

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 Geneseo, and the river drains numerous tributaries before emptying into the Arkansas River in 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.



The Little Arkansas River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) is a planning and management framework built to engage local citizen-stakeholders. WRAPS is a process used to **identify** restoration and protection needs, **establish** management goals, **create** an action plan to achieve those goals, and finally, **implement** the action plan.

Harvesting Knowledge: Little Ark's Productive Producers



In this issue we are high-lighting the work of **Mr. Ray Flickner** of Moundridge, KS. The Flickner Family Farm has a long history in the Moundridge Area, with ancestors farming tracts of this land since the 1860s. Ray Flickner is the 5th generation to farm this land, which now consists of more than 850 acres with 11 individual water rights.

The Flickner Farm, spread across 8 different fields, utilizes different technologies to improve water conservation and quality, while simultaneously improving soil health. The Flickner family uses sub-surface drip irrigation (SDI), precision mobile drip irrigation (PMDI), and conventional pivot designs to grow corn, soybeans, wheat, grain sorghum, and cover crops. Many of the fields are strictly no-till or limited strip till, and the family continues to implement soil conservation work, such as rebuilding terraces and constructing new waterways. The family's commitment to improved soil health and sustainable water use makes the Flickner Family Farm a perfect location for testing new technologies and innovative solutions for these issues. Ray states, "A major goal of mine is to look at water conservation, water quality, soil health and other issues, and see whether we can move the needle and improve them so that it's a better place when I'm gone than when I started."

Ray has been an integral member of the Little Arkansas River WRAPS leadership team for almost 10 years. The Little Arkansas River WRAPS groups applauds Mr. Ray Flickner and his family for thinking outside the box with a firm focus on the future of farming and water quality/quantity needs. We appreciate Ray's enthusiasm, wisdom, and continued dedication to the Little Arkansas River WRAPS program!

Get Paid to Change the Way You Apply Nutrients

COMING SOON!

Live in the Turkey Creek sub-watershed? The Little Arkansas River WRAPS group has two NEW programs just for you!

- 1. Cropland BMP funding available!** Turkey Creek sub-watershed was listed as "needs improvement" for nutrient usage and loading by the KDHE. A new Nutrient Management program will be rolled out this Fall and precision application will be the focus! Little Arkansas WRAPS will be providing producers in the Turkey Creek sub-watershed with a financial incentive to implement nutrient BMPs in high priority fields that have high runoff potential.
- 2. Livestock BMP funding available!** Ready to get your livestock out of the stream? Let WRAPS help you do it!

Be watching for details on these new programs in the near future, or feel free to contact us now if you are interested!

You're Invited!

Soil Health & Cover Crops Workshop

What: Soil Health & Cover Crop Workshop

Who: Anyone is welcome to attend! Our speakers include: • Ryan Speer, Jacob Farms and Cattle Producer • Jaymelynn Farney, KSU Research & Extension Beef Systems Specialist • Panel of Jacob Farms, K-State, and NRCS experts!

Where: Your favorite easy chair...this is a virtual workshop!

When: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 – 7:30-9:00 pm

Why: Improve your knowledge on: Building soil health, nutrient retention, erosion control, weed reduction, cost share available and more!

HOW: To attend, please **RSVP by August 4th**. You will need to register to receive the Zoom link so you can join virtually. To register call, 316.282.3460 or 316.284.6930 OR email marsha.meyer@ks.nacdn.net or flaming@ksu.edu.

The Hagie-Montag 'Fortifier' Interseeder is Coming to Our Area!

Central Prairie Coop of Nickerson, KS has partnered with the KDHE, Cheney Lake WRAPS, and the Little Arkansas River WRAPS group to bring a Hagie-Montag 'Fortifier' interseeder to our area this August!

You may already know that cover crops are used to reduce erosion, manage moisture, improve soil structure, suppress weed growth and manage nutrients. The 'Fortifier' has the ability to do cover crop seeding in existing standing crops. The machine can seed, fertilize, and spray with efficiency.

Please contact Central Prairie Coop (620.921.5713) or your local watershed representatives with questions. You can watch the machine work by viewing this video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucvNgNvA8ws>.



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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. 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, or you can follow us on Twitter, @KStateKCARE.

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