



**KANSAS
WHEAT®**
LIFE GROWS WHERE

WATER FLOWS THE OGALLALA AQUIFER

The Ogallala Aquifer is a shallow water table aquifer surrounded by sand, silt, clay and gravel. Located beneath the Great Plains in the United States. As one of the world's largest aquifers, it underlies an area of approximately 174,000 square miles in portions of eight states. Western Kansas farmers rely heavily on this source of water to irrigate their crops.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The future of the Ogallala aquifer doesn't just impact farmers. It poses a threat to communities around southwest Kansas and the nation. Finding new ways to keep water from leaving the aquifer is more than just a regional crisis, but is a national concern. The Top Eight agriculture producing counties in Kansas rely on water from the Ogallala for industries and citizens. These counties account for \$6.4 billion dollars into the Kansas economy and proves a large percentage of the United States' food supply.

WHAT ARE WHEAT FARMERS ARE DOING TO PRESERVE THE AQUIFER?

Wheat farmers understand the importance of conserving water. There are many tactics to conserve water in western Kansas. Former Kansas Wheat Commissioner, Richard Randall of Scott City, Kansas has changed his conservation practices, when they first started drilling water in 1969.

“When we first moved here in ‘69, my wife Glenda’s, dad was pumping water with open ditch tubes. We then made the transition to a gated pipe. After that, we made the transition to owning the only thing we’re currently watering with, center pivots. We try to be as efficient as we can,” Randall said.

“The aquifer is the **lifeblood** of agricultural production in western Kansas, and steps must be taken **now** to ensure water is not overused or wasted. With the use of proper conservation practices, the same amount of food can be produced with less water. This will save the aquifer for farmers in generations to come while **sustaining** and growing local communities.”

BRIAN LININ, FARMER, GOODLAND, KS

SOME WAYS WHEAT FARMERS ARE PRESERVING THE AQUIFER

- **Utilizing Wheat to Lower Water Usage**
- **Harvesting Methods**
- **Cropping Rotations**
- **No-Till Systems**
- **Low Flow Sprinklers**

