
Kansas Cooperative Development Center

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Department of Agricultural Economics
Kansas State University
303 Waters Hall
Manhattan, KS 66502

David Coltrain (785) 532-1523
coltrain@agecon.ksu.edu

David Barton (785) 532-1508
barton@agecon.ksu.edu

The overall goal of the Kansas Cooperative Development Center (KCDC) is to improve the earnings and economic conditions of agricultural producers and other rural residents. The strategy is to encourage and to assist cooperative business development focused on value-added marketing and processing of agricultural products.

The KCDC is a program managed by the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center (ACCC) in Kansas State University's Department of Agricultural Economics with the cooperation and assistance of two primary partners, the Agricultural Value Added Center (AVAC), a unit within the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing's Agriculture Products Development Division, and the cooperative development program of the Kansas USDA/Rural Development office. The KCDC is funded by a grant from USDA and matching fund support from KSU and KDOCH.

The specific objectives of the KCDC are to:

1. Provide educational programs such as conferences, symposiums and seminars to current and potential clients.
2. Provide business development education and assistance to clients including information about: (a) business structure alternatives, (b) conducting feasibility studies as well as evaluation of completed feasibility studies, (c) preparing and evaluating business plans and (d) obtaining legal assistance and other professional services that may be required.
3. Provide a cooperative development information clearinghouse for use by current and potential clients, lenders, investors and others.

4. Strengthen and expand state-level, regional-level and national-level partnerships, such as the Kansas Cooperative Development Consortium, the Great Plains Cooperative Development Consortium and other cooperative development centers and programs, for the purpose of exchanging information and providing assistance to each other.

KCDC Website

The KCDC has developed a website on the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center homepage. Many of the publications in the Reference Notebook as well as additional educational and informative material are available. The website's URL: <http://www.agecon.ksu.edu/accc/kcdc/Default.htm>

Renewable Energy

Due to the increased interest in renewable energy, such as ethanol and biodiesel, the KCDC has developed information focused specifically on this topic.

For additional information on renewable energy contact Erik Dean (785) 532-0627
edean@agecon.ksu.edu

The renewable energy website: <http://www.agecon.ksu.edu/renewableenergy/>

Initial Assistance Grant

One form of assistance provided by the KCDC is an Initial Assistance Grant (IAG). One of the critical elements essential for creating new business ventures is professional services provided by legal, accounting and business consulting experts.

Getting a new business venture started and organized is often difficult because of a lack of funds. The IAG can provide for expenses incurred in obtaining legal, accounting, consulting and other business development expenses in new start-up businesses.

Eligible applicants must be a group or an association of agricultural producers. The IAG is available to applicants who can demonstrate that their business idea has the potential to profitably add value through processing or marketing of existing commodities or alternative crops and livestock.

Please contact the Kansas Cooperative Development Center to receive an IAG application and/or to answer additional questions.