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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**RANCHLAND TRUST OF KANSAS CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY**

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*Inspired by Ranchers.*

*Preserving the ranching heritage.*

The Ranchland Trust of Kansas (RTK) celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. Established in October 2003, the non-profit organization now has worked with 18 families to conserve over 17,000 acres with 24 voluntary conservation agreements.

It is the first and only agricultural land trust in Kansas.

Together, partner landowners and supporters have ensured Kansas’ agricultural lands – critical for livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, people, and water – are protected forever.

To mark its 20th anniversary, RTK will celebrate all year long by highlighting important milestones and sharing success stories including many conservation partnerships, becoming an accredited land trust, hiring its first full-time director, expanding to western Kansas, and completing a 10-year conservation agreement in the Smoky Hills area.

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*RTK is an agricultural land trust affiliate of the Kansas Livestock Association, with a mission to preserve Kansas’ ranching heritage and open spaces for future generations through the conservation of working landscapes.*