

Little Arkansas River WRAPS

Spring 2021

Volume 3, Issue 2

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

Our Watershed Needs You

The Little Arkansas River WRAPS program is driven by you, our local producers and stakeholders. The Stakeholder Leadership Team (SLT) is a group of local watershed residents and agency personnel that join together to express local watershed interests and needs. The SLT meets on a quarterly basis to discuss what is going on in the watershed, current program participation and results, as well as future watershed and program needs. As always, we want as much participation from our watershed's residents as possible, so WE NEED U! Join us Thursday, May 20th at 7:00 AM and try it out! Meetings are usually held in person with breakfast served; however, due to the pandemic, we are now meeting online, via Zoom. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Amanda Schielke (aschielk@ksu.edu, 785.313.3462) and she will send you log-in information for the upcoming May 20th SLT meeting.

YOU'RE INVITED!
SLT MEETING -
THURSDAY, MAY 20TH
7:00 AM

Harvesting Knowledge: Little Ark's Productive Producers

In this issue we are high-lighting the work of **Mr. Matt Friesen**. Matt is a 4th generation producer and has been farming since 2002. He lives in a home that was built in the late 1800's by his family in McPherson, KS. Matt graduated from McPherson College in 1999 with a dual degree in agronomy and ag. economy. After graduating, he went to work for MKC as a sales agronomist and then moved into the technology field where he works now as the Director of IT. He continues to manage the family farm. Matt says, "I could not have guessed back when I started working in IT at MKC how much it would benefit me in my own farming operation. Technology is incorporated into about every aspect of farming today and I am getting to see and work with leading edge technology on a daily basis".



Mr. Friesen produces a mix of dryland and irrigated crops including wheat, grain sorghum, corn and soybeans. Matt says they are primarily a minimum till operation while strip tilling in fertilizer for corn and grain sorghum. He grid-samples a majority of their acres and uses that information along with harvest data to determine variable rate fertilizer, lime, and seeding needs. He says, "this maximizes our yield potential on every acre while conserving resources by only applying what the crop needs in each grid zone".

Matt Friesen has been involved in the WRAPS programs for a number of years and currently participates in the atrazine and sediment programs. Matt said, "so many times it becomes us against them and the WRAPS program really shows what we can do when we work together with local communities and experts to improve our environment and rivers. It is an easy program to follow and builds upon my belief in doing what I can to improve the environment for all, building sustainable ag and connecting with our local communities".

When asked what advice he has to share with fellow producers, Matt said, "Don't be afraid to try new things that may be out of your comfort zone. This year is the first year I did a large-scale cover crop program for a number of our fields. While this practice may not be new it was new to me so there was some apprehension to that decision. While the outcome has yet to be realized I do know I will learn from it and make better decisions in the following years because of it". **Thank you Matt Friesen for your family's continued dedication to improving agriculture in the Little Arkansas River Watershed!**

Alternate Watering Systems for Livestock

Water directly impacts cattle health and performance. Adequate water intake is paramount for cattle health. Water consumption can be hindered when cattle consume water with high levels of contaminants, which reduces feed intake and overall performance. Protecting and managing the water source is critical for maintaining the overall health of cattle. Research indicates:

- Cattle avoid consuming water with 0.005% fresh manure.
- A 23% greater weight gain in heifers watering from a well or spring.
- Cattle choose to drink from a tank rather than a pond 76% of the time.



Speaking of livestock watering systems, be on the watch for a **Goering Farms Livestock Field Day** and tire tank installation demonstration this **July**, *contingent on Covid pandemic restrictions, of course.*

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!

You're Invited - Save the Date!

**FLICKNER INNOVATION FARM
FIELD DAY**

Where: Flickner Innovation Farm, west of Moundridge, KS

When: Tuesday, August 31, 2021

Why: Improve your knowledge on: Irrigation Technology, Moisture Sensors, Water Quality and Residue Studies, ISCO Samples for Runoff, Utilizing Aerial Imagery, and so much more!

How: Be on the lookout for Little Arkansas River WRAPS updates, we will let you know when registration opens!

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. She will be happy to add you to our email list!

Contacts

Ron Graber

Kansas State University

Little Arkansas River Watershed WRAPS Coordinator and Central Kansas Watershed Specialist
620-727-5665 | rgraber@ksu.edu

Rick Schlender

Kansas State University

Little Arkansas River Watershed WRAPS Agronomist and Crop Consultant
620-200-4496 | rschlen2@ksu.edu

Amanda Schielke

Kansas State University – KCARE

Little Arkansas River WRAPS Grant Specialist
785-313-3462 | aschielk@ksu.edu

For more information, visit our website at www.kcare.k-state.edu. We are on social media, too!
Follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook under the name: @KStateKCARE.

