

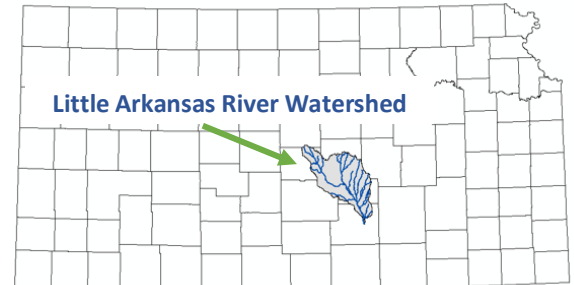
# Little Arkansas River WRAPS

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## About Our Watershed

The Little Arkansas River Watershed is located in south central Kansas covering 913,430 acres in Reno, Harvey, Sedgwick, McPherson, Rice, Marion and Ellsworth counties. The headwaters of the Little Arkansas River originate near the town of Geneseo, and the river travels southeast approximately 80 miles, draining numerous tributaries before emptying into the Arkansas River at Wichita. Cropland (68%) and grassland (21%) make up the majority of our watershed and contribute non-point source pollutants to our river and water supply.



## What is a Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS)?

WRAPS is a planning and management framework built to engage local citizen-stakeholders within a particular watershed. It is a process used to **identify** restoration and protection needs, to **establish** management goals for the watershed community, to **create** an action plan to achieve those goals, and to **implement** the action plan. The Little Arkansas River Watershed WRAPS action plan was written and approved in 2010 and has since been in the implementation phase.

## New Funding Available and We Need You!

The Little Arkansas River WRAPS group just received new funding for a 3-year project! The success of our programs depends on the participation of producers in our watershed! We are looking for participants to sign up for our locally-driven, volunteer-based, incentive programs. Minimal paperwork is involved. If you have cropland and/or manage livestock in Reno, Harvey, Sedgwick, McPherson, Rice, Marion or Ellsworth counties, you may be eligible to receive financial assistance toward the implementation of sediment, atrazine, nutrient management, and/or livestock BMPs. Those in riparian areas are of special interest to the group. Please contact Mr. Ron Graber or Mr. Rick Schlender for more information and an on-farm assessment! *Contact information is listed on the back.*

## Harvesting Knowledge: Little Ark's Productive Producers

In this issue we are high-lighting the work of **Mr. Jay Warner** of McPherson County. Jay has been an integral stakeholder on the Little Arkansas River WRAPS leadership team since it was established in 2000. Jay said, *"I figured that as a farmer, I could either get involved early to try and positively affect the issues and concerns within the watershed, or I would be forced to react after decisions and regulations were already made."*

Mr. Warner has participated in the atrazine BMP program that was facilitated by the Little Arkansas River WRAPS group and funded by the City of Wichita. According to Jay, *"The BMP incentive payment schedule was easy to use and allowed a wide range of practices to be utilized as there is rarely a "one size fits all" practice for all farm locations and situations. It never became an economic profit center for my operation, but it did offset some of the marginal costs. As a partial tillage operation, I used reduced Atrazine rates and was able to use light tillage to get the material off the soil surface."*

To close, Mr. Jay Warner has some wise words to share with his fellow agricultural producers and watershed residents. *"We will never eliminate all watershed concerns. However, as good stewards of our farms who are concerned for our downstream neighbors, as well as future generations, we must continue efforts like this that focus on applying sound science in the real world. Our understandings of BMP's will continue to evolve and change."* Thank you Jay for your dedication to water quality and your watershed!



**FLICKNER  
INNOVATION  
FARM**

## January 2020 Workshop

Join us for an overview of our work, as well as results from our research using current and emerging technologies designed to improve water quality and soil health.

**January 14, 2020, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Inman Community Center  
406 E. Center Street Inman, KS

### **Morning Session: Irrigation and Water Use**

In addition to an overview of work from 2019 on the Flickner and Goering farms, researchers will present their findings on the placement of soil moisture probes, water use efficiency and imagery use.

### **Lunch (provided)**

Participants will have an opportunity to meet with vendors currently working with the Flickner Innovation Farm.

### **Afternoon Session: Soil Health and Nutrients**

Specialists and researchers will discuss the use of surface drip/PDMI and the results of our nutrient study and soil health on the farm. We will also learn about upcoming research on the farm, including investigations on protein mapping, and nutrient losses through surface water runoff.

*Register Today!*

RSVP by Jan 10 to Melissa Harvey, KCARE  
[mharvey@ksu.edu](mailto:mharvey@ksu.edu) • 785-477-4540

## Other Upcoming Events:

- McPherson County Conservation District Annual Meeting – January 27, 2020
- Harvey County Conservation District Annual Meeting – February 3, 2020

## Prefer to Receive Our Newsletter by Email?

If you or your neighbor are interested in receiving this newsletter, news of upcoming events, and program updates by email, please contact Amanda Schielke at [aschielk@ksu.edu](mailto:aschielk@ksu.edu). She will be happy to add you to our email list!

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For more information about these projects, as well as other water projects can be found at [www.kcare.k-state.edu](http://www.kcare.k-state.edu), or you can follow us on Twitter, @KStateKCARE.

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