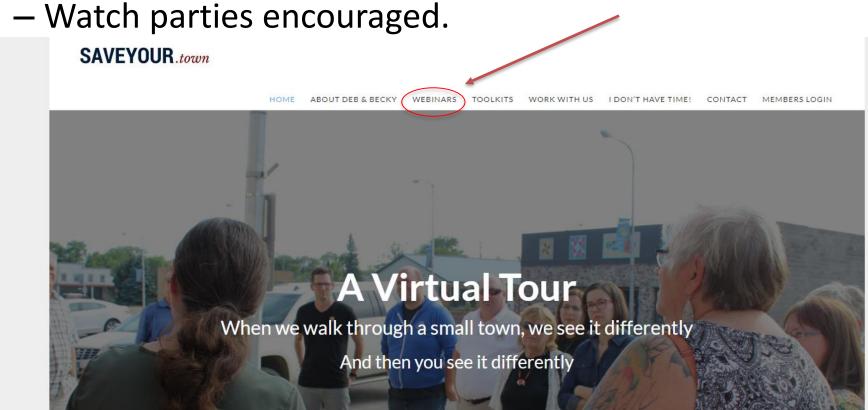






#### Resources I like:

- http://saveyour.town/
  - Monthly live webinars; available on recording.
  - Pay once and show as many times as you want.





## Resources I like

https://www.facebook.com/groups/brownbagmx/
 Brown Bag Marketing Exchange
 (Atchison, KS Co-Marketing group)





#### Resources

Kansas Department of Agriculture in partnership other state organizations, will work with your community to find the best opportunities for

growth using the assets of your region.

## **GROW IN KANSAS**



#### STRATEGIC GROWTH INITIATIVE

A pilot program for the proactive recruitment of food, agriculture and UAS/small aircraft business to Kansas.

For more information on the Strategic Growth Initiative, please contact Russell Plaschka, Ag Business Development Program Manager 785-564-7466 • Russell.Plaschka@ks.gov

agriculture.ks.gov/GrowAg

Knowledge for Life

Grow Smarter. Grow Stronger. Grow Kansas.



#### **Kansas Healthy Food Initiative**

- Goal: Increase access to affordable fresh food and to improve the health and economic development of Kansans and their communities.
- Technical assistance and financing to develop new or renovate fresh food retail in underserved communities throughout Kansas.

http://kansashealthyfood.org/

Isabelle Busenitz, <u>ibusenitz@ksu.edu</u>,

KHFI Technical Assistance Coordinator, 785-532-6868





# Contact Info



## **Nancy Daniels**

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