

# Historical food crop production in the Kansas River Valley



Near Wathena Kansas

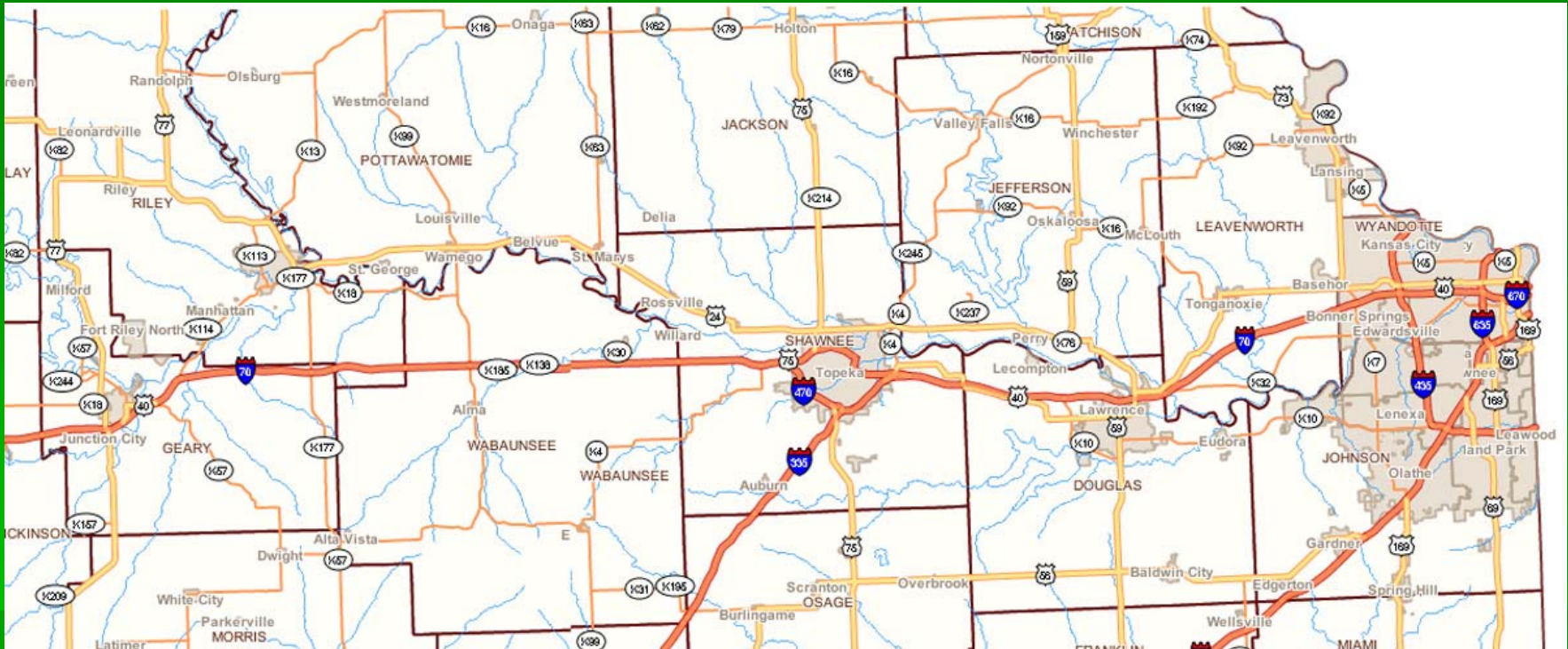
# The Kansas River Valley Survey

# The Kansas River Valley



- Counties include: Geary, Riley, Pottawatomie, Wabaunsee, Jackson, Shawnee, Jefferson, Douglas, Leavenworth and Wyandotte

# Towns along the Kansas River



Junction City, Ogden, Manhattan, St. George, Wamego, Belvue, Topeka, Lecompton, Lawrence, De Soto, Bonnor Springs, Edwardsville, Shawnee, Kaw Point, and Kansas City

The Kansas River is formed by the confluence of the Republican and Smoky Hill rivers near Junction City and empties into the Missouri River at Kaw Point

# Total Crop land available in the Kansas River Valley

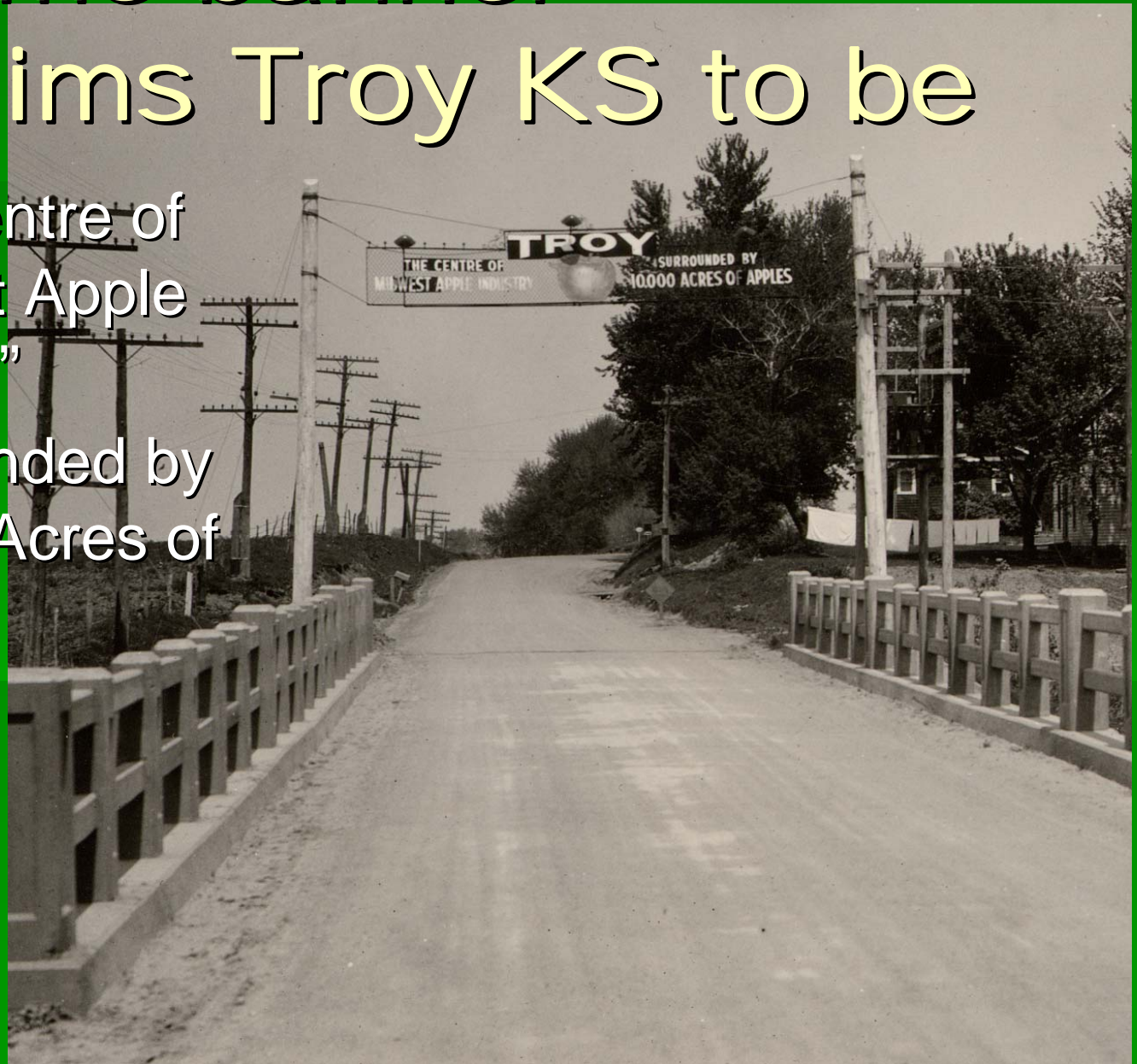
- 1,521,471 acres

2002 census data

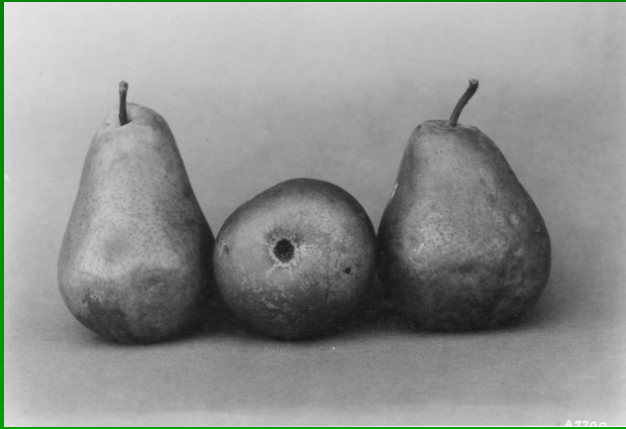
- Year 2000 population  
for the 10 counties in  
Kansas River Valley  
1,081,460

# Welcome banner proclaims Troy KS to be

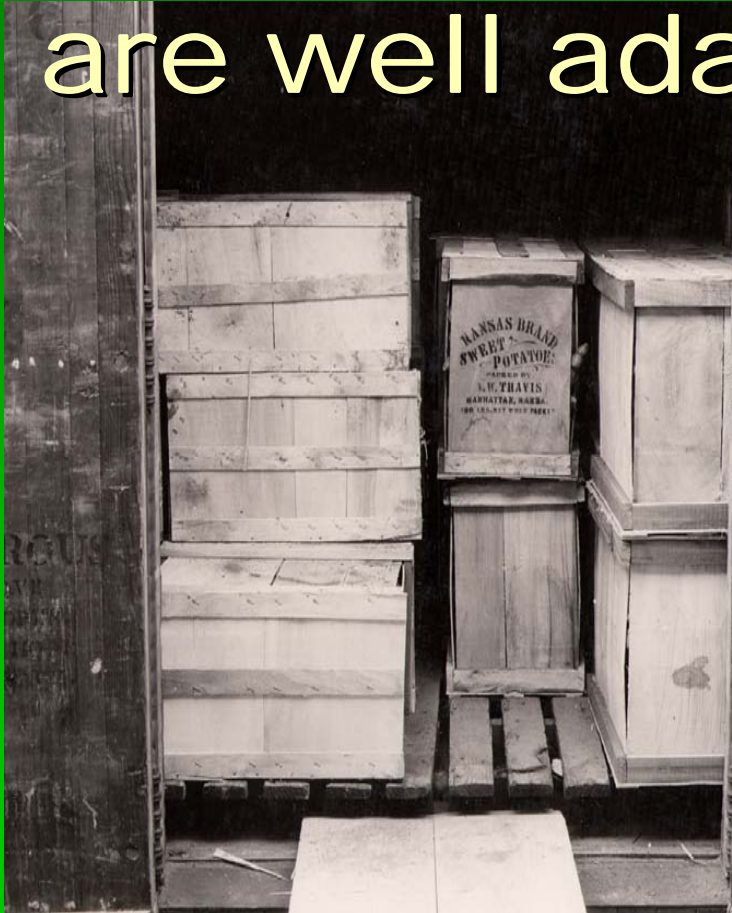
- “The Centre of Midwest Apple Industry”
- “Surrounded by 10,000 Acres of Apples”



# The Kansas River Valley has produced a significant variety of produce



Irish and Sweet Potatoes  
were early introductions and  
are well adapted to the area



# Packing shed located in Manhattan KS near the Union Pacific Tracks

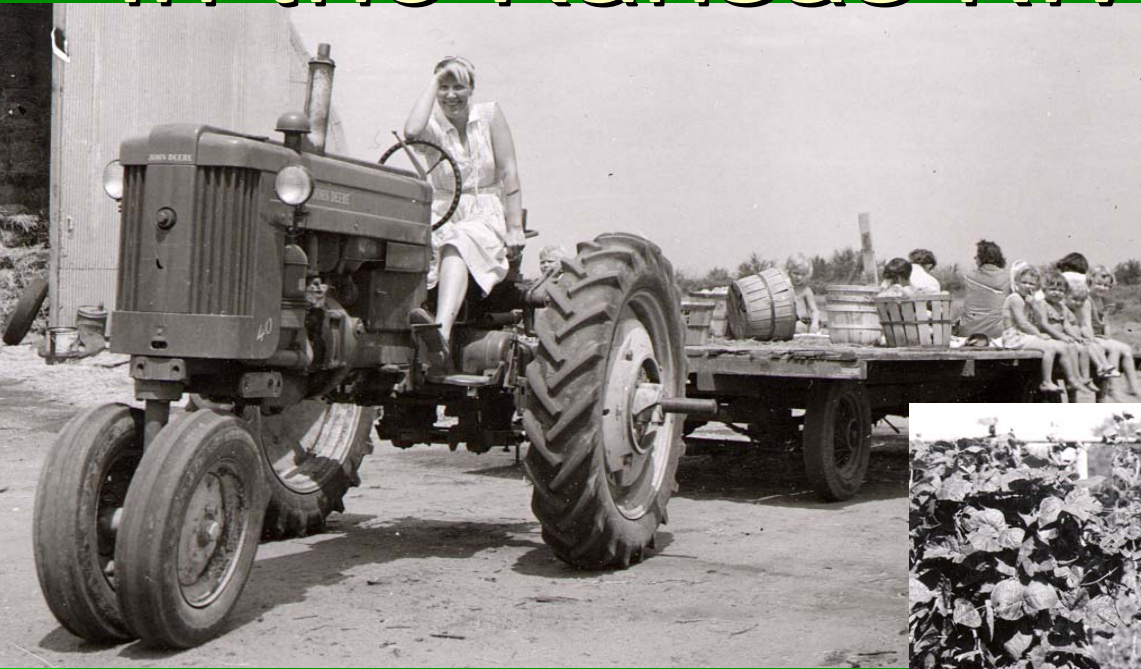




# Early Tomato crop in a cloth house for season extension and pest control



# Vegetable and fruit production was a way of life in the Kansas River Valley



The Kansas River Valley was home to wine and table grape production.



# Grape Harvest

1930's Grape Production

Riley County – 105,993lbs

Shawnee County 381,044lbs



1930's Grape production:

Wyandotte County – 1,399,870lbs

Johnson County – 653,956lbs

# Early Raspberry production in the Kansas River Valley

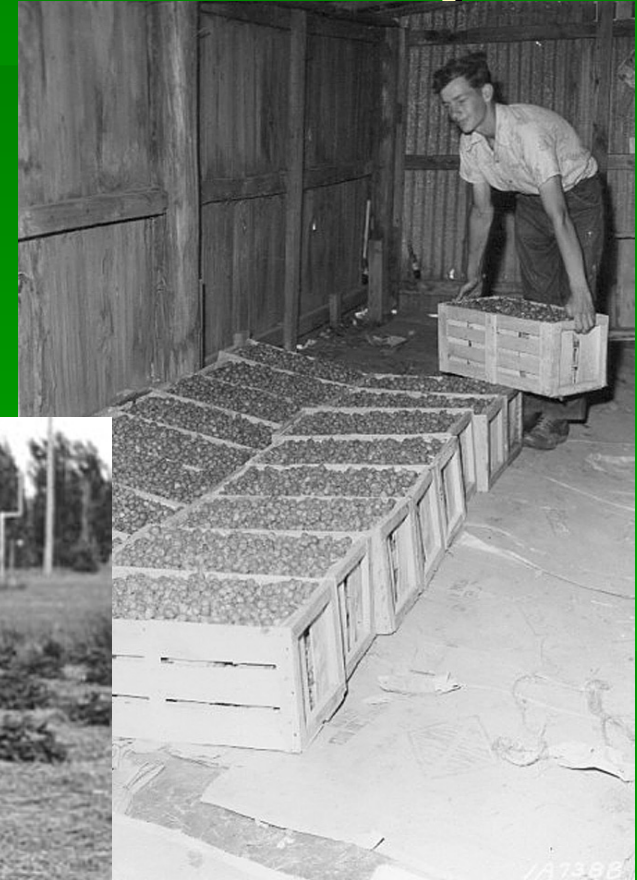


1930 Raspberry Production  
Jefferson County – 13,652qts  
Johnson County – 23,843qts

1920 Raspberry production  
Wyandotte County – 170,323 qts  
Leavenworth County – 60,453 qts



# Strawberry production in the Kansas River Valley



# Renovating a Strawberry bed



Strawberry Production 1930

Shawnee County – 346,390qts

Leavenworth County – 219,051qts

Riley County – 105,993qts

Wabaunsee County – 100,812qts

# Intercropping of fruits

Strawberry - Apple



Strawberry - Peach





# Education and Agro- Tourism tied to horticultural crop production in Kansas



Orchard Tour

# Early environmental impact concerns w/ bank and soil erosion



# Gross Values of Sales in Horticulture in Kansas 2002

- Arborists-----\$47,490,000
- Berries-----\$170,000
- Christmas Trees--\$930,000
- Florists-----\$74,031,000
- Greenhouses---\$66,714,000
- Grapes / Wine---\$510,000
- Lawn Care Firms---\$119,630,000
- Medicinal Plants---\$80,000
- Nurseries-----\$104,232,000
- Nuts-----\$1,420,000
- Sod-----\$7,360,000
- Turf grass (install & maint) \$158,690,000
- Vegetable / Melons---\$3,640,000

# Gross Values of Sales in Horticulture in Kansas 2002

- \$585,857,000

# Current Kansas River Valley survey research

- Identify current growers
- Identify current processors
- Identify water resources
- Identify barriers to production
- Identify current supply and future demand for KRV production
- Identify historical production



# 2002 Census of Agriculture data

6943 Total farms in the  
Kansas River Valley study  
area

109 or 2% of farms were  
growing vegetables for sale

90 Farms had commercial  
orchards

# Plans for the future

- Produce brokerage
- Market development
- Farm to schools programs
- Local value added processing
- Kansas River Valley produce branding
- Agro- tourism development



# Questions

- Special Thanks to :
- Kansas State University Library Special Collections for image usage