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COVID-19 has impacted us all in many different ways. The CARES Act relief initiative may help you when you donate to a charitable organization, like RTK. In 2020, it allows some taxpayers to deduct up to \$300 of their cash donations to qualifying organizations without itemizing deductions. The CARES Act raised the bar for the deductible amount of donations for many of those itemizing deductions, too – it's now up from 60% to 100% of AGI. Learn more at www.ranchlandtrustofkansas.org.

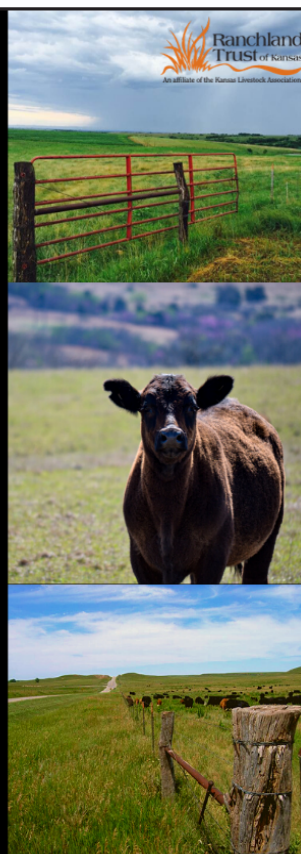
CONSERVATION EASEMENTS 101

FIND OUT WHY LANDOWNERS CHOOSE TO DO A CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND THE ASSOCIATED BENEFITS.

RTK'S NEW WEBSITE HIGHLIGHTS THE CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROCESS INCLUDING:

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RTK Summer Matching Challenge

By Samantha Weishaar, RTK Associate Director

The Ranchland Trust of Kansas (RTK) made the difficult decision this spring to cancel the annual Pre-Symphony in the Flint Hills luncheon due to these unusual times. Thanks to the event sponsor, BOK Financial, the mission of the event continues to be a reality this summer. RTK's first Summer Matching Challenge is currently taking place.

This team has more than 100 years of combined experience in managing farm and ranch assets held within trusts, estates, agencies, and guardianships. They work closely with tenants to implement programs that will increase productivity and value while, at the same time, achieving clients' long-term goals for their land.



(L to R) Lynn Gentine, RTK Executive Director; Katy Price, BOK Financial; Bill Eastman, RTK Board Member

On June 1, RTK announced that combined donations made to RTK would be matched by BOK Financial up to \$5,000 during June and July. Within the first two weeks, RTK reached the first \$5,000!

"RTK is so grateful for our loyal friends supporting us during these unprecedented times. It means a lot to the organization to have such a successful campaign despite the Pre-Symphony cancellation," said Lynn Gentine, RTK Executive Director.

The real estate management group at BOK Financial has the experience to help customers maximize earning potential from land, manage risks, and

plan for future generations. This team has more than 100 years of combined experience in managing farm and ranch assets held within trusts, estates, agencies, and guardianships. They work closely with tenants to implement programs that will increase productivity and value while, at the same time, achieving clients' long-term goals for their land.

"We are honored to partner with Ranchland Trust of Kansas to provide the matching funds for their 2020 fundraising efforts. We've been serving the state of Kansas for decades and are proud to support ranchers and conservation partners working to sustain the agricultural efforts for future generations," said Noel Fallon, BOK Financial, Vice President, Community Relations Manager.

BOK Financial is committed to helping customers realize the full potential of farm, ranch, and land assets. They focus on delivering an exclusive combination of sophisticated strategies and local, personalized, responsive client service.

"BOK Financial has been a wonderful partner to help RTK continue the mission of the event. We could not have done this without them," said Gentine.

If you have attended RTK's Pre-Symphony in the Flint Hills event in the past, you are aware of the great entertainment provided by wonderful guests, including Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest winners. On June 13, the original date for the event, RTK released a video that included some cowboy poetry. This served as an innovative way

to bring the flavor of the Pre-Symphony event to RTK friends despite the event's unfortunate cancellation.

Ron Wilson, cowboy poet lariat, recorded a customized poem about RTK's event and the Summer Matching Challenge.

"Yes, we're sorry we can't gather for poetry and beef, but this is the best alternative in my humble belief," said Ron Wilson during his personalized video performance that can be viewed on RTK's Facebook page.

After the first \$5,000 match was met so quickly, the RTK Board of Directors stepped up to continue the Summer Matching Challenge with an additional \$3,000 match. Donations made through July now will be matched up to \$8,000! Now is the time to double your impact!

"The mission to protect and conserve the Kansas landscape continues to be a reality this summer thanks to BOK Financial, the RTK Board of Directors and our wonderful supporters. It is great to see donors interacting virtually even though we couldn't host the annual event. We look forward to seeing everyone next year," said Gentine.



OUR MISSION

To preserve Kansas' ranching heritage and open spaces for future generations through the conservation of working landscapes.

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- Sound Finances
- Ethical Conduct
- Responsible Governance
- Lasting Stewardship

Ninth Annual RTK Photography Contest

By Samantha Weishaar, RTK Associate Director

The Ranchland Trust of Kansas (RTK) opened its ninth annual photography contest early this year. The



2019 Grand Prize photo by Nichole Conard

contest is open to professional and amateur photographers of all ages. Photographs entered will showcase the natural beauty of ranching and grazing lands across the state. The competition, which opened April 15, offers Kansans

landscape, livestock and people, with preference to grasslands, grazing land, ranchers, cattle and much more. Participants may enter up to five photos. The contest will be open through the entire summer and close on August 31, 2020. Entries will be judged by a panel of professionals in the field of photography and by RTK representatives.

All prizes for the contest are sponsored by Wolfe's Camera of Topeka. Wolfe's will award 10 photo cards each to 10 category winners. Categories

include: Grand Prize, Landscape, Livestock, People, Youth (ages 5-17), Kansas Livestock Association member, Fan Favorite via Facebook voting and three honorable mentions. The grand prize winner will receive their choice



2019 livestock category winning photo by Tony Ifland

the chance to explore and capture the many activities, seasons and faces of Kansas' ranching tradition.

Participants should submit photos expressing the mission of RTK: "To preserve Kansas' ranching heritage and open spaces for future generations through the conservation of working landscapes." This may include

of an 11" x 14" stretched photo canvas or a 12" x 18" metal print of their winning photo.

For full contest rules and to enter, visit www.ranchlandtrustofkansas.org and find Photo Contest on the News and Events page. For questions, please contact Samantha Weishaar at (785) 273-5115 or samantha@kla.org.



A Message from our Board Chair

By Cade Rensink, RTK Board of Directors Chairman



As many of you know, a few years ago the RTK board underwent the development of a new strategic plan for the organization. As part of that process, each board member was asked to reflect on why they chose to be involved and what value they found in the work RTK does. For me, this was a pretty easy task.

I am very proud that my family has been, in my humble opinion, an exemplary steward of the land. I can think back when I was a kid at how many hours my father and I spent riding pastures together. I remember the numerous conversations we had about his belief that one has a duty, an obligation to manage the land in a way that keeps it alive and productive for years to come. I recall how much it meant to him when presented the Grassland Award and, more recently, the Energy Award from the local conservation district. The passion he has had in talking about our natural resources and the significance he sees in open spaces has been contagious.

Without a doubt, my father instilled in me the same keen interest in grazing lands that he has. It led me to pursue an education in agriculture and has resulted in a career of passing on to others the knowledge and experience I have gained specific to range management. In fact,

there are very few things that I get more satisfaction from than "talking grass" with folks.

I am fortunate to get to spend a fair amount of time outdoors in the magnificence of the prairie. Not only do I get to consult with other practicing land managers to improve their operations, but I am actively engaged in our family ranch and get to educate my two boys while we ride pastures together.

My dad will turn 70 years old this summer, but his commitment to being a caretaker has not slowed one bit. In fact, I'd say his dedication is stronger than ever and that it's been rather difficult keeping up with him lately.

Why have I chosen to be involved, and what value do I find in the work RTK does? Easy. Each and every person within the Ranchland Trust of Kansas works diligently toward the education and preservation of one of the most unique ecosystems in the world with the same passion that my family and I have.

Like my father, RTK's enthusiasm and drive are contagious and stronger than ever. We haven't slowed down at all and, quite frankly, it's darn hard to fully wrap your head around everything the staff has going on.

The determination of those in the RTK organization to preserve Kansas' ranching heritage and working landscapes for future generations is simply inspiring. Perhaps the harder question to answer is: Why would you *not* choose to be involved and find value in the work RTK does?

Yes, I would like to support the Ranchland Trust of Kansas

2020 Summer Matching Challenge!

☐ My one-time gift is enclosed

☐ \$100-\$249 Friend

☐ \$250-\$499 Advocate

☐ \$500-\$999 Steward

☐ \$1,000+ Patron

☐ Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

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Return this form with your contribution to: Ranchland Trust of Kansas • 6031 SW 37th Street • Topeka, KS 66614

To donate online, visit our website: www.ranchlandtrustofkansas.org

The Ranchland Trust of Kansas is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization. A contribution to RTK is a tax-deductible, charitable contribution.



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