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# ‘Living with the damage’

## Kansas farmers see decrease in crop exportation from Trump tariffs

**Jason Alatidd**  
Topeka Capital-Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kansas farmers and soybean producers especially are “living with the damage” done by tariffs and the resulting trade war as they face decisions on

what crops to plant this year.

“The big thing that really sticks out for most of us in agriculture are the tariffs that are on our neighbors in Canada and Mexico, and then also with our largest trading partner, China,” said Nick Levendofsky, executive director of the Kansas Farmers Union. “We have seen

the damage, and we’re living with the damage from that move — from those tariffs, the trade war.”

Levendofsky will be a guest of U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids, D-Kansas, for the State of the Union address on Feb. 24. He spoke with The Capital-Journal days before the U.S. Supreme Court on Feb. 20 struck down much of President Donald Trump’s tariffs. The case dealt specifically with using the International Emergency Economic Powers Act to impose tariffs.

“The President asserts the independent power to impose tariffs on imports from any country, of any product, at any rate, for any amount of time,” Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in the 6-3 opinion.

But the U.S. Constitution provides Congress with the power to impose taxes — including tariffs — and “did not vest any part of the taxing power in the Executive Branch,” Roberts said. The

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### ANALYSIS



People wait in freezing temperatures to receive food aid on Feb. 18 in Kyiv, Ukraine. As the war approached its fourth anniversary, Ukrainians were coping with subzero temperatures and widespread heat and electricity outages caused by Russian attacks. CHRIS MCGRATH/GETTY IMAGES

# Peace deal for Ukraine continues to be elusive

## Trump takes harder line with Kyiv than Moscow

**Francesca Chambers**  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has taken extraordinary action when it comes to confronting authoritarians in places like Venezuela, where U.S. forces captured leader Nicolas Maduro, and Iran, where Trump bombed nuclear sites in June 2025 and is now threatening a new attack.

But there’s one strongman Trump has consistently refused to challenge: Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose intellect and iron grip the former reality TV star has long admired.

The Russian leader has convinced Trump and U.S. negotiators, including presidential envoy Steve Witkoff, that he wants to cut a deal to end his long war — even as Moscow rains missiles and



President Donald Trump came home empty-handed from a pomp-filled Alaskan summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin last year.

ANDREW HARNIK/GETTY IMAGES

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# Homicide suspect dies after pursuit

## Weekend violence ends with multi-county chase across two counties

**Charles Rankin**  
Hutchinson News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Two are dead, including the suspect, after what Hutchinson Police described as a homicide and another a series of events over the weekend in Reno and Pratt counties.

According to a news release by the Hutchinson Police Department officers responded at 8:19 p.m. on Feb. 20 to the 800 block of West Fourth Avenue to a reported shooting.

When there, officers found Lacy D. Nelson, 37, of Hutchinson, with multiple gunshot wounds.

They immediately began rendering first aid until Reno County EMS arrived and then transported her to Hutchinson Regional Medical Center, where she later died from her injuries.

Police said a person of interest, Curtis Richardson, 49, of Hutch, was identified and a statewide Be on the Lookout, or BOLO, was issued for him.

### Suspect reported in Pratt County

According to the release, at 7 a.m. on Feb. 21 the Pratt County Sheriff’s Office was dispatched to Preston for a reported robbery where a person made forced entry into a residence and took a vehicle.

A deputy located the vehicle traveling southbound on K-61 highway in Pratt County and attempted to make a traffic stop, but the suspect refuse to stop and a pursuit began.

During the pursuit, the vehicle left the roadway, drove into a field near NE 20th Street and 30th Avenue and got stuck.

The sheriff’s office special response team responded and, after the suspect refused to leave the vehicle, “less-lethal” tactics were deployed to try and get him to comply.

Richardson was discovered inside the vehicle with “an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.”

Pratt County EMS attempted

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