

An Action Framework to Building Local and Flexible Solutions for Profitable Agriculture on the Ogallala

The Ogallala Aquifer has

# A Limited Lifespan If the current decline rate continues

#### **Guiding Principles**



Local **Flexible Solutions** 



**Focus** on Water **Users** 

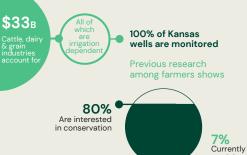


**Meet Them** Where **They Are** 



Measurable **Objectives** 





### Key **Findings**

Aquifer levels still in decline

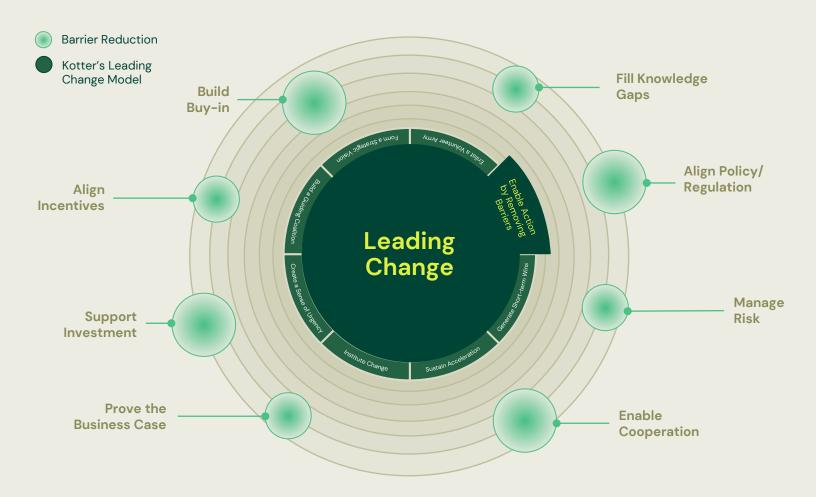
Decades of work, progress, barriers still exist



The Ogallala Aquifer is not one thing

Social business network matters Aversion to government intervention

Farmers & ranchers are not a uniform group



## **Objective-Action** Framework

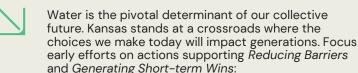
The guiding coalition (K-State, KWO, KLA) along with state and federal government bodies, university and research partners, and farmer-member organizations, play a pivotal role in this effort. Their objectives and actions, while tied closely to the objectives of water users (farmers and stock water users) and value chain participants, must be achieved first to address the 8 key barriers identified. Together, these efforts form an integrated and collaborative strategy.



Ensure the long-term agricultural production viability of the Ogallala aquifer



Q-Stable indicates stable Ogallala Aquifer



Initiate policy actions quickly to account for bureaucratic and political frictions.

Customize the objectives, success metrics, and actions for identified actors to fit their specific operations and business needs.

Assign actions to specific organizations for individual ownership.

State & Federal Government

Actor

University & Research

Policies support beneficial water use and conservation

Create Tax / Incentivizing participation within

Address the Use of water on failed crops

Objective

Provide actionable research that supports water conservation

**Guiding Coalition** 

Maintain positive momentum across all stakeholders

Sessions

Convene Local With producers

Share Business case success stories

By the 2027 Ogallala Aquifer Summit,

participants within a cooperative water monitoring and conservation agreement

25% of agricultural water users are

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Non-beneficial

Action

Metric

Connect with **Producers** 

To understand their challenges & information needs

Field research to the field

Identify Value 🗸 Chain Partners

Interested in supporting/ funding the research



# of producers participating in research studies addressing water challenges Farmer-member Organizations

Provide easy-to-access resources for producers and feeders looking for water conservation information

Publish, and Advertise a Database of Resources

**Curate**, On water conservation such as case studies, economic reports, research, and cost shares/ government programs that support water conservation



% of members participating

Value Chain Participant

Provide products to our customers that support water conservation

Leverage **Cost Share** 

Or other government programs to support the purchase of water saving products and technology



**Crop Producer** 

a cooperative water monitoring & conservation agreement

Raise more feed using less water while increasing profitability

Technology

**Update** For monitoring, precision, remote sensing

Crop Selection

Soil health, feed qualities, water conservation



Reduce water use by % and increase profitability Stock Water User

Increase profitability at our current locations

Reduce/maintain water per head

Assist **Producers** 

Reduced water use through less water intensive forage crops

To participate in and use research



Reduce stock water per head by %

Value Chain Participant

Provide value added products to our customers that promote water conservation

Develop 🗸

A water-friendly credence claim

To participate in and use research



% of products from producers with water conservation agreements



% of market using our water-saving products



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The success metrics are placeholder values that need to be customized for the individual or organization and their unique situation