

# Foreign Holdings of Kansas Agricultural Land – Update through Dec. 31, 2024 data

Robin Reid ([robinreid@ksu.edu](mailto:robinreid@ksu.edu)) and Allen Featherstone ([afeather@ksu.edu](mailto:afeather@ksu.edu))  
K-State Department of Agricultural Economics  
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The most recent Federal data of foreign holdings of U.S. agricultural land is through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. This report is an updated version of the report <https://www.agmanager.info/foreign-holdings-kansas-farm-land> which detailed foreign holdings of Kansas agricultural land through Dec. 31, 2021.

In the report produced by K-State Agricultural Economics in May of 2023, the authors obtained detailed foreign holdings data for Kansas through a *Freedom of Information Act* (FOIA) request. Similar data is now publicly available at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/economic-policy-analysis/afida>, which is used to update the previous report to update foreign holdings in Kansas by differentiating energy leases from land ownership.

Current federal regulations place no restrictions on foreign ownership of U.S. agricultural land, however reporting requirements have existed since the *Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (AFIDA)*. All foreign persons who acquire or transfer an interest in agricultural land are required to report such transactions within 90 days of the date of acquisition or face a 25% penalty of the fair market value of the interest held (USDA, 2021). The [Foreign Holdings of U.S. Agricultural Land](#) report is released annually and provides a summary of holdings of agricultural land by foreign individuals or companies.

AFIDA requires reporting "any interest" in the land other than a security interest. The regulations exempt leaseholds of less than 10 years' duration, contingent future interests, non-contingent future interests that do not become possessory upon termination of the present estate, non-agricultural easements and rights-of-way, and interests solely in mineral rights (USDA, 2021). Not included on the list of exemptions are wind and solar energy leases, that make up the large majority of all foreign agricultural land "holdings" in the state of Kansas as these leases are generally greater than 10 years. Renewable energy leases are very similar to oil and gas leases where no ownership interest is constituted, but when AFIDA was enacted in 1978 it would be another twenty-five years before industrial-scale wind leasing would begin over most of the country, so it is not in the list of exceptions. Therefore, since these long-term leases are reported as foreign "holdings", it makes it difficult to get a true picture of foreign agricultural land ownership across the United States.

Data through the end of calendar year 2024 shows 1,348,963 acres reported in Kansas as having foreign interest, up by 161,273 acres from the authors report three years prior (Table 1). Only 52,885 acres across the state are reported as having foreign interests that are not related to energy production (down 14,832 acres from three years ago) and



represent 3.9% of all foreign-held land, or 0.11% of all privately held agricultural land in Kansas. The reason for the decline will be discussed later in this report.

**Table 1: Summary of Foreign Interest in Kansas Agricultural Land**

	Data through Dec. 31, 2021 (acres)	Data through Dec. 31, 2024 (acres)	Change (acres)
Total Privately held Agricultural Land in Kansas*	49,189,000	47,453,729	
Total Reported Agricultural Land in Kansas with a Foreign Interest	1,187,690	1,384,963	161,273
Total Reported Agricultural Land leased by Foreign-held Renewable Energy Companies	1,119,974	1,296,078	176,104
Total Foreign-Held Agricultural Land not related to Renewable Energy	67,717	52,885	-14,832

\* This value is also reported in the [Foreign Holdings of U.S. Agricultural Land](#) report. The change from 2021 could be due to a change in data source, not necessarily a loss in privately held ag land acres.

Wind and solar energy companies in Kansas are owned by multiple foreign companies and U.S. companies with significant interest by foreign investors. AFIDA defines "significant interest or substantial control" to mean a 10-percent or more interest in the entity if held by a single foreign person or a group of foreign persons acting in concert, or a 50-percent or more interest if held by a group of foreign persons not acting in concert, none of whom individually holds a 10-percent or greater interest in that entity (USDA, 2021). Under this definition, theoretically one foreign person with 11% investment in a company would require all of that company’s holdings to be reported; indicating many wind and solar energy leases are classified as foreign holdings, though they may be primarily U.S. companies. For the purposes of this paper, these are “foreign-owned”, which would either mean it is a foreign company or a U.S. company that meets the AFIDA definition above and is required to report any leased or purchased land.

Acreage leased by wind energy companies in Kansas also can be somewhat misleading as companies report their lease over the entire property acres, when in reality they only have the wind generation rights and their footprint is limited to turbine locations and access roads. The landowner or farming tenant maintains the ownership of the property and rights to farm around the turbines or graze livestock in the pastures. Wind energy companies currently have leases in 47 out of the 105 Kansas counties. Figure 1 shows each Kansas county and the acreage reported as leased by a foreign-owned wind energy company. This map is available in interactive form here:

<https://www.agmanager.info/ag-policy/foreign-holdings-us-agricultural-land/foreign-holdings-kansas-ag-land-wind-energy-leases> where you can hover your cursor over the county and see the amount of acreage tied to what country is reported under AFIDA.



**Figure 1: Number of Acres leased by a Foreign-Held Wind Energy Company by County**

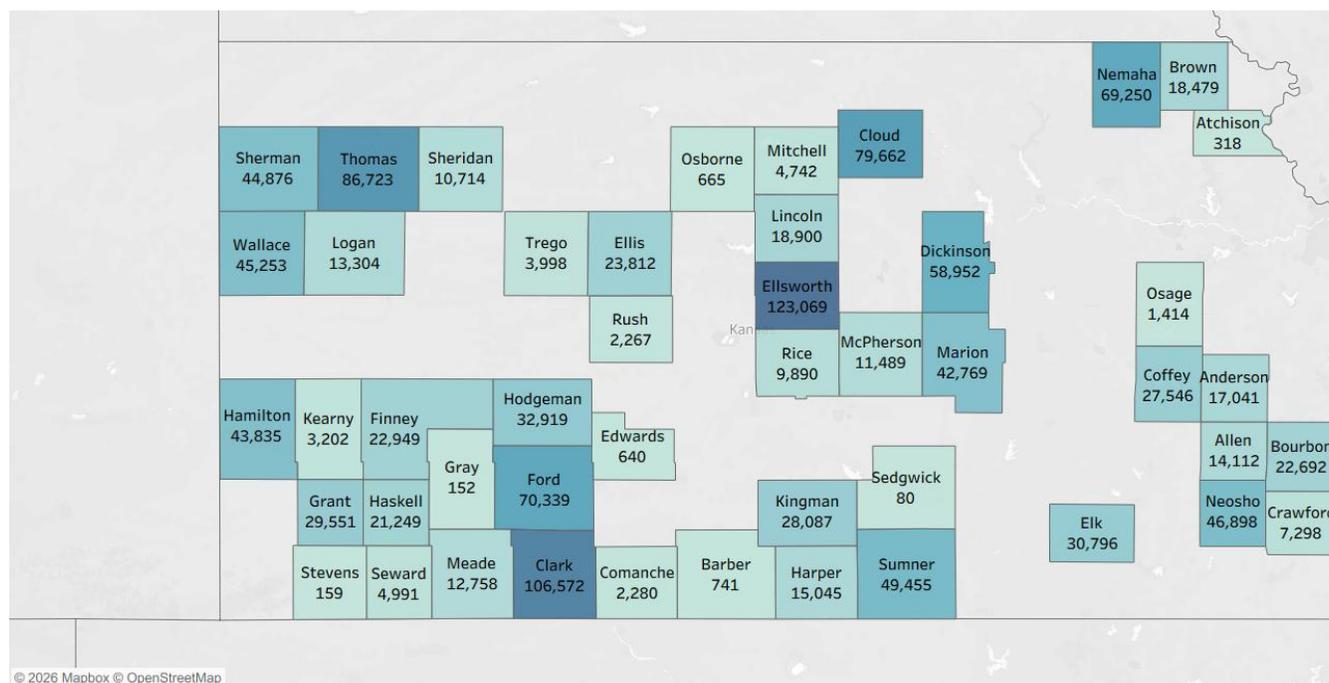


Table 2 shows the number of leased acres reported by wind energy companies in Kansas by country of reporting, and how they have changed since the previous report using data through the end of calendar year 2021. Italian and Canadian companies have most foreign-owned wind energy leases in Kansas, but most of the growth in the three year timeframe came from Denmark and Canadian. Some decrease in holdings can be attributed to cancelation of development leases and/or changes in ownership interests by wind energy companies.

**Table 2: Acres leased by Foreign-owned Wind Energy Companies**

Wind Company Listed Country	Number of Acres (2021)	Number of Acres (2024)	Difference
CANADA	315,444	420,122	104,678
DENMARK	66,115	164,228	98,113
FRANCE	170,730	170,570	-160
GERMANY	13,999	12,448	-1,551
IRELAND	8,442	8,442	0
ITALY	386,852	400,790	13,938
PORTUGAL	118,130	84,766	-33,363
SPAIN	20,565	20,565	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,115,677</b>	<b>1,281,931</b>	<b>166,254</b>

Foreign-owned solar energy companies in Kansas are increasing but are still minimal compared to wind energy leases. Table 3 shows that at the end of calendar year 2024, 14,147 acres of solar lease projects were reported in AFIDA data, up from 4,297 acres from the end of 2021 (9,850-acre increase). Italy and the United Kingdom are now reported, along with Canada and Australia who were already included in 2021. It should also be noted that although some of these holdings are leasing solar development *rights* on the entire agricultural acreage, solar panels will likely be installed on some of the acreage. There is also the possibility that a lease would be cancelled by the company before solar development would take place.

**Table 3: Acres leased by Foreign-owned Solar Energy Companies**

KS County	AUSTRALIA	CANADA	ITALY	UNITED KINGDOM	TOTAL
Barber		1,694			1,694
Cloud			468		468
Douglas				1,003	1,003
Ford		218			218
Grant			317		317
Haskell			1,622		1,622
Jefferson				207	207
Kingman		501			501
Lincoln			2,920		2,920
Marion			1,813		1,813
Sedgwick		1,513			1,513
Sumner		1,356			1,356
Wilson	113			402	515
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>5,282</b>	<b>7,140</b>	<b>1,612</b>	<b>14,147</b>

The remaining 52,885 acres that are not leased by wind or solar energy companies are presumably agricultural land used for farming and ranching. Many of these holdings are due to a foreign spouse of a U.S. citizen having to report through AFIDA since Kansas is a joint-tenancy state, where both spouses are considered holders on the land. Table 4 lists these holdings by reported country through AFIDA in descending number of acres. Unknown country of ownership in Kansas occurs on 945 acres, which was the same holdings in the previous report that were unknown.

Decreases in non-energy related holdings from the previous report using data through Dec. 2021 include many holdings that were dropped from the 2024 data, presumably because they no longer have foreign interests. Some of these holdings date back to the 1950s and likely have not had foreign interests for quite some time. Some other individuals/companies also decreased their amount of acreage but still have some holdings at the end of December 2024. As foreign ownership of U.S. agricultural land has become increasingly publicized and scrutinized, there may be more updates to the data that has not been revised to reflect current holdings.

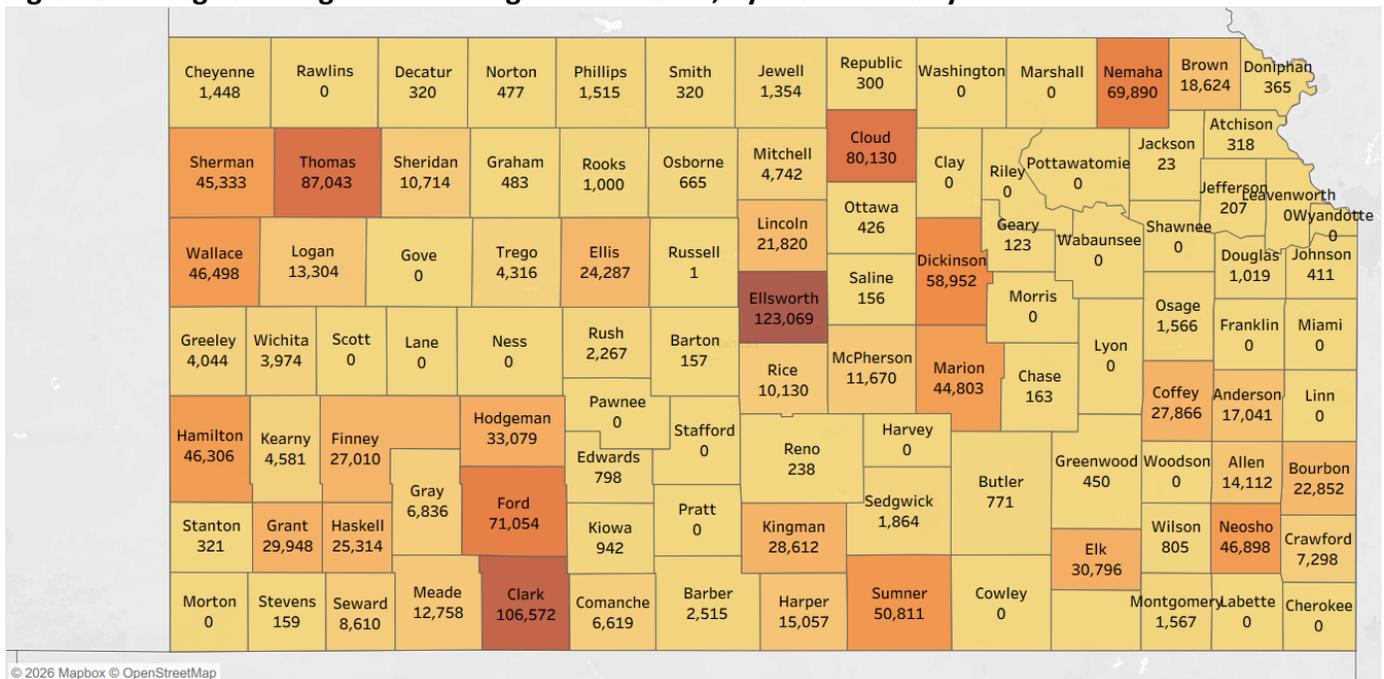
**Table 4: Foreign-held acres not Wind or Solar related, by listed Country**

Country	Number of Acres in Kansas	Country	Number of Acres in Kansas
GERMANY	9,198	FRANCE	524
CANADA	8,430	NEW ZEALAND	483
KUWAIT	4,962	BERMUDA	477
MEXICO	4,506	DENMARK	450
SAUDI ARABIA	4,339	HONG KONG	411
NETHERLANDS	3,873	JAPAN	301
IRELAND	3,356	SWEDEN	300
SWITZERLAND	2,979	CHINA	259
ITALY	1,881	ARGENTINA	160
AUSTRALIA	1,759	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	150
UNITED KINGDOM	1,402	BELGIUM	60
PORTUGAL	972	SPAIN	53
AUSTRIA	616	COLOMBIA	40

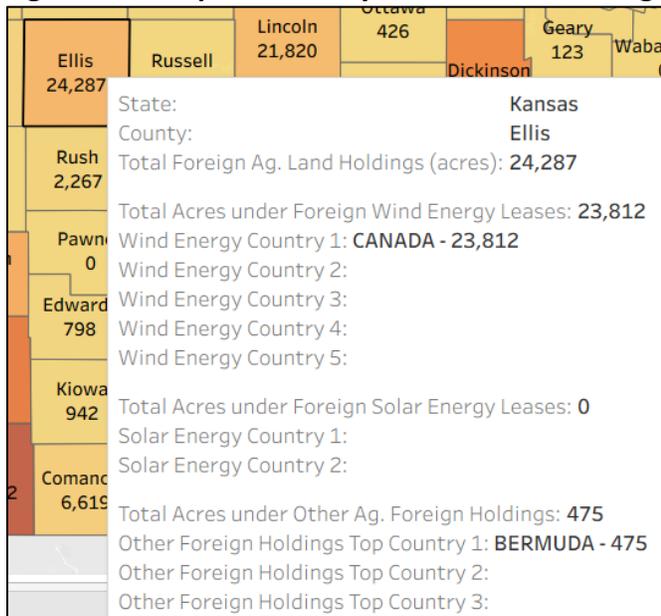
A notable change from the previous report is two additional Chinese holdings. One is Syngenta Seeds, which was a Swiss company purchased by ChemChina in 2017, but the holding of 97.5 acres in Geary County, KS was not changed in the data until recent years. The other was a purchase of 160.8 cropland acres in Rooks County, KS by Murphy Brown LLC (Smithfield Foods) in 2023 which is intended for swine facilities.

County-level foreign holdings are summarized in map form here <https://www.agmanager.info/ag-policy/foreign-holdings-us-agricultural-land/foreign-holdings-kansas-ag-land> . Figure 2 shows this resource and Figure 3 displays an example of the information provided by hovering over each county.

**Figure 2: Foreign Holdings of Kansas Agricultural Land, by Kansas County**



**Figure 3: Example of County-Level Detail from Figure 2 above**



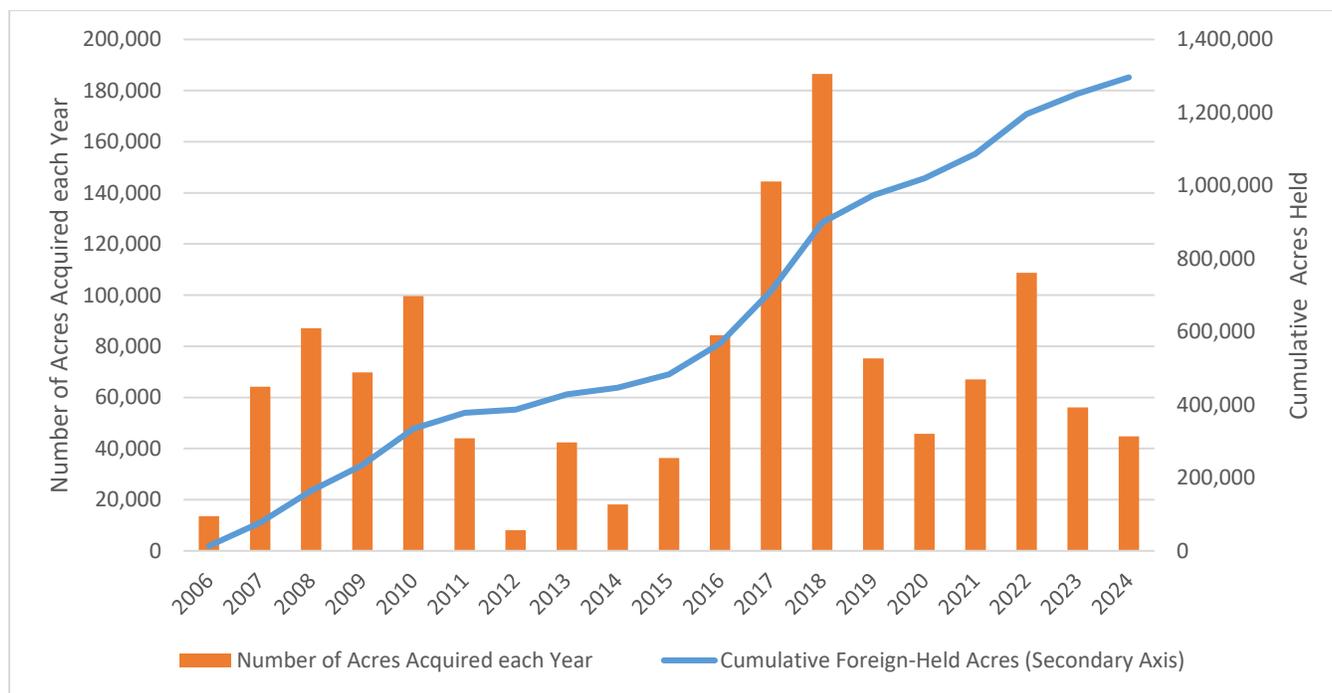
In this example of Ellis County, total reported foreign-held acres are 24,287, of which 23,812 acres are leases by a wind energy companies with Canadian ownership interests. There are no foreign-owned solar company leases in Ellis County, and the remaining 475 acres are held by an individual or company from Bermuda.



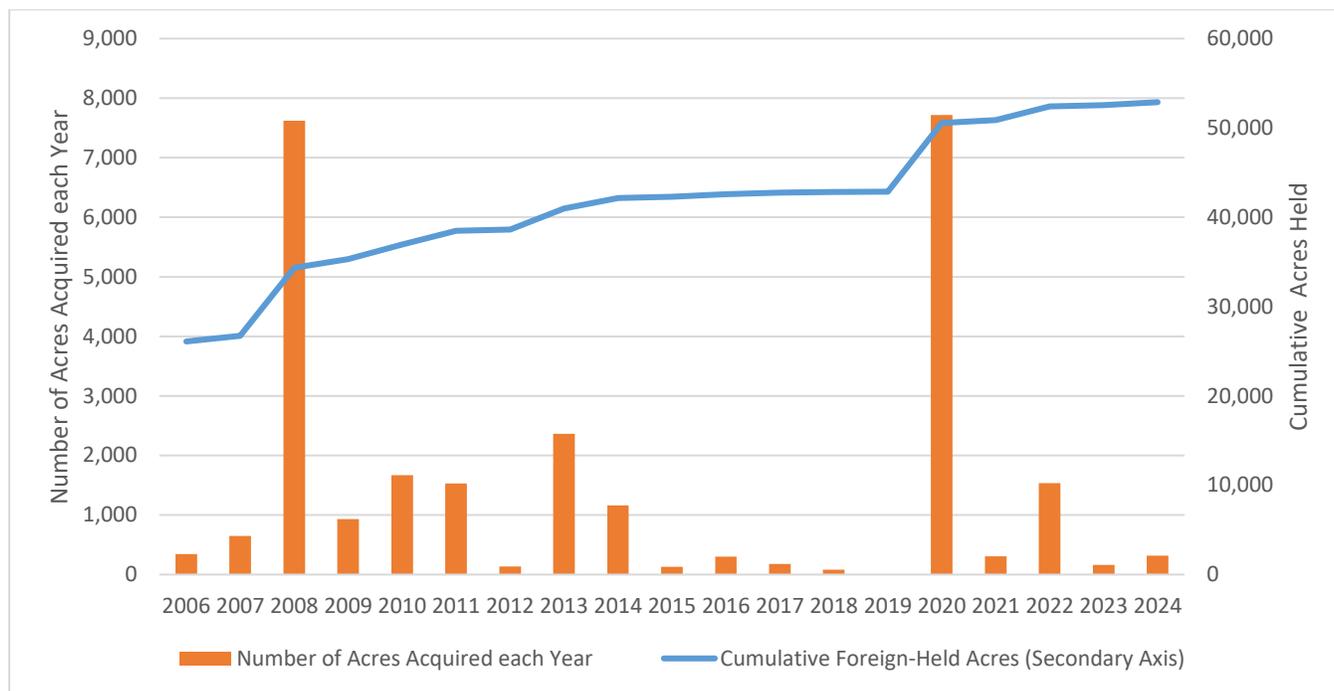
While the discussion shows with the current foreign-held agricultural land through December 2024, the trend of holdings may also be of interest. Figures 4 and 5 show the number of acres acquired each year and the cumulative number of acres held for both foreign-owned wind and solar energy leases and other agricultural purposes, respectively. The growth in acres leased by foreign-owned energy companies in Kansas has been large compared to non-energy related holdings. From 2006 to 2024, an average of 68,215 agricultural acres per year have been leased by a foreign-held energy company.

With the exceptions of 2008 and 2020, acquisitions of agricultural land in Kansas not related to energy production have been near 2,000 acres per year or less since 2006 (Figure 5). Holdings of agricultural land by foreign persons or entities have been reported back to 1947. In 2006, 26,095 total acres were held in Kansas. Some of these older holdings are starting to be dropped from the current data, showing foreign ownership interests are likely no longer the case.

**Figure 4: Growth in Energy Leased Acres in Kansas with Foreign Ownership Interests (2006-2024)**



**Figure 5: Growth in Non-Energy related Foreign-held Agricultural Acres in Kansas (2006-2024)**



In summary, in Kansas the growth in foreign-held acreage is largely driven by energy leases that are required to report the same way as other land acquisitions. Although acreage may appear large in some counties (Ellsworth being a prime example), these long-term energy leases only take a small footprint of acres, allowing agricultural activities to continue.



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K-State Agricultural Economics | 342 Waters Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506-4011 | 785.532.1504

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