## **Waves of change**

The introduction of Turkey red winter wheat in Kansas set off waves of agricultural change still felt today.

First recorded wheat crop grown in Kansas, a **soft spring wheat**, was harvested at the Shawnee Methodist Mission, now Johnson County.



Bluemont Central College becomes **Kansas State Agricultural College.** the first operational land-grant school under the Morrill Act. It will later become Kansas State University. Its Wheat Improvement Program will eventually use Turkey wheat varieties for breeding.

1863

Immigrant Bernard Warkentin will scout land for fellow Mennonites coming to America. He builds a grist mill in Halstead and starts growing Turkey red winter wheat brought with him from Ukraine.



The Baldwin brothers of Nickerson natent their Gleaner selfpropelled combine harvester. Its compact design allowed the combine and header to fit onto the back of a truck, opening up a new era for custom harvesters

1923

Elmer Henry and Karl Miller of Dodge City form the Western Kansas Development **Association** with the Farm and Wheat Division for Kansas wheat growers. In 1951, the division changed its name to the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers In western Kansas, Raymond Garvey harvests a U.S. record of 1 million bushels of wheat.

1947

Kansas Legislature approves the Kansas Wheat Act, establishing the farmer-funded Kansas Wheat Commission. Today, the wheat assessment of 2 cents per bushel funds research, education. marketing and promotion efforts.



American Agriculture Movement organizes the **Tractorcade** on Washington, D.C., protesting crop prices and calling for parity in agriculture. Wheat was selling for \$2.50 to \$3 per bushel.



K-State wheat breeder Rollin Sears releases Jagger, a hard red winter wheat, which became the leading variety in fields across Kansas and in 12 different countries. It can be found in the pedigrees of dozens of wheat varieties released

by breeding programs.

1994

Darwin Ediger of Meade wins the Kansas Wheat Yield Contest with an average yield of 103.18 bushels per acre. In 2016. Kansas marks a record state average of 57 bushels per acre.



2015

2022

On Jan. 29. Kansas becomes the 34th state in the country.



1872

The **Atchison**, **Topeka** and Santa Fe Railroad completes its line through Kansas, opening up the state to more farm settlements and improved commodity shipping to usher in an immigration boom.



Botanist H.F. Roberts releases K-State's first improved variety. Kanred, In 1919, 82% of Kansas wheat acres are planted to Turkey red. It will remain the top variety until 1939. Average wheat yield in the state is 13 bushels per acre.

1917



1933

The first farm bill, the **Agricultural** Act of 1933, is signed into law as part of the New Deal. Its programs reduced commodity surpluses and raised crop prices to reach "parity," or a fair exchange value, for farm products.

In Hutchinson, Farmers Commission Co. builds the half-mile-long **Elevator B.** Once the world's largest elevator, its hexagonal design provides a whopping 18.2 million-bushel capacity ADM now owns it.

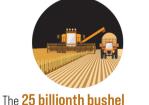
1956

The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, led by agronomist Norman Borlaug. continues the **Green Revolution** he began after World War II. His work in dwarf wheat varieties increased yields and improved rust resistance. Borlaug would receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970



1983

Kansas hits a record average wheat yield of 41.5 bushels per acre.



of Kansas wheat is ceremoniously

cut by Mike Brown on his farm near

Colby. Kansas Wheat estimates

that 25 billion bushels of wheat is

equivalent to 1 trillion commercial

loaves of bread

2013

FDA favorably concludes its evaluation of **Bioceres Crop** Solutions Corp.'s HB4 Wheat. a genetically modified variety that is drought-tolerant. While still not approved by USDA or commercially available in the U.S., it has been approved for production and consumption in Argentina.

SOURCE: KANSAS WHEAT, KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BIOCERES CROP SOLUTIONS, WORLD FOOD PRIZE, CIMMYT, USDA