

33rd Annual Konza LTER Annual Meeting

May 27, 2026

Location: Cortelyou Lecture Hall, Konza Prairie Biological Station

Zoom: <https://ksu.zoom.us/j/96094740712>



8:30 – 9:00	Arrival	Continental breakfast provided
9:00 – 9:15		Welcome (Jesse Nippert)
9:15 – 9:30		<i>Managing woody encroachment in prairies: does browsing control expanding clonal shrub populations?</i> (Sophie Wieland, KSU)
9:30 – 9:45		<i>Will "Reversing Drivers" accelerate change following nitrogen cessation?</i> (Rachael Brenneman, UNCG)
9:45 – 10:00		<i>Weighing the pros and cons of patch-burn grazing: responses of communities across trophic groups</i> (Joshua Ajowele, UNCG)
10:00 – 10:15		<i>Who's Afraid of the Big, Bad Predator? Predation Risk and Intermittency</i> (Meredith Bennett, Ohio State / KSU)
10:15 – 10:45		Break
10:45 – 11:00		<i>C₄ photosynthetic subtypes occupy different seasonal optima</i> (Klara Stevermer, KSU)
11:00 – 11:15		<i>The Point of No Return: Fish Resilience in Drying Prairie Streams</i> (Maija Weaver, KSU)
11:15 – 11:30		<i>Variation in Planting-Year Climate Predicts Ecosystem Functioning in Developing Prairie</i> (Lydia Regier, KU)
11:30 – 11:45		<i>Agricultural legacies in prairie plant and soil microbial communities across the Great Plains precipitation gradient</i> (Hannah Dea, KSU)
11:45 – 11:51		<i>Change on the range: Grazing reversals in a changing environment</i> (Rosalie Terry, UNCG)
11:51 – 11:57		<i>Variation in soil CO₂ among woody and grassy soils in a tallgrass prairie</i> (Saranya Puthalath, KSU)
11:57 – 12:03		<i>Woody Encroachment and the Drying of Prairie Streams in the Flint Hills</i> (Torsha Goswami, KSU)
12:03 – 1:15		Lunch

1:15 – 2:15	Poster Session
2:15 – 3:15	Business Meeting (Meghan Avolio and Jesse Nippert)
3:15 – 3:30	Break
3:30 – 4:30	Safety Orientation (John Blair)
4:30 – 5:00	Updates, Q&A, Final Thoughts
5:30	John Blair Retirement Celebration

Posters

1. Chloe Danner, KSU - *It's a pore decision: stomatal traits and drought response in C4 grasses*
2. Marcos Gimenez Diaz, KU - *Variation in Soil Carbon Accumulation Rates in Prairie Sites Restored under Different Climate Conditions*
3. Corina McTigue, KSU - *Grazing Lawns and the Unknown*
4. Matt Nieland, UMass Amherst - *Restoration Chronosequence Experiment: Testing agricultural legacies in soil ecosystems*
5. Lydia Westberg, KU - *Plant community response to water manipulation under propagule addition in a restored grassland*