



**Not a member?
JOIN TODAY!**

Why do individuals and businesses join KAAPA?

There are several reasons, however the primary one is KAAPA's support of value-added agriculture along with its goal to enhance the 'bottom line' of its members.

Additionally your benefits are:

- 1. Diversification of assets:** the old saying 'don't put all of your eggs in one basket' certainly has its roots in agriculture and is as true today as it ever was. A key to financial stability is diversification and KAAPA can offer that by providing you the opportunity to invest in various projects and private companies.
- 2. Exposure to private offerings:** the Securities and Exchange Commission restricts public promotion of private offerings, so most people never hear about these types of investment opportunities. You will as a KAAPA member.
- 3. Pool of investors with similar philosophies:** over 90% of KAAPA's members are actively engaged in agriculture...they understand hard work, expect ethical conduct, and a common sense approach...there is a stronger sense of understanding and camaraderie within a group with similar backgrounds.
- 4. Decision making is more closely aligned with the thoughts of the investors:** sharing similar backgrounds and philosophies means the leadership's decision-making is more closely aligned with your expectations.

Officers

Matt Burkholder, Pres	Cozad
Fred Meyer, VP	St. Paul
Milt Dahlgren, Sec-Treas	Kearney

Board Members

Shane Bendfeldt	Gibbon
Craig Bose	Orleans
Mike Boudreau	Minden
Dan Grams	Upland
Verlin Janssen	Gothenburg
Kristen Klein	Cairo
Chad Mercer	Kearney
Terry Rowe	Smithfield
Paul Stieb	Lexington
Mike Wilkens	Gibbon

Staff

Regan Jennings, Executive Director
Pam Martin, Office Manager



KEARNEY AREA AG PRODUCERS ALLIANCE

KAAPA 'family' of businesses:

- KAAPA Cooperative (this lead group)
- KAAPA Ethanol
- KAAPA Grains
- KAAPA Country-Adventures
- KAAPA Investments, LLC

4303 East 39th Street Kearney, NE

By Mail: (308) 234-2712 office
PO BOX 1301 (308) 224-0060 cell
Kearney, NE 68848-1301 regan@kaapa.com



Nebraska's

Members are from throughout

the State & beyond.

**Producer-
Owned**

Over 90% of the membership is

personally involved in agriculture.

**Project
Development**

Creating new businesses, investing in

start-ups & finding partnerships.

Group

Maximizing the collective wisdom

Kearney, Nebraska



KAAPA's mission is to seek and acquire opportunities that can increase the profits and net worth of its members — by providing those members with opportunities to produce, or invest in, value-added agriculture — while offering the consumer quality products or services.

The Kearney Area Ag Producers Alliance (KAAPA Coop), located in central Nebraska, is a farmer-owned, new generation cooperative with approximately 500 members whose agricultural operations encompass nearly one million acres, and of which, nearly three-quarters are qualified investors.

KAAPA has continued to fulfill its mission through several initiatives since its incorporation in 1996.

It's earliest initiative was pursuing the production of quality paper pulp from corn stover. Utilizing this byproduct could provide additional revenue for KAAPA members, as well as decrease the depletion of our nation's forests. Technology has not yet been developed to allow this process to be viable at this time, but the concept remains one of interest.

Perspective on U.S. Agriculture

The continental United States has experienced four visions for agriculture during its history.

The first was held by the native Americans. Their vision was to feed the village — everyone in the village — and to do so in a manner that disturbed nature as little as possible. The second vision for agriculture was the drive to “tame the wilderness” brought to this continent by the Puritans in the early 1600s. The 18th and 19th century vision was one that saw agriculture as a civilizing force. Thomas Jefferson envisioned a democratic republic consisting of thousands of small farm landholders, none beholden to political patronage or economic dependency. The fourth vision, in the 20th century, was that agriculture could produce all of the food and fiber required throughout the world and do so with a dramatically reduced labor force. Thus, “freeing” citizens to engage in industrial and professional pursuits that could dramatically improve our quality of life.

Each of these visions were compelling because they were seen as a public good. Today, agriculture is perceived by many as a public problem more than public good. Agriculture is seen to be the culprit for our polluted groundwater, for the devastated landscapes due to eroding soils, the destruction of rain forests, and for emitting intolerable odors. So, one of the challenges we face today is to develop a vision for agriculture that will enable citizens to perceive it, once again, as a public good. KAAPA supports, and pursues as part of its role, the development of such a vision.

Another initiative, that has been and remains highly successful today, was the construction in 2003 of a \$52 million ethanol plant, KAAPA Ethanol, at Minden, Nebraska. This facility is in full operation and will generate over 50 million gallons of ethanol each year, thereby providing a new and reliable market for corn, as well as improving air quality and diminishing the need for foreign fuels.

KAAPA has also created “investment funds” which



KAAPA's vision is to be a highly successful farmer-based alliance that is recognized throughout the grain belt, and beyond, as being an innovative organization that seeks, creates, and promotes value-added agricultural opportunities, both for its members and for agriculture in general.

allow its members to invest in projects they otherwise would not even be aware of. These funds have invested in a variety of projects; making private investment possible for its members as well as providing diversification and increased potential earnings. These funds have invested in bio-based plastic fillers made from agricultural residues, advanced solar energy technologies, rare earth mineral extraction, a fish and shrimp farm in Texas, and a biomedical research and development company. Currently, several more investment opportunities are under development.

A key benefit to KAAPA's approach:

Sharing ownership of a project with others who have similar philosophies assures that the decision making is more closely aligned with the goals of the investors.