

PRELIMINARY SURFICIAL GEOLOGY OF THE LINCOLN COUNTY PORTION OF THE LINCOLN NW QUADRANGLE, KANSAS

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These descriptions are a compilation of several sources, including field notes and measured sections, Kansas Department of Transportation geological reports and profiles, and lithologic descriptions in Berry (1952), Bayne et al. (1971), and Arbogast and Johnson (1996).

GEOLOGIC UNITS

CENOZOIC

Quaternary System Pleistocene-Holocene

Qal

Alluvium and terrace valley fill — Alluvium and terrace valley fill are found along the Saline River and its tributaries. Floodplain deposits contain mostly silt and clay with some sand. The thickness of the alluvium ranges up to 60 ft (18 m) in the Saline River valley and 20 ft (6 m) in other major tributaries in the county (Berry, 1952).

MESOZOIC

Cretaceous System – Upper Cretaceous Series

Kc

Carlile Shale — The Carlile Shale contains three members. In ascending order, they are the Fairport Chalk Member, the Blue Hill Shale Member, and the Codell Sandstone Member. Only the lower part of the Fairport Chalk Member is present in Lincoln County, where it is up to 20 ft (6 m) thick and very similar to the upper beds of the Greenhorn Limestone (Berry, 1952). It consists of alternating beds of thin, concretionary limestone and cherty mudrock, as well as thin bentonite layers. The Carlile Shale caps the high hills in the northern and southwestern parts of the county.

Kgh

Greenhorn Limestone — The Greenhorn Limestone contains the following four members, in ascending order: the Lincoln Limestone Member, the Hartland Shale Member, the Jetmore Chalk Member, and the Pfeifer Shale Member. Each member is 15 to 20 ft (5 to 6 m) thick. The contacts between the members are gradational and not easily recognized in the field. In general, the Greenhorn is light gray to yellowish-gray cherty limestone, cherty mudrock, and chalk. Several limestone beds contain the fossil clam *Inoceramus* sp. that is characteristic of the formation. The lower part of the Greenhorn (Lincoln Member) is interbedded layers of cherty mudrock, cherty limestones, and dark gray crystalline limestone near the base that has a strong petrolic odor when freshly broken. The middle part (Hartland and Jetmore Members) is cherty mudrock with interbedded layers of nodular limestone, cherty limestone, and bentonite. The upper part of the formation (Pfeifer Member) is interbedded thin cherty limestones and cherty mudrocks containing bentonite seams and is capped by the Fencepost limestone bed, a 0.7 ft (0.2 m) thick limestone that weathers light tan with a rust-colored line in the middle. The Fencepost bed has been quarried extensively in Lincoln County. The Greenhorn is 65 to 90 ft (20 to 27 m) thick in Lincoln County (Berry, 1952) and forms the prominent escarpments of the upland areas in the northern, southwest, and south-central parts of the county.

Kgr

Graneros Shale — The Graneros Shale is a gray to dark gray, noncalcareous, fissile shale that weathers to light gray and yellow-brown. Small flakes of the light gray fissile shale are characteristic of the weathered outcrop. Interbedded layers of fossiliferous (predominately *Inoceramus* sp. and *Ostrea* sp.) sandstone and limestone (up to 2 ft [0.6 m] thick) occur in the middle to lower part of the formation in Lincoln County, and thin (0.3 ft [0.1 m]) beds of limestone often occur near the top. A 1 ft (0.3 m) bentonite bed may be present near the top. Disseminated gypsum and selenite crystals also occur in the Graneros. In Lincoln County, the thickness of the Graneros Shale ranges from 20 to 45 ft (6 to 14 m). The Graneros Shale forms low hills above the Dakota Formation adjacent to the valleys and gentle slopes between the Dakota and the Greenhorn Limestone in the uplands. Landslides characterize the Graneros horizon.

Cretaceous System – Lower Cretaceous Series

Kd

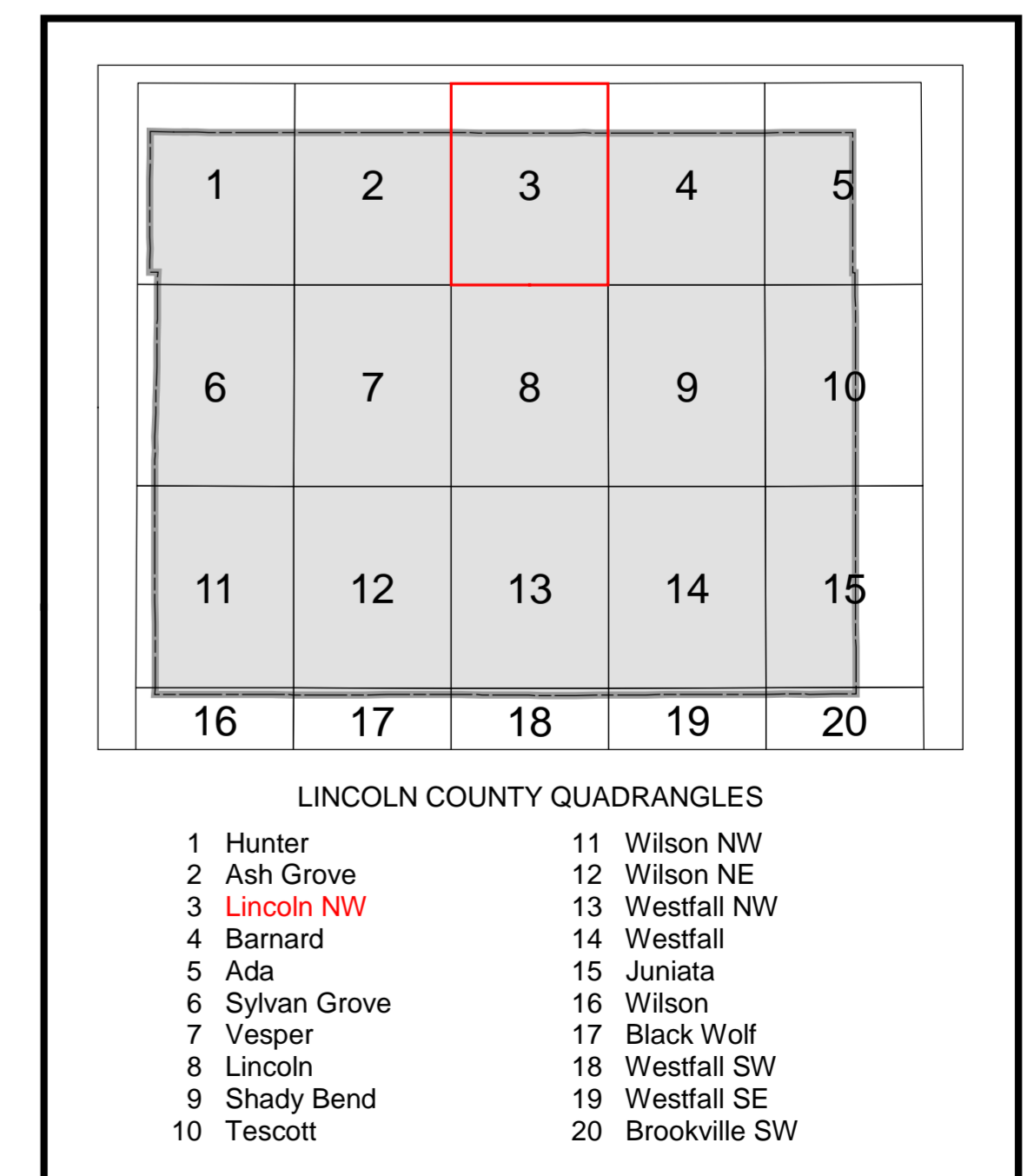
Dakota Formation — The Dakota Formation is composed of two members: the lower Terra Cotta Clay Member and the upper Janssen Clay Member. The Dakota is composed of varicolored clay, claystone, and shale with irregular and sometimes massive lenses of siltstone and sandstone. The mudrocks are red-mottled pale-gray, tan to brown clay and silt. The interbedded sandstone lenses are fine to medium grained, very light gray to orange-tan to dark red-brown, and commonly poorly cemented. Concretions and thick layers of hard, gray, calcite-cemented sandstone (locally referred to as "Lincoln quartzite") are found in Lincoln County in small, isolated areas, but extensive deposits near Lincoln, Kansas, are mined for aggregate. The Dakota often contains lignite and carbonaceous fragments and small concretions and thin beds of limonite, siderite, and hematite occur as scattered fragments on eroded mudrock surfaces. The Dakota Formation ranges from about 140 ft (43 m) thick in eastern Lincoln County to about 200 ft (61 m) in the western part (Berry, 1952) and is an important source of water in Lincoln County and elsewhere in Kansas. In Lincoln County, the Dakota is exposed in much of central and southeastern parts of the county in areas adjacent to the Saline River and its tributaries.

REFERENCES

- Arbogast, A. F., and Johnson, W. C., 1996, Surficial geology and stratigraphy of Russell County, Kansas: Kansas Geological Survey, Technical Series 7, 45 p.
- Bayne, C. K., Franks, P. C., and Ives, W. Jr., 1971, Geology and ground-water resources of Ellsworth County, central Kansas: Kansas Geological Survey, Bulletin 201, 84 p.
- Berry, D. W., 1952, Geology and ground-water resources of Lincoln County, Kansas: State Geological Survey of Kansas, Bulletin 95, 96 p.

EXPLANATION

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| Boundaries and Locations | Hydrology and Topography |
| — County boundary | — Perennial stream |
| — Township/range line | — Intermittent stream |
| — Section line | — Water body |
| Transportation | — Elevation contour (100-foot interval) |
| — State highway | — Elevation contour (20-foot interval) |
| — Local road | — Depression contour (100-foot interval) |
| Resource Development | — Depression contour (20-foot interval) |
| — Open gravel pit | |
| — Quarry | |
| Geologic Unit Boundaries | |
| — Observed contact | |
| — Concealed contact | |



Elevation contours are presented for general reference. Used in the U.S. Geological Survey's current US Topo 1:24,000-scale topographic map series, they were generated from topographically-improved 1/3 arc-second National Elevation Dataset (NED) data and smoothed during processing for use at 1:24,000 scale. In some places, the contours may be more generalized than the base data used for compilation of geologic outcrop patterns. Outcrop patterns on the map will typically reflect topographic variation more accurately than the associated contour lines. Repeated fluctuation of an outcrop line across a contour line should be interpreted as an indication that the mapped rock unit is maintaining a relatively constant elevation along a generalized contour.

1-meter LiDAR hillshades and 1-meter 2010 and 2012 U.S. Department of Agriculture – Farm Services Agency (USDA-FSA) National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) digital imagery were used as references in the digital mapping. USGS 7.5-minute 1:24,000-scale topographic maps, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil surveys, and other geologic maps and bulletins were used to supplement the mapping. Roads and highways are shown on the base map as represented by data from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), U.S. Census Bureau, and other sources. U.S. Department of Agriculture – Farm Services Agency (USDA-FSA) National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) imagery also was used to check road locations.

Shaded relief is based on 1-meter hydroflattened bare-earth DEMs from the State of Kansas LiDAR Database. The DEM images, in ERDAS IMAGINE format, were mosaicked into a single output DEM, downsampled to 2-meter resolution, and reprojected to decimal degrees. The output DEM was then converted to a hillshade, a multidirectional shaded-relief image using angles of illumination from 0°, 225°, 270°, and 315° azimuths, each 45° above the horizon, with a 4x vertical exaggeration.

This geologic map was funded in part by the USGS National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program, award number G16AC00195 (FY2016).

This map was produced using the ArcGIS system developed by Esri (Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.).

This map is a preliminary product and has had less scientific and cartographic review than the Kansas Geological Survey's M-series geologic maps. KGS does not guarantee this map to be free from errors or inaccuracies and disclaims any responsibility or liability for interpretations made from the map or decisions based thereon.

SUGGESTED REFERENCE TO THE MAP

Sawin, R. S., and Dunham, J. W., 2017, Preliminary surficial geology of the Lincoln County portion of the Lincoln NW quadrangle, Kansas: Kansas Geological Survey, Open-File Report 2017-15, scale 1:24,000, unpublished.

