

Little Arkansas River WRAPS

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Continued WRAPS Program Sign-ups

The Little Arkansas River WRAPS program offers incentive payments to producers to implement best management practices (BMPs) that will improve water quality conditions in the watershed! Implemented BMPs serve to reduce the amount of nutrients and sediment leaving crop fields and entering nearby water segments during runoff and erosion events. We currently have incentive programs for atrazine, livestock, nutrient management, and sediment practices. Program sign-up is ongoing. If you are interested in signing up for one of these WRAPS programs, please contact us!

Photo by: Ray Flickner, Producer



One program the WRAPS group is proud to assist local producers with is the implementation of cover crops. Cover crops promote sediment control and soil health. The Little Arkansas River WRAPS group offers application assistance of \$8 per acre for the use of the area's Hagie-Montag interseeder in the Turkey Creek sub-watershed.

Harvesting Knowledge: Little Ark's Productive Producers

In this issue, we are high-lighting the work of two brothers, **Dwight and Phil Lohrenz**. Dwight and Phil are the 4th generation to run their family farm. A Lohrenz has been farming their ground along the Little Arkansas River since 1887. Phil and Dwight joined their late father, James Lohrenz, on the family farm beginning in 1980 (Phil), and Dwight joined them in the early 90s while working as a tractor mechanic in a nearby town. Dwight started farming full-time in 1997. Their father James was active on the farm until he passed in 2013 at the age of 81. The Lohrenz farm produces soybeans, wheat, corn and grain sorghum in Harvey and McPherson counties. Dwight and Phil started to sell corn, soybeans, and grain sorghum seed to supplement the farm in 1997. Dwight says, "The extra meetings involved in selling seed have helped our farm in trying new practices, timing of inputs, and the access to the company's agronomists. We also get to talk to farmers about what works and what does not." Phil's son, Corey took over the seed sales so Dwight and Phil could devote more time to the growing farm.

The Lohrenz brothers participate in the following WRAPS programs: atrazine, sediment, and the new nutrient management program. Dwight says, "We have done a few WRAPS programs and will continue to use them in the future due to the ease and how they have fit in to our operation. What is good for the soil will be good for the producer." Dwight and Phil use several BMPs, such as: cover crops, no-till, and strip till, as well as performing grid-sampling to accurately determine nutrients and lime applications. The Lohrenz brothers use conservation crop rotations, such as, corn/bean rotation on productive bottom acres and a wheat/wheat/bean/corn or grain sorghum/bean rotation on other acres with double cropping in and out of wheat. Cover crops are used after the corn goes into beans. Buffer strips are used along the river to prevent sediment and nutrient runoff. Dwight says he thinks maintaining terraces and waterways, even in no-till, is still necessary and beneficial.

When asked what their aspirations were for the future, they both said they wanted to leave the ground/soil better than when they started farming it. They offer this advice to their fellow producers, "Don't jump around and try to outguess the weather from one year to the other. Get a rotation and stay with it to a point. At the same time, try new things to see if they will fit on your farm. Working together with people that use the water that runs down our rivers and streams rather than trying to fight them is always best." **Thank you Dwight and Phil Lohrenz for your family's continued dedication to improving agriculture in the Little Arkansas River Watershed!**



Livestock Field Day at Goering Farms



The Livestock Field Day at Goering Farms up near McPherson was a huge success! Thirty-five (35) participants showed up for the half-day event and learned about rotational grazing, solar panels and pumps, tire tanks as an alternate watering system, fencing, and so much more! A live tire tank installation took place to provide an alternative source of fresh water for livestock. Greg Goering of Goering Farms had four (4) tire tanks installed on his farm so that he could offer a fresh water source to livestock that he rotational grazes. He currently has the four (4) tanks set up so he can have four (4) - forty (40) acre cells or paddocks. Goering says he plans to install more tire tank systems in the near future.

You're Invited – Register Now!



The Flickner Innovation Farm will host a field day event on

Tuesday, August 31st. The program begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 1:30 p.m.

The event is free and lunch will be provided. The field day will highlight current work by local producers, industry members, and Kansas State University researchers to conserve water use while improving water quality and soil health.

The in-person event will take place at the Flickner family farm in Moundridge and will feature experts speaking on a variety of subjects, including the use of various irrigation technologies as well as soil health and carbon studies. Those who attend will have opportunities to ask questions about how they can apply these techniques in their own operations. “We are focused on ensuring that natural resources are utilized in a way that makes the farm not only profitable but also improves the land, air and water for future generations,” said Ray Flickner, who is the 5th generation in his family to farm the property in Moundridge. “The Innovation Farm is just an extension of that belief.”

This year’s field day is part of the Kansas Corn Association’s Summer Listening Tour. More information regarding registration is available online at www.kscorn.com or from the Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment at www.kcare.k-state.edu. **Registration Deadline is Friday, August 27th.**

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