



What is the Program?

The Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership (KARL) program is a two-year leadership development experience designed to identify, prepare, and connect leaders across Kansas to spark positive change in agriculture and rural communities.

Who Should Apply?

We're looking for individuals with a commitment to Kansas agriculture and rural communities and a track record of leadership in their organizations or communities. Applicants must be Kansas residents for at least one year, U.S. citizens, and able to participate fully in the program (see event dates on the next page).

How Many People are Selected?

Up to 30 individuals will be selected for Class XVIII. The class reflects a cross-section of Kansas, including diversity in profession, geography, and background. Each participant is carefully chosen, and a class is composed of individuals who will learn from each other as well as from the seminar content.

What is the Timeline for Selection?

- ★ Applications for KARL Class XVIII are open Jan. 1 – April 1, 2026.
- ★ Interviews will be held regionally April 27 – May 1, 2026.
- ★ Upon recommendations from regional interview teams comprised of KARL board members, fellows & supporters, Class XVIII will be named and notified in early May 2026, and announced at the "KARL Big Event" on Saturday, June 6 in Manhattan.

Can Family Members Apply?

Yes, but only one family member may be selected per class.

How Do You Apply?

Applications are available at karlprogram.com between January 1 and April 1, 2026. Applicants must also be available for a regional interview from April 27 to May 1, 2026.



What is the Time Commitment?

Participants are expected to attend and actively engage in all sessions, activities and events below:

- ★ Twelve seminars, including nine in-state seminars (three days each, typically noon Wednesday through lunch Friday), one domestic study tour, one Washington DC/Gettysburg experience, and one international study tour.

| Seminar Title | Dates | Location |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Genesis | August 20 – 22, 2026 | Manhattan and Junction City |
| Southwest Kansas | November 4 – 6, 2026 | Garden City area |
| Northwest Kansas | December 2 – 4, 2026 | Goodland & Atwood |
| State of the State | January 20 – 22, 2027 | Topeka |
| Northeast Kansas | February 17 – 19, 2027 | Leavenworth & KC |
| National Service & Leadership | March 21 – 27, 2027 | Washington, D.C. Gettysburg, PA |
| Genesis 2.0 | August 19 – 21, 2027 | Council Grove |
| Domestic Study Tour | November 3 – 5, 2027 | Marysville, KS & Lincoln, NE |
| Southeast Kansas | December 1 – 3, 2027 | Pittsburg area |
| Southcentral Kansas | January 19 – 21, 2028 | Wichita area |
| Northcentral Kansas | February 16 – 18, 2028 | Hays |
| International Study Seminar | 12-14 days in March 2028 | Location TBD |

- ★ Attendance at the “Big Event” in both 2026 and 2028:
 - **Sat. June 6, 2026**, in Manhattan, Graduation of Class XVII and Announcement of Class XVIII
 - **Sat. June 3, 2028**, in Manhattan, Graduation of Class XVIII and Announcement of Class XIX
- ★ Seminar pre-reading will be assigned, including agendas, speaker biographies, and other local resource information to fully prepare for each visit. Other opportunities may be presented online between seminars for additional learning, and recordings will be made available.

What is the Cost?

The cost of participation in the KARL Program is over \$30,000 per associate. Associates receive over \$25,000 in donor support, making the participant’s cost share only \$5,600. The participant’s share is paid in three segments:

- \$500 deposit due after acceptance into the Program with registration (non-refundable)
- \$2,550 due by August 1 of 2026
- \$2,550 due by August 1 of 2027
- Hotel stays are reserved as double occupancy. All seminar-related room, board, flights, and in-program travel are covered. Participants cover their own travel to/from each session and incidental expenses.



Contact us with questions at karl@ksu.edu, or call us at 785-532-6300.

View our Impact Report, associate notes and storytelling videos at: www.karlprogram.com/news-events/