

Our Watershed Specialist Team



Will Boyer, Northeast Kansas

Will provides education and technical assistance to stakeholders by working one-on-one with producers to find solutions to water quality concerns associated with their confined feeding and grazing operations.



Jeff Davidson, Flint Hills

Jeff helps create research-based information and educational programs related to environmental stewardship of water resources. One of his main objectives is the implementation of off-stream watering sites for cattle.



Ron Graber, Central Kansas

Ron works with landowners and operators to identify and implement management options that address water quality concerns. His efforts led to the development of new partnerships benefiting urban and rural interests in protecting water resources.



Stacie Minson, Big Creek/Middle Smoky Hill River

In addition to serving as the WRAPS coordinator for the Big Creek/Middle Smoky Hill River Watershed, Stacie spearheads educational events within her area, including the distribution of rain barrels in the community.

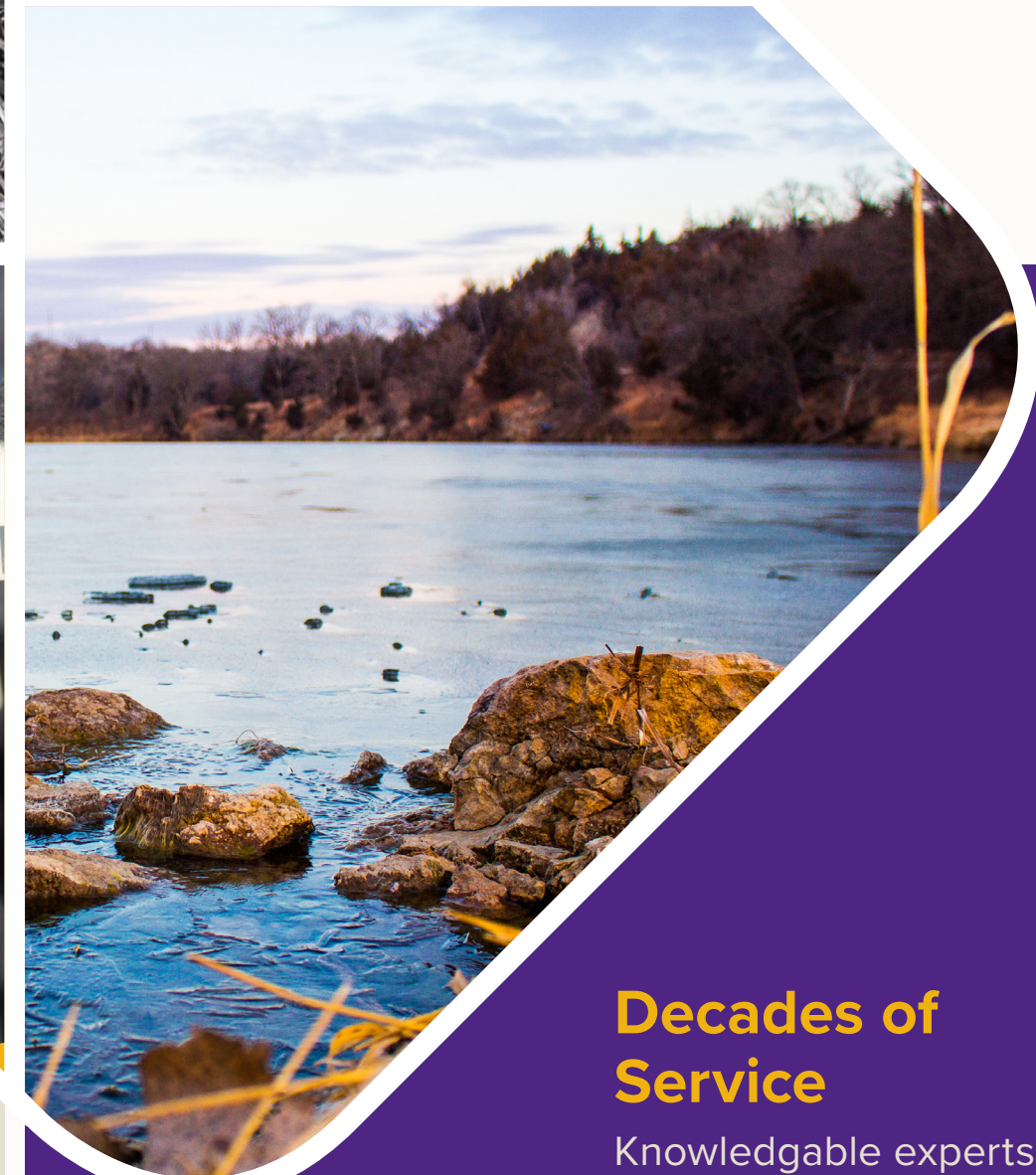


Daniel Skucius, Northeast Kansas

Daniel engages with stakeholders by developing and implementing science-based educational programs. He works with local landowners to adopt and implement practices to safeguard water quality.



Kansas State University Extension Watershed Specialists



Measuring Success

We are proud to partner with Kansas producers and landowners for the benefit of the state. For more than a decade, work by the KCARE Extension Watershed Specialist team has resulted in significant reductions in sediment and nutrients polluting Kansas waterways. Contact a watershed specialist near you for water quality solutions and innovations that will benefit your operation.

Reach us at:

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- ✂ [@KStateKCARE](https://twitter.com/KStateKCARE)
- 📘 facebook.com/kstateKCARE
- 📺 youtube.com/kstateKCARE

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Decades of Service

Knowledgeable experts working in partnership with Kansans to improve water quality for the whole state

Watershed specialists: A **dedicated team** for Kansas water quality

About Us

The **Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE)** coordinates and enhances research, extension, and teaching activities pertaining to environmental issues related to agriculture. Restoring water quality in Kansas requires a fundamental change in behavior and practices toward the land and water. It is a monumental task that requires facilitation from unique people with expertise in the areas of agriculture and water, and who are able to build rapport with landowners.

Our **KCARE Extension Watershed Specialist team** was created with these qualities in mind. Historically, we provided assistance to producers and various Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) groups in 70 Kansas counties. For the most part, only active WRAPS projects have “purchased” time with watershed specialists for technical assistance. However, the specialists can and do work outside these areas as deemed necessary.

Our commitment to improving water quality in Kansas remains as strong as ever.

Our Goals

We work to reduce non-point source pollution from cropland and livestock sources. Our priorities include:

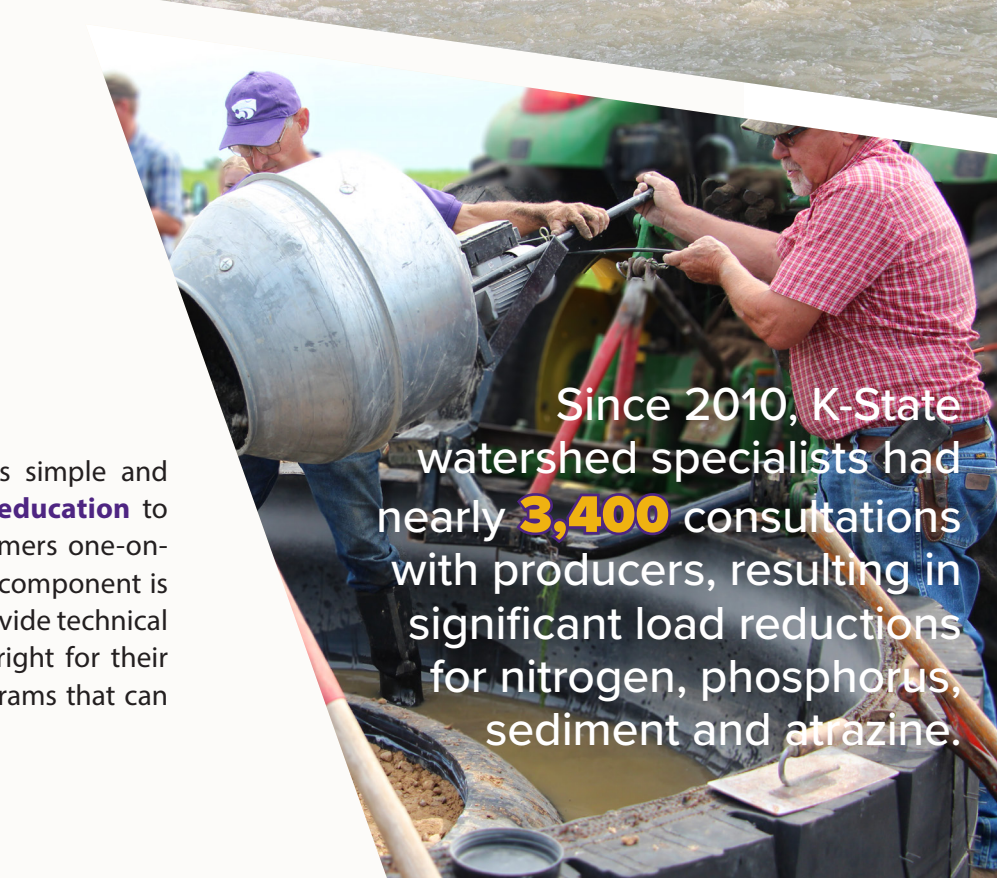
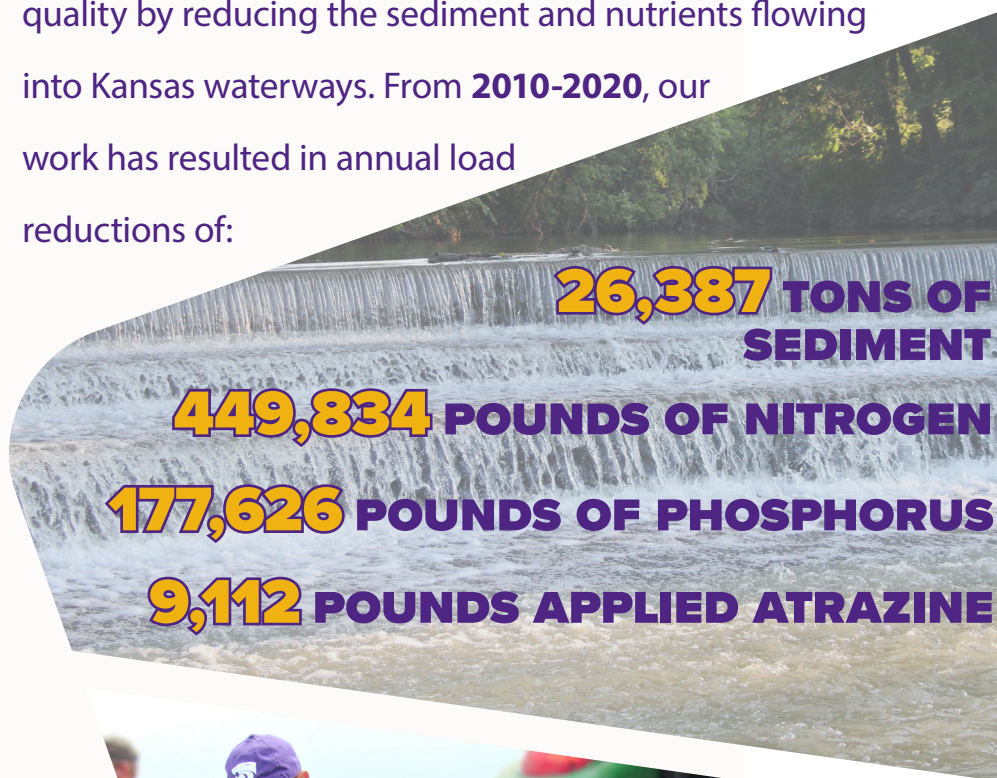
- ➔ Restoration of impaired water resources (TMDLs)
- ➔ Abatement of fecal coliform bacteria, atrazine and pesticides
- ➔ Reduced nutrients and sediment loads
- ➔ Protection of water resources
- ➔ Implementing farmer/producer Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Our Strategies

KCARE’s strategy to help improve water quality in Kansas is simple and proven: the first component is **providing information and education** to our stakeholders. This can include anything from meeting farmers one-on-one to presenting our work at community events. The second component is **implementing Best Management Practices, or BMPs**. We provide technical assistance to producers so they understand which BMPs are right for their specific operation, and we help farmers identify financial programs that can help offset the costs of BMP implementation.

LOAD REDUCTIONS

The goal of K-State watershed specialists is to improve water quality by reducing the sediment and nutrients flowing into Kansas waterways. From **2010-2020**, our work has resulted in annual load reductions of:



A FOCUS ON: **cropland and livestock** BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

From 2010-2020, our team of watershed specialists has provided assistance in the implementation of BMPs for the benefit of Kansas watersheds.

Livestock BMPs

- 155** livestock waste management and storage systems
- 201** alternative watering facilities
- 82** pipeline BMPs
- 73** fencing BMPs
- 29** heavy use area protection BMPs
- 9** livestock exclusion BMPs
- 12** ponds installed or maintained
- 5** access roads constructed
- 8** prescribed grazing BMPs

Cropland BMPs

- Implemented **atrazine-related** BMPs on 173,415 acres
- 411,419 linear feet of **terraces** installed or reconstructed
- 31** **waterways** built or maintained
- Installed **8** **buffer strips**, 140 acres of **contour buffer strips** and **6** **diversions**
- 6** water/sediment **control basins**
- Over 31,000 acres of **conservation crop rotation**
- Nearly 15,400 acres of **no till**
- Converted 6,500 acres to using **cover crops**

Streambank BMPs

- 29** **streambank stabilization** BMPs implemented, stabilizing nearly 14,300 linear feet of streambank

In 2023:



Partnerships. We built trust through **384** one-on-one consultations and farm visits. Last year, our team attended more than **381** events.



Strategies. Last year, **73** **producers** used our expertise to improve water quality in their communities by precision-implementing BMPs on **22,700** acres in multiple counties.



Progress. In 2022, the new implementation of **168** **BMPs** resulted in significant load reductions of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment, and atrazine.



Innovations. We helped foster inventive urban-rural partnerships to advance water education, significantly decrease atrazine runoff, and save city businesses millions of dollars.