



NEWS RELEASE

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RTK Welcomes New Conservation Coordinator Jessica Wilkes

RTK is proud to announce the addition of Jessica Wilkes as the organization's Conservation Coordinator. With a strong background in land stewardship and a passion for Kansas' working landscapes, Wilkes brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the role.

Prior to joining RTK, Wilkes served as an Area Resource Conservationist with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), where she supported conservation efforts across 24 counties in northeast Kansas. She also worked directly with landowners in Riley and Geary counties as a Natural Resource Specialist. Her work focused on implementing programs like EQIP, CSP, and CRP to provide both technical and financial assistance for conservation on agricultural lands.

Wilkes says RTK's landowner-centered mission is what drew her to the role. "I love that RTK is a nonprofit guided by the interests of landowners," she said. "It's an organization deeply committed to preserving Kansas' endangered grasslands and ranching heritage through voluntary, permanent conservation easements."

As Conservation Coordinator, Wilkes will lead a variety of initiatives including easement contract management, land stewardship support, and community outreach. She brings strong communication skills, a strategic mindset, and a deep respect for the people who care for Kansas' natural resources.

"I'm excited to meet and work alongside the landowners, donors, and supporters who make RTK's mission possible," said Wilkes. "I'm ready to hit the ground running and contribute to the ongoing success of conserving working ranchlands."

Outside of work, she is a board member of Friends of Konza Prairie, an avid birder, and a home gardener. She enjoys hiking with her Siberian Husky, and cooking with local ingredients from the Manhattan farmers market or K-State meat sale.



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www.ranchlandtrustofkansas.org

RTK continues its commitment to protecting Kansas' natural landscapes and sustaining the state's vital ranching culture for future generations.

Wilkes joined RTK on April 29. Help us welcome her into her new role. Please reach out to jessica@kla.org.

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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.

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