## 125 Years of Farmland Values in Kansas

1870-1997

Notable changes have taken place in agriculture since 1870 . Technology, yields, and production methods have vastly improved. These changes, in conjunction with fluctuating crop price trends, have led to an extremely different picture today for farmland values in Kansas. As of 1997, Kansas had more than 83.1 million acres of farmland valued at just under $\$ 48$ billion. These numbers suggest an average value of $\$ 577$ per acre, which compares to $\$ 381$ per acre in 1977 and $\$ 11$ per acre in 1880 (Census of Agriculture Values). These comparisons demonstrate that land values are one aspect of agriculture that has experienced dramatic changes during the last century.

The Census of Agriculture has provided farmland values by state and by county since 1860 and 1870 , respectively. Pressly and Scofield previously used Census reports to assemble and publish per acre land values for 1850 to 1959. Land values, as published by the Census Bureau, include land and improvements and are current market values (dollars at the date of the Census). All farms were enumerated until 1950; since then, values have been estimated from samples of farms (Pine).

This publication presents farmland value data dating back approximately 125 years and provides a brief discussion of the trends occurring during that time period. Data provided are taken
from the Kansas State Board of Agriculture's Price Patterns (1957) and 58th Annual Report (1975), Kansas Farm Facts (1998), and Wilfred H. Pine's 100 Years of Farmland Values in Kansas.

## State Trends

Table 1 provides historical data on wheat and corn yields and prices from 1870 to 1997. Table 1 also offers data encompassing the same time period for the per head inventory value of cattle. Finally, this table provides average land values for the state of Kansas from 1870 to 1997. Figure 1 illustrates the data compiled in Table 1.

Based on Census reports, average farmland values in Kansas fluctuated around the $\$ 50$ mark until 1940 when values began a strong upward trend. From 1870 to 1880, land values decreased from $\$ 13$ to $\$ 11$ per acre, but swung upward again to $\$ 19$ in 1890. The overall increase was short-lived because by 1900 farmland values had again decreased to $\$ 15$ per acre (Figure 1). By 1920, land values had increased fourfold to $\$ 62$ per acre, which was a peak level for a few decades. From 1920 until the 1940s, farmland values again took a downward turn, reaching a low of $\$ 30$ per acre in 1940. After 1945, values rapidly increased, eventually peaking in 1982 at $\$ 601$ per acre. Between 1982 and 1987, values sharply decreased to $\$ 413$ per acre. Since this point, farmland values have recovered to the 1997 mark of $\$ 577$ per acre. However, they still have not topped the 1982 pinnacle. Historically, farmland value fluctuations have trended with farming income. Therefore, values have typically been reflections of yield and price movements.

Yield fluctuations primarily occur due to weather and technology changes. Figure 2 shows changes in wheat and corn yields from 1870 to 1997. Wheat yields decreased from 1870 to 1880, stabilized in 1890 and decreased again in 1900 to 13.3 bushels per acre. With only minor increases in 1910 and 1925, wheat yields plummeted until reaching an all-time low of 11.1 in 1940. Wheat yields began increasing after this time, with minor setbacks in 1954 and 1978. Yields reached their highest level in 1987 at 37.2 bushels per acre. Between 1987 and 1997, wheat yields once again declined. Aside from minor increases in 1910 and 1925, corn yields declined until 1940. However, after the 12.9 bushel per acre
low in 1940, corn yields have trended upward with the peak in corn yields corresponding with the end of the data series, 1997. Prices tend to be influenced by a variety of factors. Some internal factors, like yield, directly involve and can be strongly influenced by the farming community. Other external factors, such as wars and economic depressions, cannot be controlled or influenced by the agricultural sector. Wheat prices decreased from 1870 until 1900 to a low of $\$ 0.57$ cents per bushel. Wheat prices peaked at $\$ 1.29$ per bushel in 1920 and then declined again. Prices decreased back to $\$ 0.57$ per bushel in 1935 and then increased from there until the 1954 peak of $\$ 2.12$ per bushel. From 1954 to 1969, prices declined to $\$ 1.35$ per bushel. Since 1969, wheat prices increased to $\$ 3.54$ per bushel in 1982, declined to $\$ 3.01$ per bushel in 1992, and increased again to $\$ 3.73$ per bushel in 1997. Corn prices by 1920 , at $\$ 0.94$ per bushel, had nearly doubled from the 1870 price of $\$ 0.48$. This high, like that in wheat, was not to last. Corn prices then trended downward until 1935. Between 1935 and 1940, corn prices started back up and increased until roughly 1954. Corn prices then dramatically dropped from the 1954 level of $\$ 1.53$ per bushel to $\$ 1.09$ in 1964. After this low, corn prices, like wheat, increased until 1982 when they reached a high of $\$ 2.69$ per bushel. Prices decreased through 1992, and then increased again to $\$ 2.63$ per bushel in 1997.

Cattle prices hovered around the $\$ 20$ per head range from 1870 until 1920, at which time, per head prices virtually doubled to $\$ 42$. Prices trended downward from 1920 until recovering to $\$ 51$ per head in 1945. Cattle prices, like wheat and corn, then increased dramatically until 1954. Again like wheat and corn, prices fell after that time through 1964. For roughly the next 10 years, 1964-1974, cattle prices were on the rise again. After a small decline between 1974 and 1978, cattle prices began rising through 1997, with large increases occurring in 1982 and 1992.

## County and Area Trends

Land values for Kansas counties were first reported by the 1870 Census. Values for all 105 counties as they are now organized (Table 2) were not reported until 1890. Figure 3 illustrates the Kansas counties comprising the nine Kansas Agricultural Statistics

Service crop reporting districts. Table 2 indicates that all counties, except Wyandotte, have followed the same basic trend of increasing farmland values peaking in 1920 and 1982 and dropping somewhat sharply until 1987. After 1987, the majority of counties' land values began increasing again; some rising sharply and others rising more gradually.

Home to the capital city and fertile Kansas River land, Shawnee County had the highest average farmland values in 1870 at $\$ 36$ per acre. In 1974, Pine noted that counties near Kansas City and Wichita had experienced the largest increases in farmland values since 1870. The 1997 values of Wyandotte, Johnson and other Kansas/Missouri border counties (which include a major portion of Kansas City, Kansas) reflect that this trend continues. Johnson County progressed from being valued at equal to or less than its neighboring northeastern counties in 1870 to leading the farmland valuation rank at $\$ 2,349$ per acre in 1997. Wyandotte's value increase is not quite as remarkable. Wyandotte's farmland was valued second only to Shawnee County in 1870 and led farmland values from1880 to 1992. As of 1997, both Johnson and Wyandotte farmland values were roughly double that of Shawnee County. Johnson and Wyandotte counties were singled out as leaders; however, all of the northern Kansas/Missouri border counties have experienced rapidly increasing farmland values since 1987, reflecting the impact of urbanization.

The effect of urbanization on farmland values also was experienced in Sedgwick County, which includes the city of Wichita. As of 1997, Sedgwick County farmland values were more than double those of land in most of its border counties. Farmland values in Sedgwick County have increased from $\$ 7$ per acre in 1870 to $\$ 1,329$ in 1997. Sedgwick County land values were second only to counties in the Kansas City area as of 1997.

In 1920, Brown county was considered the best corn county in the state (Pine). At that time, land values in Brown County averaged $\$ 202$ per acre, which was far greater than in any other county except Wyandotte. Without considering the border counties mentioned above, Brown County farmland values were some of the highest in the state until after 1982. Although the increase in Brown's land value between 1920 and 1997 was impressive, other non-border counties, such as Douglas (from \$109 to \$1,135) and

Leavenworth (from \$107 to \$1,724) also experienced significant increases.

Irrigation in western Kansas and mineral resources in various areas have had varying effects on county land values. Haskell County, which is highly irrigated, increased in value from $\$ 18$ per acre in 1940 to $\$ 828$ in 1997. Wichita County values increased from $\$ 9$ in 1940 to $\$ 525$ in 1997, while Thomas County values rose from \$15 in 1940 to \$565 in 1997.

Table 3 provides the changes in land values occurring in the nine Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service districts. District land values in Table 3 were derived by grouping the counties into the nine districts and weighting the county land values by the number of acres in farms for each county as reported in the Census of Agriculture. As expected, counties encompassing Kansas City and Topeka have traditionally been the leaders in land values. The East Central (Kansas City area) and South Central (Wichita area) districts have rotated ranking second and third, until after 1987, when East Central land values began increasing much more sharply. District values follow the same trends as the county values. Value increases were more gradual in the western than in the eastern districts. By 1997, values per acre in the upper eastern districts were more than \$200 higher than in the western districts. Nominal growth rates for the entire state have a volatile history (Figure 4). Except for brief periods between 1959 and 1969, and 1992 and 1997, each census marked a dramatic shift in growth rates, especially in the western districts.

## Conclusion

Urban influences have been a driving force of farmland values in Kansas as evidenced by the growth in eastern and south central area values. Changes in production practices and production potential have contributed to the volatility in western Kansas land values. Through 1974, the "catching up" of land prices and area development were key factors affecting the increases in southeastern Kansas (Pine). Competition for agricultural land, from urban development speculators to larger farming operations, has increased values throughout the state.

Figure 5 illustrates that statewide nominal land values have increased more than tenfold. However, real land values from 1930 to 1997 have increased only 8 percent. This statement means that when the effect of inflation is removed, Kansas agricultural land values grew at a rate of only 0.12 percent between 1930 and 1997. On the other hand, from a starting reference point of 1945, annual real growth was slightly more than 2 percent. Future trends in land values are dependent on several factors. In 1974, Pine surmised that the general inflation rate and the cost of energy would quite likely be major factors influencing land values. These are likely significant factors today. In addition, both internal factors (prices, yields and costs of inputs) affecting land owners' incomes and external factors (national economic events, farm policy, tax policy, consumer buying power, and consumer preferences) will continue to play vital roles in establishing land values. Through the last 125 years, observed Kansas land values have experienced an increasing trend. Although individual years will vary due to changes in relevant factors, expectations are for this trend to continue.

## References

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Table 1. Yields and Prices of Wheat and Corn, Inventory Value of Cattle, and Land Values in Kansas, 1870-1997

|  | Wheat |  | Corn |  | Cattle | Land |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Yield (bu/acre) | Price <br> (\$/bu) | Yield (bu/acre) | Price (\$/bu) | \$/Head | Values (\$/acre) |
| 1870 | 15.5 | 1.07 | 31.3 | 0.48 | 19 | 13 |
| 1880 | 14.1 | 0.86 | 29.7 | 0.29 | 20 | 11 |
| 1890 | 14.1 | 0.69 | 28.6 | 0.30 | 24 | 19 |
| 1900 | 13.3 | 0.57 | 21.2 | 0.30 | 20 | 15 |
| 1910 | 14.0 | 0.71 | 22.4 | 0.43 | 23 | 40 |
| 1920 | 13.2 | 1.29 | 15.5 | 0.94 | 42 | 62 |
| 1925 | 13.4 | 1.16 | 22.5 | 0.65 | 34 | 50 |
| 1930 | 12.8 | 1.18 | 19.9 | 0.72 | 39 | 49 |
| 1935 | 12.6 | 0.57 | 13.3 | 0.50 | 28 | 31 |
| 1940 | 11.1 | 0.83 | 12.9 | 0.71 | 29 | 30 |
| 1945 | 15.8 | 1.09 | 23.6 | 0.87 | 51 | 41 |
| 1950 | 15.9 | 1.90 | 24.7 | 1.49 | 92 | 66 |
| 1954 | 15.7 | 2.12 | 25.5 | 1.53 | 129 | 80 |
| 1959 | 19.7 | 1.92 | 32.6 | 1.19 | 104 | 100 |
| 1964 | 24.4 | 1.76 | 47.1 | 1.09 | 127 | 122 |
| 1969 | 24.0 | 1.35 | 68.4 | 1.14 | 130 | 159 |
| 1974 | 33.1 | 2.37 | 87.8 | 1.87 | 221 | 301 |
| 1978 | 28.8 | 3.03 | 89.3 | 2.41 | 208 | 501 |
| 1982 | 32.0 | 3.54 | 109.8 | 2.69 | 361 | 601 |
| 1987 | 37.2 | 3.09 | 119.6 | 2.55 | 353 | 413 |
| 1992 | 33.6 | 3.01 | 125.0 | 2.28 | 537 | 463 |
| 1997 | 32.4 | 3.73 | 137.8 | 2.63 | 566 | 577 |

Yields and values for each census year are averages for years since the preceding census. Cattle inventory value is the January 1 inventory value.
Sources: Kansas State Board of Agriculture: 58th Annual Report, 1975; Price Patterns 1957, Kansas Farm Facts, 1998.
Table 2. Average Dollar Value per Acre for Farmland and Improvements in Kansas by County, by Census Year 1870-1997

| County | 1870 | 80 | 90 | 1900 | 10 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 45 | 50 | 54 | 59 | 64 | 69 | 74 | 78 | 82 | 87 | 92 | 97 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Allen | 20 | 12 | 20 | 21 | 49 | 71 | 58 | 47 | 34 | 29 | 40 | 63 | 73 | 100 | 118 | 179 | 315 | 541 | 613 | 445 | 414 | 698 |
| Anderson | 12 | 14 | 21 | 28 | 42 | 68 | 50 | 45 | 30 | 24 | 34 | 50 | 65 | 91 | 115 | 188 | 337 | 475 | 593 | 352 | 460 | 558 |
| Atchison | 21 | 23 | 37 | 39 | 80 | 142 | 109 | 87 | 48 | 48 | 59 | 87 | 87 | 118 | 145 | 219 | 366 | 724 | 768 | 564 | 611 | 932 |
| Barber |  | 4 | 12 | 5 | 23 | 37 | 28 | 28 | 20 | 23 | 30 | 44 | 62 | 79 | 103 | 120 | 257 | 399 | 522 | 298 | 330 | 353 |
| Barton |  | 8 | 14 | 15 | 57 | 77 | 71 | 75 | 47 | 52 | 77 | 111 | 128 | 146 | 165 | 179 | 298 | 557 | 729 | 451 | 514 | 573 |
| Bourbon | 19 | 14 | 21 | 19 | 37 | 69 | 50 | 37 | 26 | 23 | 31 | 46 | 56 | 72 | 90 | 155 | 310 | 444 | 541 | 393 | 368 | 493 |
| Brown | 19 | 20 | 37 | 47 | 97 | 202 | 144 | 116 | 75 | 64 | 85 | 130 | 143 | 162 | 194 | 265 | 460 | 785 | 1065 | 654 | 693 | 961 |
| Butler | 8 | 12 | 18 | 15 | 40 | 59 | 47 | 45 | 26 | 33 | 41 | 66 | 87 | 109 | 133 | 178 | 346 | 545 | 629 | 497 | 533 | 715 |
| Chase | 17 | 15 | 16 | 13 | 29 | 66 | 46 | 44 | 25 | 26 | 35 | 53 | 68 | 84 | 104 | 118 | 225 | 398 | 404 | 288 | 406 | 490 |
| Chautauqua |  | 8 | 13 | 10 | 21 | 36 | 29 | 26 | 14 | 17 | 20 | 34 | 44 | 61 | 85 | 111 | 270 | 355 | 458 | 239 | 289 | 414 |
| Cherokee | 9 | 10 | 22 | 22 | 38 | 71 | 54 | 42 | 24 | 25 | 34 | 52 | 70 | 106 | 135 | 181 | 359 | 588 | 666 | 541 | 528 | 752 |
| Cheyenne |  | 2 | 7 | 3 | 14 | 37 | 29 | 26 | 16 | 17 | 31 | 49 | 57 | 78 | 89 | 108 | 217 | 333 | 442 | 311 | 370 | 473 |
| Clark |  | 3 | 8 | 2 | 16 | 28 | 22 | 23 | 18 | 14 | 21 | 42 | 53 | 61 | 77 | 94 | 138 | 303 | 360 | 242 | 248 | 499 |
| Clay | 8 | 10 | 22 | 20 | 57 | 86 | 69 | 60 | 42 | 41 | 48 | 73 | 90 | 108 | 140 | 170 | 287 | 556 | 568 | 426 | 479 | 608 |
| Cloud | 6 | 10 | 19 | 18 | 57 | 79 | 62 | 60 | 39 | 38 | 50 | 69 | 80 | 100 | 122 | 167 | 280 | 536 | 635 | 407 | 516 | 570 |
| Coffey | 18 | 15 | 22 | 20 | 42 | 70 | 67 | 48 | 30 | 29 | 35 | 55 | 67 | 104 | 109 | 155 | 288 | 468 | 548 | 357 | 440 | 610 |
| Comanche |  | 3 | 8 | 3 | 16 | 38 | 24 | 29 | 19 | 18 | 26 | 49 | 59 | 69 | 82 | 121 | 171 | 276 | 362 | 266 | 258 | 390 |
| Cowley | 4 | 10 | 21 | 17 | 38 | 70 | 54 | 50 | 31 | 35 | 38 | 65 | 92 | 125 | 134 | 192 | 345 | 484 | 551 | 385 | 493 | 540 |
| Crawford | 11 | 12 | 27 | 25 | 48 | 69 | 51 | 43 | 28 | 25 | 35 | 53 | 62 | 76 | 115 | 165 | 334 | 577 | 748 | 436 | 507 | 638 |
| Decatur |  | 3 | 8 | 7 | 22 | 34 | 32 | 32 | 22 | 16 | 27 | 42 | 63 | 75 | 88 | 104 | 227 | 362 | 500 | 292 | 370 | 434 |
| Dickinson | 11 | 14 | 26 | 20 | 60 | 111 | 79 | 82 | 51 | 51 | 63 | 96 | 100 | 122 | 140 | 177 | 284 | 521 | 645 | 446 | 474 | 638 |
| Doniphan | 26 | 20 | 31 | 43 | 81 | 162 | 119 | 104 | 66 | 56 | 67 | 91 | 104 | 140 | 154 | 244 | 439 | 788 | 1007 | 741 | 748 | 1161 |
| Douglas | 31 | 23 | 33 | 33 | 57 | 109 | 88 | 77 | 50 | 48 | 58 | 82 | 104 | 145 | 185 | 295 | 499 | 707 | 944 | 827 | 907 | 1135 |
| Edwards |  | 5 | 10 | 6 | 42 | 57 | 52 | 53 | 35 | 33 | 52 | 79 | 92 | 103 | 124 | 150 | 315 | 646 | 609 | 423 | 503 | 495 |
| Elk |  | 8 | 15 | 12 | 29 | 46 | 39 | 33 | 17 | 18 | 25 | 42 | 57 | 71 | 82 | 126 | 233 | 345 | 429 | 277 | 319 | 428 |


| Ellis |  | 6 | 10 | 10 | 28 | 41 | 40 | 40 | 24 | 24 | 35 | 58 | 74 | 100 | 101 | 116 | 218 | 366 | 610 | 381 | 380 | 403 |
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| Ellsworth | 6 | 8 | 16 | 19 | 41 | 62 | 54 | 54 | 35 | 36 | 50 | 63 | 84 | 84 | 116 | 128 | 232 | 393 | 492 | 338 | 367 | 432 |
| Finney |  |  | 9 | 3 | 20 | 22 | 23 | 27 | 20 | 14 | 24 | 60 | 71 | 92 | 118 | 173 | 324 | 625 | 690 | 499 | 538 | 588 |
| Ford |  | 5 | 10 | 3 | 30 | 46 | 38 | 47 | 32 | 26 | 41 | 80 | 86 | 107 | 125 | 154 | 261 | 481 | 528 | 429 | 426 | 508 |
| Franklin | 21 | 17 | 25 | 27 | 52 | 86 | 73 | 63 | 39 | 36 | 46 | 62 | 81 | 119 | 139 | 214 | 405 | 706 | 727 | 565 | 726 | 975 |
| Geary |  |  | 19 | 18 | 37 | 69 | 62 | 59 | 40 | 35 | 42 | 56 | 85 | 114 | 131 | 167 | 266 | 456 | 518 | 429 | 555 | 517 |
| Gove |  | 2 | 6 | 4 | 17 | 21 | 23 | 24 | 17 | 13 | 23 | 43 | 53 | 67 | 88 | 96 | 214 | 357 | 462 | 297 | 359 | 477 |
| Graham |  | 2 | 8 | 6 | 22 | 29 | 27 | 24 | 16 | 13 | 21 | 34 | 46 | 62 | 82 | 95 | 207 | 345 | 397 | 317 | 318 | 333 |
| Grant |  |  | 6 | 3 | 9 | 17 | 22 | 35 | 22 | 16 | 28 | 65 | 78 | 96 | 127 | 165 | 361 | 580 | 777 | 513 | 504 | 660 |
| Gray |  |  | 6 | 5 | 17 | 28 | 25 | 38 | 24 | 20 | 34 | 68 | 77 | 91 | 108 | 161 | 370 | 624 | 682 | 518 | 502 | 663 |
| Greeley |  |  | 5 | 3 | , | 16 | 20 | 17 | 11 | 7 | 13 | 49 | 59 | 67 | 103 | 110 | 238 | 370 | 482 | 419 | 419 | 444 |
| Greenwood | 13 | 8 | 17 | 14 | 31 | 52 | 41 | 40 | 21 | 22 | 27 | 46 | 62 | 72 | 92 | 121 | 235 | 373 | 423 | 320 | 338 | 475 |
| Hamilton |  |  | 6 | 5 | 15 | 13 | 17 | 18 | 10 | 7 | 14 | 43 | 43 | 59 | 74 | 98 | 175 | 277 | 394 | 306 | 292 | 353 |
| Harper |  | 5 | 16 | 10 | 43 | 66 | 47 | 52 | 35 | 41 | 55 | 86 | 109 | 136 | 168 | 219 | 436 | 601 | 789 | 425 | 501 | 494 |
| Harvey |  | 12 | 26 | 23 | 71 | 102 | 84 | 84 | 57 | 70 | 87 | 124 | 155 | 177 | 214 | 290 | 515 | 831 | 1005 | 658 | 695 | 1001 |
| Haskell |  |  | 5 | 3 | 11 | 21 | 20 | 38 | 23 | 18 | 37 | 86 | 100 | 116 | 151 | 203 | 471 | 753 | 872 | 654 | 694 | 828 |
| Hodgeman |  | 3 | 7 | 3 | 19 | 28 | 25 | 31 | 18 | 15 | 31 | 59 | 59 | 78 | 102 | 122 | 211 | 370 | 474 | 312 | 304 | 423 |
| Jackson | 20 | 17 | 26 | 29 | 60 | 98 | 75 | 66 | 41 | 33 | 39 | 58 | 66 | 83 | 108 | 170 | 293 | 583 | 599 | 427 | 518 | 660 |
| Jefferson | 22 | 20 | 27 | 30 | 64 | 107 | 80 | 68 | 46 | 40 | 48 | 82 | 89 | 111 | 170 | 242 | 420 | 740 | 863 | 619 | 773 | 844 |
| Jewell | 2 | 8 | 17 | 18 | 54 | 72 | 57 | 52 | 33 | 26 | 36 | 54 | 64 | 72 | 105 | 141 | 257 | 451 | 534 | 389 | 425 | 541 |
| Johnson | 23 | 23 | 40 | 46 | 106 | 151 | 149 | 136 | 91 | 75 | 101 | 155 | 180 | 306 | 342 | 590 | 1081 | 1299 | 1761 | 1334 | 1976 | 2349 |
| Kearny |  | 3 | 7 | 5 | 16 | 21 | 19 | 20 | 14 | 11 | 19 | 47 | 51 | 68 | 88 | 98 | 250 | 347 | 419 | 378 | 408 | 468 |
| Kingman |  | 4 | 14 | 10 | 40 | 61 | 40 | 48 | 33 | 40 | 52 | 73 | 97 | 117 | 139 | 185 | 358 | 609 | 690 | 434 | 481 | 532 |
| Kiowa |  |  | 9 | 4 | 31 | 48 | 36 | 39 | 22 | 23 | 34 | 51 | 66 | 86 | 100 | 110 | 210 | 432 | 441 | 340 | 375 | 446 |
| Labette | 9 | 13 | 21 | 20 | 39 | 68 | 47 | 40 | 25 | 28 | 37 | 50 | 69 | 92 | 94 | 89 | 359 | 600 | 613 | 430 | 443 | 628 |
| Lane |  | 2 | 5 | 4 | 15 | 23 | 21 | 25 | 19 | 13 | 28 | 63 | 74 | 80 | 103 | 133 | 208 | 377 | 489 | 371 | 352 | 410 |
| Leavenworth | 29 | 21 | 33 | 37 | 60 | 107 | 87 | 76 | 45 | 51 | 52 | 81 | 92 | 135 | 177 | 288 | 538 | 880 | 1063 | 939 | 945 | 1724 |
| Lincoln | 5 | 8 | 13 | 12 | 39 | 62 | 51 | 51 | 30 | 27 | 40 | 62 | 72 | 84 | 113 | 130 | 244 | 422 | 467 | 326 | 411 | 514 |
| Linn | 17 | 12 | 21 | 20 | 36 | 65 | 45 | 41 | 27 | 23 | 30 | 47 | 60 | 80 | 102 | 184 | 302 | 524 | 561 | 407 | 493 | 669 |
| Logan |  |  | 7 | 3 | 13 | 15 | 18 | 16 | 12 | 7 | 13 | 37 | 46 | 55 | 77 | 85 | 175 | 324 | 438 | 243 | 311 | 341 |


| County | 1870 | 80 | 90 | 1900 | 10 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 45 | 50 | 54 | 59 | 64 | 69 | 74 | 78 | 82 | 87 | 92 | 97 |
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| Lyon | 23 | 17 | 21 | 20 | 42 | 80 | 63 | 57 | 34 | 33 | 39 | 69 | 75 | 104 | 121 | 166 | 286 | 456 | 554 | 320 | 427 | 573 |
| McPherson | 6 | 11 | 21 | 21 | 61 | 109 | 80 | 83 | 53 | 64 | 81 | 125 | 137 | 172 | 173 | 245 | 472 | 737 | 834 | 562 | 722 | 847 |
| Marion | 13 | 14 | 22 | 18 | 56 | 95 | 72 | 75 | 42 | 46 | 55 | 77 | 99 | 120 | 149 | 192 | 334 | 572 | 628 | 436 | 484 | 717 |
| Marshal | 10 | 14 | 23 | 28 | 69 | 111 | 84 | 80 | 52 | 43 | 55 | 74 | 82 | 109 | 116 | 178 | 325 | 604 | 683 | 451 | 591 | 718 |
| Meade |  | 2 | 6 | 3 | 20 | 27 | 23 | 33 | 19 | 19 | 29 | 65 | 62 | 78 | 97 | 125 | 232 | 433 | 509 | 412 | 390 | 470 |
| Miami | 21 | 17 | 28 | 28 | 51 | 88 | 69 | 57 | 39 | 31 | 45 | 61 | 86 | 117 | 157 | 268 | 540 | 800 | 916 | 854 | 952 | 1440 |
| Mitchell | 3 | 9 | 17 | 16 | 49 | 71 | 60 | 55 | 36 | 33 | 48 | 74 | 85 | 108 | 140 | 166 | 301 | 605 | 650 | 445 | 498 | 598 |
| Montgomery | 5 | 12 | 21 | 20 | 39 | 64 | 49 | 42 | 28 | 31 | 39 | 57 | 78 | 102 | 123 | 180 | 353 | 550 | 741 | 470 | 487 | 627 |
| Morris | 1 | 11 | 20 | 16 | 44 | 78 | 62 | 54 | 32 | 33 | 38 | 82 | 72 | 97 | 115 | 147 | 260 | 358 | 467 | 336 | 443 | 516 |
| Morton |  |  | 5 | 3 | 7 | 19 | 16 | 22 | 14 | 8 | 18 | 49 | 65 | 89 | 92 | 101 | 201 | 290 | 312 | 280 | 331 | 374 |
| Nemaha | 12 | 15 | 27 | 33 | 74 | 130 | 85 | 84 | 57 | 46 | 62 | 83 | 88 | 116 | 126 | 209 | 324 | 634 | 731 | 442 | 612 | 738 |
| Neosho | 11 | 11 | 20 | 20 | 41 | 68 | 49 | 43 | 26 | 29 | 33 | 55 | 64 | 96 | 126 | 191 | 337 | 505 | 702 | 380 | 453 | 536 |
| Ness |  | 2 | 7 |  | 18 | 31 | 30 | 34 | 21 | 17 | 32 | 64 | 65 | 77 | 95 | 106 | 256 | 363 | 419 | 257 | 300 | 334 |
| Norton |  | 3 | 10 | 8 | 27 | 40 | 35 | 33 | 20 | 17 | 22 | 38 | 47 | 61 | 80 | 97 | 203 | 321 | 467 | 322 | 365 | 432 |
| Osage | 12 | 15 | 23 | 22 | 43 | 74 | 58 | 58 | 35 | 31 | 37 | 60 | 69 | 99 | 109 | 167 | 319 | 460 | 610 | 399 | 518 | 615 |
| Osborne | 2 | 6 | 11 | 10 | 34 | 51 | 46 | 38 | 23 | 21 | 34 | 47 | 62 | 69 | 98 | 124 | 214 | 406 | 480 | 309 | 317 | 372 |
| Ottawa | 7 | 10 | 18 | 16 | 43 | 71 | 56 | 49 | 32 | 37 | 47 | 71 | 88 | 113 | 133 | 162 | 283 | 505 | 608 | 392 | 476 | 514 |
| Pawnee |  | 6 | 12 | 8 | 49 | 69 | 56 | 56 | 39 | 40 | 60 | 97 | 115 | 129 | 144 | 174 | 305 | 563 | 661 | 423 | 434 | 533 |
| Phillips |  | 5 | 11 | 11 | 33 | 48 | 40 | 35 | 24 | 18 | 28 | 38 | 49 | 56 | 78 | 117 | 200 | 330 | 502 | 321 | 339 | 422 |
| Pottawatomie | 18 | 14 | 19 | 24 | 45 | 74 | 60 | 58 | 36 | 32 | 40 | 58 | 79 | 101 | 114 | 150 | 276 | 489 | 573 | 374 | 439 | 686 |
| Pratt |  | 4 | 11 | 6 | 44 | 73 | 51 | 58 | 37 | 43 | 62 | 87 | 117 | 128 | 133 | 157 | 313 | 561 | 582 | 466 | 490 | 541 |
| Rawlins |  | 2 | 7 | 4 | 17 | 33 | 30 | 31 | 19 | 19 | 25 | 51 | 63 | 77 | 99 | 100 | 206 | 369 | 488 | 272 | 305 | 383 |
| Reno |  | 8 | 19 | 16 | 59 | 89 | 68 | 74 | 49 | 62 | 74 | 112 | 149 | 154 | 99 | 94 | 395 | 677 | 868 | 565 | 664 | 728 |
| Republic | 5 | 9 | 22 | 23 | 69 | 95 | 80 | 76 | 45 | 38 | 47 | 79 | 85 | 101 | 132 | 199 | 331 | 640 | 778 | 482 | 565 | 669 |
| Rice | 3 | 10 | 20 | 19 | 58 | 90 | 71 | 72 | 47 | 54 | 76 | 96 | 130 | 143 | 162 | 184 | 351 | 588 | 663 | 448 | 505 | 566 |


| Riley | 18 | 12 | 20 | 20 | 47 | 79 | 69 | 71 | 40 | 39 | 52 | 79 | 81 | 122 | 143 | 184 | 323 | 550 | 622 | 448 | 508 | 673 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Rooks |  | 4 | 9 | 7 | 32 | 44 | 36 | 29 | 19 | 18 | 28 | 49 | 55 | 68 | 85 | 105 | 203 | 308 | 460 | 310 | 315 | 338 |
| Rush |  | 4 | 9 | 9 | 37 | 51 | 49 | 52 | 38 | 33 | 45 | 77 | 98 | 102 | 125 | 135 | 262 | 443 | 558 | 322 | 363 | 421 |
| Russell |  | 7 | 11 | 11 | 35 | 47 | 40 | 40 | 27 | 27 | 41 | 60 | 74 | 83 | 101 | 117 | 211 | 360 | 518 | 280 | 324 | 359 |
| Saline | 10 | 15 | 24 | 19 | 51 | 99 | 77 | 70 | 44 | 47 | 75 | 104 | 112 | 137 | 163 | 181 | 304 | 569 | 683 | 471 | 556 | 730 |
| Scott |  |  | 4 | 3 | 16 | 21 | 23 | 21 | 15 | 13 | 24 | 65 | 77 | 88 | 147 | 161 | 308 | 466 | 524 | 373 | 412 | 510 |
| Sedgwick | 7 | 13 | 29 | 25 | 76 | 111 | 92 | 102 | 64 | 71 | 90 | 139 | 185 | 211 | 247 | 330 | 569 | 969 | 1244 | 861 | 882 | 1329 |
| Seward |  |  | 7 | 2 | 14 | 24 | 24 | 30 | 19 | 14 | 29 | 56 | 58 | 77 | 101 | 148 | 385 | 507 | 615 | 461 | 503 | 596 |
| Shawnee | 36 | 26 | 43 | 34 | 69 | 122 | 98 | 92 | 67 | 60 | 69 | 91 | 118 | 169 | 197 | 277 | 442 | 794 | 957 | 804 | 878 | 1084 |
| Sheridan |  | 2 | 6 | 5 | 21 | 30 | 30 | 29 | 20 | 15 | 26 | 50 | 61 | 78 | 103 | 126 | 265 | 411 | 579 | 370 | 451 | 510 |
| Sherman |  |  | 6 | 3 | 13 | 27 | 29 | 23 | 15 | 11 | 23 | 39 | 67 | 77 | 111 | 144 | 339 | 377 | 574 | 360 | 441 | 493 |
| Smith | 4 | 6 | 13 | 12 | 41 | 67 | 49 | 45 | 30 | 18 | 31 | 36 | 57 | 76 | 90 | 124 | 290 | 423 | 497 | 347 | 399 | 575 |
| Stafford |  | 4 | 10 | 10 | 51 | 79 | 61 | 64 | 46 | 46 | 69 | 89 | 106 | 119 | 136 | 182 | 318 | 566 | 666 | 492 | 472 | 545 |
| Stanton |  |  | 5 | 4 | 8 | 20 | 16 | 23 | 15 | 8 | 24 | 61 | 56 | 92 | 108 | 132 | 305 | 486 | 500 | 409 | 464 | 624 |
| Stevens |  |  | 5 | 3 | 11 | 30 | 25 | 30 | 22 | 14 | 24 | 64 | 71 | 94 | 107 | 164 | 341 | 470 | 576 | 438 | 419 | 525 |
| Sumner |  | 9 | 21 | 18 | 50 | 85 | 62 | 63 | 43 | 47 | 61 | 88 | 123 | 161 | 191 | 242 | 489 | 740 | 881 | 535 | 540 | 603 |
| Thomas |  | 2 | 6 | 4 | 19 | 30 | 27 | 29 | 20 | 15 | 25 | 59 | 72 | 83 | 98 | 129 | 316 | 465 | 635 | 396 | 474 | 595 |
| Trego |  | 4 | 7 | 6 | 21 | 30 | 28 | 31 | 21 | 16 | 29 | 50 | 62 | 65 | 96 | 98 | 216 | 339 | 408 | 256 | 357 | 450 |
| Wabaunsee | 11 | 10 | 19 | 17 | 38 | 63 | 56 | 51 | 30 | 26 | 36 | 52 | 70 | 83 | 98 | 138 | 257 | 428 | 473 | 385 | 380 | 497 |
| Wallace |  | 3 | 6 | 3 | 11 | 18 | 18 | 16 | 8 | 6 | 11 | 31 | 38 | 45 | 73 | 94 | 190 | 315 | 462 | 351 | 369 | 376 |
| Washington | 9 | 11 | 21 | 24 | 58 | 84 | 66 | 63 | 41 | 38 | 45 | 62 | 75 | 97 | 116 | 162 | 346 | 575 | 635 | 406 | 533 | 683 |
| Wichita |  |  | 4 | 3 | 11 | 16 | 16 | 18 | 11 | 9 | 21 | 62 | 73 | 105 | 139 | 162 | 326 | 487 | 527 | 373 | 461 | 525 |
| Wilson | 11 | 12 | 20 | 17 | 35 | 62 | 45 | 40 | 23 | 26 | 33 | 49 | 73 | 96 | 114 | 160 | 304 | 460 | 587 | 365 | 456 | 534 |
| Woodson | 12 | 12 | 16 | 17 | 34 | 57 | 47 | 36 | 23 | 21 | 27 | 44 | 64 | 77 | 102 | 154 | 261 | 404 | 517 | 309 | 382 | 460 |
| Wyandotte | 31 | 39 | 118 | 106 | 193 | 210 | 255 | 254 | 141 | 197 | 164 | 280 | 330 | 509 | 438 | 702 | 1194 | 1690 | 1652 | 1609 | 2115 | 2200 |

[^0] Washington Press Seattle, 1965. 1964-1997 are taken from the Census of Agriculture.
Table 3. Value per Acre of Farmland and Improvements in Kansas for Census Years 1880 to 1997,











District values derived using county values weighted by the number of acres in farms.

Figure 1. Kansas Farm Land Values, Wheat and Corn Prices, and Cattle Inventory Values, 1870-1997


Figure 2. Kansas Wheat and Corn Yields, 1870-1997


Figure 3. Kansas Agricultural Statistics Crop Reporting Districts

Figure 4. Nominal Growth Rates in Kansas Land Values by Crop Reporting District by Census Period
(1)
25.0
20.0
15.0
10.0
5.0
0.0
-5.0
-10.0
Figure 5. Nominal vs. Real Land Values in Kansas, 1930-1997


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[^0]:    Sources: 1870-1959 are from Pressly and Scofield, Farm Real Estate Values in the United States by Counties 1850-1959, University of

