

## Fort Hays

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**Web Page:** <http://www.wkarc.org/Arch/arch.asp>

**Location within Domain:** Latitude: 38° 51' 29.8759 N, Longitude: 99° 20' 06.9770 W

**History:** The Fort Hays Branch of the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station was authorized by state statute in 1901. It was made possible by a land grant from the U.S. Government consisting of approximately half of the old Fort Hays military reservation. The Center's program is focused geographically on the rain fed agriculture typical of the region, climatically on the 18- to 26-inch precipitation belt, and ecologically on the short- and midgrass prairies.

**Key Characteristics:** Vegetation – Short and mixed-grass prairie. Climate - Annual precipitation is 56 cm, mean annual temperature is 11.5 C, Soils and landforms –Soils are principally derived from sedimentary rocks overlain with wind blown loess. Topography is characteristic of High Plains Section of the Great Plains Physiographic Province. Elevation 616 meters. Administration- Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station, State of Kansas.

**Existing Infrastructure:** A weather station, research labs and field handling facilities for livestock as well as internet access are available on site. The Center also includes a natural area along Big Creek (Big Creek Natural Area), established in 1997 by the Kansas State University Agricultural Research Center—Hays. The goal is to preserve this area as an outdoor laboratory and classroom for future generations. It is the last remnant of a relatively undisturbed riparian system dating back to the old Fort Hays reservation. The Center has a long tradition of allowing educational activities in the area including those sponsored by high school and university science classes.

**Facilities:** The research facility at Hays includes the Center's headquarters consisting of 33 buildings and land that is used for crop and rangeland research. Research land consists of 7810 acres total with 5120 in grazed grassland. A greenhouse complex at HQ makes possible the continuation of studies during winter months. There are 8 research faculty located at Hays. Faculty expertise is complemented by 24 full-time support staff including clerical, maintenance, and crop and livestock technician classifications. There is year round road access and line power available. Fort Hays State University is nearby.

**Elevation:** 605-610 m