

Season's Greetings from the Kansas Rural Center



Statewide Effort Aims to Help Kansas Feed More Kansans

Based on direct input from hundreds of individuals across the state, the Kansas Rural Center (KRC) recently released a report that provides citizens and policymakers with a list of three pressing goals and seven policy priorities to help Kansas feed Kansans.

Feeding Kansas: Statewide Farm and Food Assessment with a Plan for Public Action, was released at KRC's annual conference in November. Using the report recommendations, KRC is working with citizens and policymakers across the state to advocate for public policy changes that will make healthful food the routine, easy choice for more Kansans, and help incorporate Kansas farms into the local and regional supply chain.

The report was compiled based on input from a series of regional meetings and interviews with key people around the state during 2013-2014. The report and its goals and priorities can be viewed and downloaded at: www.kansasruralcenter.org/feeding-kansas/.

The report's action plan focuses on empowering citizens to better understand and influence the policies that effect how food is produced and made available in Kansas. *Contd. on page 8*

Rural Papers

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Reprints of articles are encouraged with acknowledgement of Rural Papers and author.

Rural Papers is the voice of the Kansas Rural Center, Inc., (KRC), a non-profit organization that promotes the long-term health of the land and its people through research, education, and advocacy. The KRC cultivates grassroots support for public policies that encourage family farming and stewardship of soil and water. KRC is committed to economically viable, environmentally sound, and socially sustainable rural culture. The KRC is funded by private foundations, churches, and individual contributions.

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From the Director

KRC Director Turns to Family Farm & New Challenges

by Julie Mettenburg

Three years ago, my predecessor, Dan Nagengast, told me that serving as Executive Director of the Kansas Rural Center is "the best job in Kansas."

He did not oversell the position.

So it's with sadness that I am stepping down, effective Dec. 26, and leaving KRC in the able hands of Interim Director Mary Fund along with staff Natalie Fullerton, Cole Cottin, Joanna Voigt, and the KRC board of directors. Together, these individuals and KRC's vast network of partners and constituents comprise the finest team with which one could hope to work.

Although I'm excited about the reason for departing KRC -- to work with my family in transitioning our farm among generations and into new ventures -- I will miss the daily work of KRC alongside these many individuals who are advancing a sustainable farming and food system in Kansas.

A Vision and a Voice

In my opening column three years ago, I noted that KRC provides a needed voice in Kansas, a voice that helps unite across divides and ensures that alternatives in agriculture remain viable and available to Kansas farmers and ranchers. In my time with KRC, I'm pleased to have participated in several key efforts that enhanced and advanced these goals.

Last year, we embarked upon KRC's Community Food Solutions program, bringing farming, food and public health together at the grassroots level to advocate for systemic change through public policy. I am proud to have seen the first phase of that work culminate this year in the landmark "Feeding Kansas: Statewide Farm & Food System Assessment with a Plan for Public Action," crafted with the

help of so many of you. This document will guide upcoming KRC and grassroots advocacy work around farm-to-fork systems change.

KRC also worked with partners to launch this approach by hosting one of seven Agriculture & Health Summits nationally in 2012, in partnership with the National Network of Public Health Institutes. And, of course, other projects during these past few years have advanced KRC's strong tradition of providing education and information relating to practical farming, farm policy and environmental stewardship. Some of these include the Tunnel to Table program that resulted in the just-released "Growing Under Cover: A Guide to Poly tunnel Options for Kansas Growers," our pollinators project, our Policy Watch weekly e-newsletter, monthly Grazing Telecalls, and an alternative vision for water in Kansas.

Together we celebrated KRC's 35th Anniversary this year, and along the way we accomplished a number of capacity-building projects, including implementation of new communications and database technologies to ensure KRC will be able to keep pace with future needs and opportunities.

I hope that in these small ways, I leave KRC with new tools and capacity to match the many rewards it has provided to me.

Transition Challenges

In leaving KRC, I find myself in a position that is so familiar for Kansas farm families: generational stewardship transition. In preparing comments about "Who will farm?" for the KRC Farm & Food Conference in November, I realized just how many are facing similar challenges.

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From the Director

In Kansas, farmers under age 35 number only one-fifth of those over age 65.

In the past five years, according to the most recent Census of Agriculture, Kansas has seen a drop of 15 percent in the number of beginning farmers, while our neighbors in Nebraska have seen a gain of nearly 10 percent. And Farm Journal reports that nationwide, 70 percent of farmers have not identified a successor.

In my work the past three years, I've had conversations with many of you who are hoping that new farmers will be able to come into the operation before you need to exit. Obviously, the work of KRC and its partners continues to be critical, to provide support and help to our new farmers and ranchers through these next years of stewardship transition and wealth transfer in Kansas.

I am fortunate to be able to join our family farm business full-time, and look forward to partnering with KRC to help others do the same in the future. My family will be providing holistic management training, education and transition support through the Savory Institute hub network, an international effort to establish centers to support stewards on grasslands across the globe.

Continued Partnership

In my new role, I look forward to supporting the good work of KRC and continuing to work with many of you in our common goal of advancing a sustainable farming and food system in Kansas.

My many thanks to KRC and all of you for allowing me this time to steward the best job in Kansas for a few short years, and best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and happy new year! □

After December 26, Julie can be reached at 785-393-9996, or at juliemettenburg@gmail.com.

KRC News

From the KRC Board

We want to recognize and thank Julie Mettenburg for her service to the Kansas Rural Center. During her tenure as Executive Director, Julie has brought a fresh perspective and new energy to our work. In addition to bringing on great new staff, she oversaw significant enhancement of our administrative processes and communications tools—adopting new technology to streamline the organization and that helped strengthen our engagement with new partners and supporters.

Soon after coming to KRC, Julie led a focused and successful effort to clarify the organization's mission, and both staff and board have been able to use the results of that effort to keep centered on the important work we do best. As a part of KRC's commitment to advancing an ecologically sound diversified food and farming system, under Julie's leadership we developed new relationships and strengthened cooperative efforts with other Kansas partners to work toward new and better options for both farmers and consumers.

Julie highlights some KRC accomplishments on the opposite page, but other programmatic elements developed or extended during the past three years have included support for women in agriculture, as well as continuation of the grazing management calls, monitoring critical farm and food legislation, and other education and advocacy efforts.

It's with both sadness and gratitude that we wish Julie all the best in her continued work for Kansas agriculture and rural community, albeit in a different capacity. She leaves KRC in a strong position to carry on our mission as we enter our 36th year of educating, researching, and advocating for the health of Kansas land and its people. Thanks, and don't be a stranger, Julie!

On behalf of the KRC Board,

Marjorie Van Buren

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State Policy

Governing Time in Kansas

by Paul Johnson

The election is over. The die has been cast. The Governor won a very contentious election with negative ads and innuendo funded by 'dark campaign funds'. Kansas was fully initiated into modern political campaigns characterized by 'sleeze' and avoidance of substantive issues. The circus is now over and the heavy lifting of governing is beginning.

The revenue picture in Kansas is grim. The funding of 'core governmental services' is at risk. Public safety is vulnerable with the understaffing of prisons and state hospitals for the mentally ill. The challenge now is political leadership and finding common ground with a full political discussion of all options of revenue and careful budget reductions, after five years of budget cuts and employee layoffs.

The declining revenue picture has been clear for two years. The consensus revenue experts have been reducing the projected revenue from individual income taxes for two years. By October 2014, the consensus revenue projection from April was already down by 9.5%, so the November reduced revenue projections for 2015 and 2016 should not

have come as any surprise.

The lower projection forces the Governor and the Kansas Legislature to find \$279 million in budget reductions in the final six months of the 2015 Fiscal Year that ends on June 30, 2014, plus an additional \$400 million in cuts in 2016.

Since Medicaid has been privatized as KanCare and comprises 20% of the State General Fund, it is unlikely any cuts can be made there so every other program including public education would be reduced 5.5%. If public education is spared - then the cut for every other state program is 15%. It is hard to believe that the Governor was not fully informed of these revenue trends. Instead he campaigned on the belief that a miraculous revenue recovery was imminent. Economic growth and employment gains in Kansas have continued to lag the region and the nation.

If the Governor and the 2015 Kansas Legislature have the political courage, a freeze on the next round of individual income tax rates could net \$153 million for 2015. It is also possible to raise the sales tax (the most regressive tax) by one penny by April 1,

and net close to \$70 million in May and June.

Instead, the Governor's \$280 million reduction proposal for 2015 is to sweep 'one-time' highway, health and children's fee funds, renege on increased spending for the underfunded Kansas' retirement system, and arbitrarily cut 4% from most state programs. These maneuvers will only get the state's checkbook up to zero by June 30, 2014.

For 2016 and 2017, state agencies can expect a minimum cut of 7% each year. The income tax rates are decreasing for several more years until there is no individual income tax. The Governor is steadfast in slashing spending by rewriting the school funding formula, lowering payments to retired state workers and reducing the number of state workers and citizens covered by medical programs.

Now, following his first budget announcement and plan, the Governor admits that K-12 education spending cuts will be tough to avoid given the budget deficit next year. This is something he denied throughout the election season as he campaigned on the importance of education.

Campaigns have consequences. The 'dark money' corporate contributors spent a few million in campaign contributions to get tens of millions in annual tax avoidance savings for their LLC's (limited liability corporations) and sub-chapter S corporations.

Since campaigns have turned into auctions, the highest bidder gets the rewards and the weakest players such as children or low-income workers or middle class families, suffer the consequences of under-funded schools and inadequate social services.

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What was not debated or defined in this circus campaign was 'core governmental services' and how these services would be adequately funded?

The circus of campaign dollars, party spin-doctors, reporters and pollsters has now left the state. How can Kansas have a meaningful political dialogue? For the last four years there has not been a discussion with all points of view. Can there be a change in the political philosophy of ignoring all dissenting opinions?

The conservative Republicans are in total control so why bother with independents, moderate Republicans, let alone Democrats? Will there be another round of arbitrary budget cuts unconnected to the damage done to our vital, public service and education programs?

The Kansas Rural Center will be reporting on these critical budgetary decisions and the potential impacts from these decisions. If you care about the quality of life in Kansas for decades to come, education for our children, and safety nets for our most vulnerable plus funding for critical natural resource management and protection, this budgetary and tax policy debate is critical. Your involvement is vital, and your lawmaker needs your voice. □

Paul Johnson may be reached at pdjohnson@centurylink.net

KRC to Provide Weekly E-Updates/ “Policy Watch” During State 2015 Session

For the third year, the Kansas Rural Center will provide friends of KRC and subscribers a weekly review and analysis of critical state policy debates and decisions, starting in early January, and coming weekly through May 31 or the end of the state legislative session, to your e-mail inbox. Paul Johnson, KRC's policy analyst, will monitor state budget and tax issues, emerging water and resource legislation, energy and renewable energy policy, and farm and food policy developments. Important hearing schedules and coverage of legislative discussions will be posted, as will any important legislative educational opportunities for Kansas citizens.

The state budget deficit for the current fiscal year will be front and center on lawmakers plates and impact almost all other discussions. Water management and development policy may receive hearing time as the Governor's 50 Year Vision plan and pieces of legislation or programs are introduced. There may be attempts to repeal the state's corporate farm law, including its local county option that still allows counties a choice in what kind of economic development they want. Production of fruits and vegetables in Kansas may also receive attention following the establishment last year of a Local Food and Farm Task Force. The Renewable Portfolio Standard that requires utility companies to produce set percentages of their energy from renewable sources, and encourages development of alternative sources of energy, will likely be under attack again this year as fossil fuel lobbyists push against renewables.

The Weekly E-Updates are only available via e-mail. Contributors to KRC who provide us their e-mail address, receive the Weekly E-Update Policy Watch automatically.

You may also subscribe to the Updates for \$25 /year, or receive it as part of a \$60 contribution to KRC which provides both Rural Papers and Policy Watch. Go to KRC's website at www.kansasruralcenter.org/donate/ and hit the donate button, follow instructions to either sign up for both or hit the button to subscribe to just Policy Watch or just Rural Papers.

Share this opportunity with your friends and family, helping them to make sense of what is going on in the world of state politics and policy making. Sign up today to get up to date information on Kansas' policy debates and decisions impacting education, natural resource, food and farming state policies!

Conference Speakers Challenge How to Rethink and Rebuild Our Food System

by Mary Fund

Keynote speakers Fred Kirschenmann and Ricardo Salvador delivered one-two punches that set the tone of KRC's November annual conference as they both addressed the basic question of how do we reshape our food and farming system without exploiting nature or people?

Nearly 200 people gathered over the two-day conference to listen to thought-provoking speakers and attend workshop sessions on topics ranging from practical how-to's in high tunnel and fruit and vegetable production, soil health, grazing drought strategies, water policy, analysis of the 2014 elections, and a presentation on KRC's food assessment of Kansas to name a few.

The big debate, or the food fight, as described by Kirschenmann, (farmer, philosopher and long time sustainable agriculture advocate) is about what kind of agriculture will be sustainable in the future? Conventional? Industrial? Organic? Small-scale local?

According to Kirschenmann, the food fight is based on the question of "how to feed 9 billion people by the year 205?" One side wants to intensify what we are doing now, to double down on the status quo. The other side wants to rethink and rebuild the food system.

Kirschenmann gave plenty of reasons why we need to rethink and rebuild but he also asserted that we need to stop arguing about who is right or wrong, and find ways to move forward.

When he talks to farmers across the

country, whether conventional, organic or fruit and vegetable producers, he likes to ask them "will they still be doing what they are doing today in 10 or 20 years?" No one says yes. But what will the new paradigm for food and agriculture be? How will we feed people in a very different world?

"We are in the beginning of a major transition economically," he stated. "It will be a different world in the future." The question, he explained, is not how do we feed 9 billion people? But what is the carrying capacity of a self-renewing planet?

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The just-passed elections were all about growth from both liberals and conservatives, he stated. The assumption is we can continue unlimited growth on a planet with limited resources. But we must incorporate limits to growth, he stated, as we think about the future.

Our current food and farming system, he explained, has achieved great things but with unintended consequences – many of them to our resource base. "We can live without a lot of things but we cannot live without food and water," asserted Kirschen-



Dr. Fred Kirschenmann, Distinguished Fellow for the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture in Iowa, and President of Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture in New York, and North Dakota organic farmer, addressed the KRC annual conference on an "alternative paradigm for agriculture."

mann on day one of the conference.

The current system over the past 150 years has depended on cheap available energy, or "old calories" that are not renewable. Fossil fuels, minerals, fossil water in our nonrenewable aquifers, and soil health—all our agricultural successes have been based on use of these—with little thought for the future.

Kirschenmann pointed out that we have been able to ignore soil health with inputs of NPK. Seventy percent of our fresh water resources are used for irrigation globally, and recent studies right here in the Plains argue that there are maybe twenty years left in the

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Rethinking the Food System...

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Ogallala Aquifer at current use rates. Furthermore, four countries in the world produce all the rock phosphate and four produce the potash, and the cost of those inputs keeps going up based on reduced supplies.

"Add to all that, climate change, which is the elephant in the room," Kirschenmann stated. "Some say we have 15 years to get a cap on carbon. Ultimately, we must restore the biological health of the soil, as well as biological and ecological diversity."

"The current paradigm is 'maximum efficiency for short term economic return'. But this is not going to solve our problems for the future," he said. What kind of system can we build that is resilient and regenerative for long term returns? What kind of systems do not need the old calorie inputs? he asked.

"We know soil health is critical," he explained. We have some resources we haven't used. And we still have some key knowledge or historic wisdom from individuals like Sir Albert Howard, who in the mid-1940's understood that the new direction of modern agriculture was robbing from the next generation in its use of resources.

Kirschenmann concluded with several signs of a paradigm shift. Farmer are beginning to focus on building soil health through use of cover crops and rotations. In just 7 to 8 years of growing cover crops, farmers are seeing that they can change their soil's moisture absorption capacity from an inch or less to 8 inches of rainfall an hour. These same farmers are also finding that they can reduce their fertilizer and pesticide inputs by 70% without hurting yields.

He pointed out that the Land Institute's 30 years of research for perennial grains is showing promise and is being conducted in several spots around the world. And people are showing interest in food not just as a thing, but as a relationship to each other and to the world around them.

"Meeting the challenges of the future will take more than the current dominant 'me and mine culture'.... it is not just about what I can get for me and mine."

While Kirschenmann focused primarily on food and farming's relationship to nature and our natural resources, Ricardo Salvador, senior scientist for the Union of Concerned Scientists, expanded the question to: can we reshape the food system without exploiting either nature or people?

Salvador painted a clear picture of a global food system of tremendous complexity and power. Most of us can simply decide what we want to eat and go get it. Or we can go to a central location and pick up the ingredients for a meal. But the system that produced that food or those ingredients exploited someone somewhere along its route. Without that exploitation, the entire system will stop.

The system works well for most of the planet, but not for all. About one billion people do not have access to this system or to adequate food.

There is also growing evidence that the food that is commonly available and the most affordable is not providing us the healthiest choices. USDA dietary recommendations show that a plant based diet and the least processed foods are the most healthy. Note that this does not say a diet **free** of meat, but a diet with simply more fruits and vegetables is the healthiest. But while one side of USDA talks about a plant based diet, the other side of USDA uses 80% of its dollars to produce feed grains for livestock or to go into highly processed foods. While there is some progress to provide more support for fruits and vegetables, according to Salvador, our public policy still supports a food system that is contributing to high rates of obesity, diabetes and cardio-vascular diseases.

"It would take very little land to produce the fruits and vegetables we need," claimed Salvador. It would also create jobs and provide several billion in increased economic activity. He acknowledged the importance and value of corn and soy, but asserts it would require about \$90 million invested in expansion of farmers markets, direct marketing, and other fruit and vegetable production efforts, but compared to the billions currently spent on commodity crop support, this is small.

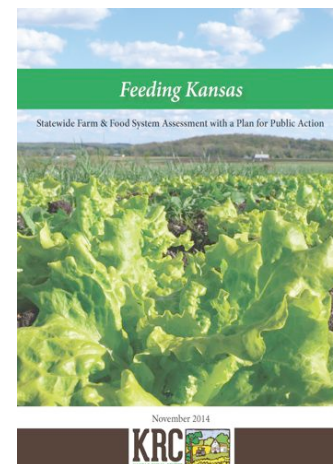
While working at the Kellogg Foundation, Salvador helped developed a definition of "Good Food".

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Local Food News

Feeding Kansas report...

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Cole Cottin, upper left, introduces the "Feeding Kansas" report. The report, above right, is available on KRC's website.

Feeding Kansas emphasizes fruits and vegetables in five of its seven policy priorities due to the significant under-production and under-consumption of these foods in Kansas. Other key goals include increasing the number of formalized local-level food policy advisory groups and creating a statewide "farm-to-fork" food system organizer position to address key barriers revealed through the assessment.

As part of the three year "Community Food Solutions" initiative that produced **Feeding Kansas**, KRC will spend 2015 and 2016 working with a growing network of grassroots citizens and partners to advocate for the enactment of the public policy priorities set forth in the report.

KRC's next steps include working to empower Kansans to more actively engage local- and state-level policy-makers to effect the changes needed in the farm and food system. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact KRC for further information and to join in one of several grassroots advocacy trainings KRC will host

statewide in 2015.

The initiative's advocacy efforts are already underway and gaining ground. In December 2014, KRC presented the findings of the **Feeding Kansas** assessment to Kansas's Governor-appointed Local Food and Farm Task Force. The task force, established with the passage of SB 286 in 2014, is mandated to provide the Kansas Legislature with its own report by 2016. The task force report will include formal policy and funding recommendations for increasing locally grown food production and availability statewide.

"Kansas's Local Food and Farm Task Force has been very receptive to the concepts and recommendations laid out in **Feeding Kansas**," reports Cole Cottin, Advocacy Coordinator for KRC and lead writer-analyst of the report. "They are clearly interested in continuing to receive more public input on what is needed to accomplish the task ahead."

All task force meetings are open to the public and include time at the end for audience feedback. The next

Local Food and Farm Task Force meeting will be held in Topeka at noon on Friday, January 23. For location details or other questions contact Kerry Wefald at (785) 564-6758 or Kerry.Wefald@kda.ks.gov.

In her closing remarks to the task force in December, Cottin voiced enthusiasm for what she sees as a "win-win-win-win" situation for Kansas. "Food," said Cottin, "is this wonderfully tangible issue that anyone can work on to address a multitude of challenges we face. Pulling together to advance the goals and priorities laid out in **Feeding Kansas** will simultaneously improve public health, strengthen the state's economy, boost the viability of family farms, address resource concerns (such as declining water availability), and revitalize Kansas communities."

KRC welcomes and encourages ideas and suggested strategies for effectively advancing any of the policy priorities expressed in **Feeding Kansas**. To provide feedback or participate in this initiative, contact Natalie Fullerton at nfullerton@kansaruralcenter.org or (866) 579-5469. □

50-Year Water Vision Plan Released At Governor's Conference

At the Governor's annual conference on Water and the Future of Kansas on November 12, the Kansas Water Office (KWO) and Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) released the second draft of the State's 50-Year Water Vision Plan. The release of the plan followed a year of 250 meetings across the state and the comments and input from hundreds of stakeholders around the state.

Governor Brownback identified the first two priority action items; 1) creating the Governor's Water Resources Sub-cabinet at the Executive level with additional regular agency collaboration to implement joint activities; and 2) establishing a Blue Ribbon Task Force to develop a balanced, affordable and sustainable method to provide financing for water resource management and protection, including alternatives that utilize public and private partnerships.

The Governor repeatedly emphasized the importance of local control and reaching agreement by the majority of stakeholders to set and implement goals for local areas or regions of the state. KWO followed up after the conference with a call for applicants to serve on short-term (January- August 2015) Regional Leadership teams to develop regional goals. About 300 people reportedly applied for 70-some positions on 14 regional leadership teams by the Dec. 10 deadline.

According to the KWO, the role of each team is to participate in a public scoping process in their region, develop draft goals for their region based on public input and available resource condition information as well

as present the draft goals to the Kansas Water Authority. (KWA). The KWA will select the leadership teams.

"Interbasin transfers will be part of the future," stated Tracy Streeter, director of the KWO, as he ran through the highlights of the vision plan. The state will be looking at the Missouri River options as well as looking at interbasin transfers within the state.

The draft Vision statement itself was revised from its earlier draft to reflect input regarding the role of conservation in securing and protecting a long range supply, but the plan still largely focuses on supply.

The plan shows evidence of input from various interests around the state, such as greater emphasis on water quality protection, the need for best agricultural management practices programs to incentivize conservation

and protection. But many conservation and environmental groups had hoped for more, insisting there was not enough emphasis on water quality issues, relationships between groundwater and surface water, wildlife and habitat concerns, or enough focus on diversifying agriculture as a way of addressing soil health and its water holding capacity, and water quality.

For instance, the Technology and Crop Varieties section still focuses primarily on irrigation technologies and varieties that use less water assuming continued mono- or duo-crop agriculture, instead of focusing on agriculture as an ecological system or promoting biological diversity, or on alternative economic opportunities to the current water use.

KWO officials insist the plan is an on-going document and process, that will continue to be developed. You can view the Vision plan at www.kwo.org. □

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"Good Food should be healthy; it should be environmentally benign; it should be fair (produced without causing exploitation of workers or consumers); it should be affordable; and it should be all of those things simultaneously. "

"Our food system is changing," summed up Kirschenmann. People are not willing to be passive any more, but want to be active participants in where their food comes from and how it is grown. And this is changing our culture."

"Meeting the challenges of the future will require more than the current dominant 'me and mine' culture," according to Kirschenmann. "This is an extractive approach to life where each tries to grab as much as we can for ourselves. And this is where we need to begin conversations in our homes and our communities. It is not just about what I can get for me and mine. But it is about **all** of us. Moments of crisis are also moments of grace and of opportunity." □

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KRC 2014 Year In Review



In 2014, KRC's Community Food Solutions Project hosted regional food summits around the state to get citizen input into barriers, challenges and needs for more local food production and healthier eating. Above right, the Tunnel to Table project hosted polytunnel education workshops.



Nearly 300 people attended our pollinator and beekeeping workshops in Douglas County; eight aspiring beekeepers received free equipment and hives from the program. Lower left, KRC closed its long time office in Whiting, Ks., in Sept. opting for a virtual office and updated communications. Below left, dust storms in central and western Kansas focused attention on soil and water issues in the state. KRC helped coordinate conservation and environmental groups responses to the State's 50-Year Vision Plan for Water in Kansas. Below right, Julie Mettenburg visits with KSU's dean of Agriculture John Floros at KRC's 35th anniversary celebration.



KRC 2014 Year in Review-- Annual Conference



The annual conference drew almost 200 and featured a Water Roundtable discussing the alternatives to the state's 50-Year Vision for Water in Kansas. At right, Ricardo Salvador, Union of Concerned Scientists, spoke about rethinking the food system.



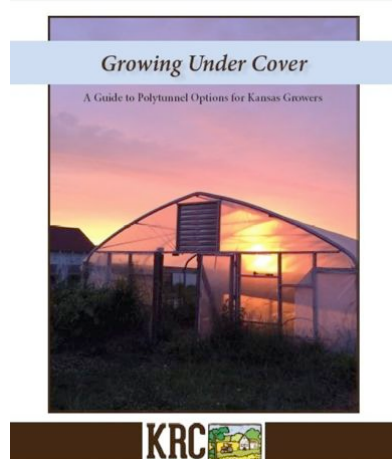
Keynote speakers, Bob Dixon, Hattie, Fred Kirschenmann, Ricardo Salvador, and Hank Will, joined a panel on "Reflections on Sustainability: The Next 35 Years". At right, one conference goer gave his approval to Bob McGranahan's contribution to KRC's Silent Auction. McGranahan donated the sculpture made from old farm equipment iron to help KRC celebrate its 35th anniversary. Below left, conference coordinator Natalie Fullerton and her mom, Shelly, who took photos for us. Special thanks to her! The unsung heroes of every conference are the staff and volunteers (below left) who work the registration table and handle logistics. Thanks to all!



Sustainable Food and Farming News

New Guide to Help Polytunnel Growers Determine Best Options for Increasing Yields & Reducing Risk

by Dan Phelps and Cole Cottin



"Growing Under Cover: A Guide to Polytunnel Options for Kansas Growers" is available online at:
<http://kansasmruralcenter.org/growing-under-cover/>



Farmers and other growers seeking to extend the production season, increase yields, or mitigate extreme and "normal" weather conditions can now turn to the Kansas Rural Center's newest publication, *Growing Under Cover*, for a thorough assessment of which "polytunnel" options may work best for their situation.

Polytunnels are plastic-covered structures, such as high tunnels and low tunnels, that can provide protection and increase productivity for specialty crops, such as fruits, vegetables, herbs, or flowers. However, as *Growing Under Cover* explains, "plastic covered tunnels are no silver-bullet solution. They may require significant financial investment, be labor intensive to manage, and risk damage or destruction from extreme weather such as high winds, heavy snow, or hail."

Growing Under Cover provides practical information and resources to assist growers in Kansas, or similar climates, aiming to avoid common mistakes and tunnel disaster, and to maximize return on investment from polytunnel purchases. Though the

guide highlights several benefits and demonstrates clear potential for polytunnels in areas like Kansas, it gives even more focused attention to the unique challenges these structures face in Kansas's harsh climate. For every challenge named (high winds, for example), several potential solutions are offered.

Much of the information in *Growing Under Cover* comes directly from farmers themselves. The guide heavily references information gleaned from sixty experienced Kansas high tunnel producers who responded to the Kansas Rural Center's High Tunnel Survey in 2014. Surveyed growers answered 35 tunnel-related questions, including "What advice would you give to someone interested in purchasing a high tunnel?" and "What, if anything, would you do differently during future high tunnel construction?"

Gems of advice come in the form of numerous quotes from Kansas growers with years of experience integrating polytunnels into their production systems. One farmer advises: "I think that the more

research one does before investing in a tunnel the better. I feel my investment has not been fully utilized. The tunnel can become a burden when not properly managed. I think scrupulous guidance would be helpful. Asking the difficult questions would have given me a more realistic look at what it means to own and operate a specialty crop operation with a tunnel."

Growing Under Cover: A Guide to Polytunnel Options for Kansas Growers is available free for printing or online viewing at Kansas Rural Center webpage: www.kansasmruralcenter.org/growing-under-cover. This guide was produced as part of KRC's Tunnel to Table Program, made possible through funding from the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Specialty Crop Block Grant and a grant from Farm Aid.

For more information about KRC's specialty crop programming contact Cole Cottin, Program Coordinator, at ccottin@kansasmruralcenter.org or 866-579-5469. □

Women in Agriculture

Kansas Women Shift Agriculture and Food Production Trends

by Cole Cottin and Dan Phelps

Although women represented only 28 percent of Kansas farmers in 2012 and the number of farmers is declining overall, women are ramping-up their involvement in several of the state's less common forms of agriculture. The Kansas Rural Center continues to advance programs to better serve the needs of this historically underserved population.

Between 2007 and 2012 Kansas saw an increase in the number of women farmers participating in each of the following forms of production:

- sheep and goat (87 percent increase)
- vegetable and melon (35 percent increase)
- fruit and nut tree (9 percent increase).

This shifting trend is likely driven both by the increasing demand for diverse locally raised farm products and the tendency for women to operate smaller scale farms. U.S. Agricultural Census data reveals that 30 percent of Kansas farms with women as the primary operator are less than 50 acres in size. Only 14 percent of Kansas farms with women as the principal operator are greater than 500 acres, while the average farm size in Kansas is 747 acres and 20 percent of Kansas farms are larger than 1,000 acres.

Producing and direct marketing the items listed above can provide a strategic advantage to small acreage farmers because they may be produced more intensively and offer a higher net income per acre than the grains and large animal products that currently dominate 97 percent of Kansas's agricultural sector. For example, a



The Tunnel To Table project distributed low tunnel equipment to 13 farms across the state, with eight going to women farmers.

study conducted by K-State University Professor Rhonda Janke found the average Kansas farm's net income per acre from vegetables was more than 24 times greater than that of the state's most common crop: wheat. Decreased infrastructure and other costs and increased price per unit through direct market channels both impact this.

However, production and marketing of these types of agricultural products does not come without its own set of challenges. It typically requires increased labor and knowledge, and strategic planning to cope with Kansas's extreme weather and increasingly unpredictable climate patterns.

Women farmers, including those looking into these "alternative" enterprises, often find that typically available educational opportunities and services do not meet their unique needs – including the need for women-only workshops, where women may be more likely to feel engaged.

Though women represent only 28

percent of Kansas farmers overall, nearly 50 percent of the 300 plus participants in KRC's 2014 Tunnel to Table workshop series were women. This program, aimed at increasing the competitiveness of specialty crop production in Kansas while helping farmers thrive, led to the distribution of free low tunnel infrastructure to eight women-operated farms.

The women are now using those low tunnels (made available with support from Farm Aid and the Kansas Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant Program) to extend their growing season further into the winter months.

The Tunnel to Table project culminated in the publication of *Growing Under Cover: A Guide to Polyunnel Options for Kansas Farms*, which features a cover photo from a Kansas women-run produce and small livestock operation and is available for viewing or free download at www.kansasruralcenter.org/growing-under-cover. (See story on page 12).

Continued on page 16

Women in Agriculture

KRC To Hold Series of “Women in Agriculture” Workshops in 2015

by Mary Fund

The Kansas Rural Center has recently received a USDA Risk Management Education grant to provide women farmers and women landowners information necessary to reduce or avoid financial, legal and production risks on their farms.

Women farmers and women landowners will control an increasing amount of farmland and farms in the coming decades, as women live longer than men, and thus as widows and daughters, inherit farms and the decision making responsibilities that go with them. Interest among women in actively farming is also rising.

Surveys of women in Kansas during our Women and Conservation Project a year ago showed that current educational services and opportunities are not meeting the needs. Research has also shown that women learn differently than men, responding positively to a participatory approach over typical classroom lectures and to a women only format.

During 2015, the project will provide four full-day regional workshops for women-only in four locations across the state. Each workshop will have a different focus :

- 1) Business, Legal and Financial Risk management will cover basic estate planning needs, land tenant and leasing options, and basic financial record keeping. It will also include a session on state and federal conservation programs and a short tour of farming practices such as cover crops and no-till to build soil health.

- 2) Two workshops~ one in eastern kansas and the other in northwest

Kansas~ will focus on Specialty Crop and Polytunnel Production emphasizing food production, food safety and handling, and conservation programs; plus a visit to a farm using high tunnels or polytunnels for fruit and vegetable production.

The last workshop will focus on Soil Health, Cover Crops/ and Integrated Crop and Livestock Farming with presentations on building soil health, organic farming practices, cover crops, and integrating crops and livestock into the operation. It will also feature a tour of a local farm and alternative enterprises.

Each workshop will also include information and materials on the new crop insurance options for fruit and vegetable farms or whole farm revenue insurance. All of the workshops will highlight the opportunities and the challenges for women as they implement new enterprises on existing farms, begin farming, or take over family operations, or just try to adopt new practices and enterprises with their families. But available resources and sources of information will also be available!

The project will collect and compile relevant resource materials and develop a resource directory for women farmers and landowners to make available online on our website.

Stay tuned for the dates and locations for the series of workshops which will be available early in 2015. For more information, contact Mary Fund at mfund@kansasruralcenter.org

Land, Leases and Estate Planning for Women

by Joanna Voigt

Twenty women learned the ins and outs of land leasing arrangements and current land price trends in Kansas, as well as farm and ranch estate planning steps and strategies, at the “What Women Need to Know About Land, Leases and Estate Planning” workshop, held on November 7, 2014, at KRC’s Farm & Food Conference in Manhattan, Kansas.

Speakers Mykel Taylor and Forrest Buhler provided information on navigating these transitions with an eye towards the particular challenges faced by women.

Kansas State University Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics, Dr. Mykel Taylor, presented information about land leasing arrangements and current land prices and trends. Taylor discussed the latest in leasing agreements and land price trends with workshop participants.

Leasing agreement options on crop lands include crop-share and cash rent, with numerous variations on each of these two types of agreements. Crop-share is the most common leasing arrangements, but there has been a recent uptick in the number of cash rent agreements. In Kansas, the average length of a crop land lease is 18.6 years.

Important principles to adhere to when entering into a land lease include sharing costs, re-evaluating arrangements as times and technologies change, accounting for resource contribution when dividing returns, compensation for unused long-term investments, and good communication between the landowner and tenant.

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Women in Agriculture

Land, Leases.... Contd. from page 14

Cash rents should be established based on current market rates, the crop share equivalent (adjusted for risk), the landowner's cost and the amount the tenant can pay. A comprehensive resource for information on leasing arrangements and land prices in Kansas can be found at <http://www.agmanager.info/farmmgt/land/>.

Forrest Buhler is a Staff Attorney for the Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services (KAMS), a program administered through K-State Research and Extension.

Buhler covered farm and ranch transition and estate planning with workshop participants, introducing them to the basic steps of starting the process of transitioning a farm or ranch. These include: initiating the discussion, taking stock of the present situation, developing objectives, choosing professional advisors, considering the alternatives and implementing a plan, reviewing/modifying the plan, and educating oneself on the basic concepts and terminologies of the process.

Buhler discussed property ownership concepts, trusts, wills, business organizations in estate planning, estate and gift tax exemptions, and mediation.

The Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services is also hosting a series of Farm & Ranch Succession planning workshops around the state during January and March.

For more information on the KSU workshops, please visit the Kansas Agriculture Mediation Services website, <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/kams/>. The KSU workshops will

provide more in depth presentations on the business/legal and family dynamics of farm transition, while KRC's workshops will be for women-only and cover new enterprise and production opportunities as well as the challenges for women making farm decisions. (See KSU story below).

The November conference "What Women Need to Know About Land, Leases and Estate Planning" workshop was part of KRC's "Women in Farming: Managing Production, Financial and Legal Risks as Farmers, Farm Partners, and Landowners in Kansas" project, funded through the USDA Risk Management Education Partnerships Program. □

KSU to Hold Succession Planning Workshops

The transfer of ownership, management and leadership from one generation to another is an important issue for farms, ranches and rural communities across Kansas. This winter, K-State Research & Extension and Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services will offer one-day succession conferences designed to educate and support families as they prepare for the future of the enterprise.

Dates & Locations

Conferences will be held from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm at the following locations:

January 5 - Allen Community College

in Iola

January 10 - Pratt Community College

in Pratt

January 16 - Kansas Farm Bureau Plaza - Manhattan

January 17 - Flint Hills Technical

College - Emporia

March 3 - K-State Agricultural Research Center - Hays

Presentation Topics Include:

Succession Planning Overview - Gregg Hadley, K-State Research & Extension;

Family Dynamics & Communication - Charlotte Shoup Olsen & Charlie Griffin, Family Systems & Studies;

Financial & Business Considerations - Forrest Buhler, Kansas Ag Mediation Services & Duane Hund, Farm Financial Analyst;

Power Transfer - Gregg Hadley, K-State Research & Extension & Charlie Griffin, Family Systems & Studies; and

Legal Issues - Attorney with expertise in farm estate planning .

Registration is \$60 for the first family member and \$40 per person for additional family members. Registration for each person includes lunch and snacks. One succession notebook will be available for each family group.

Online registration (available at <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/kams/>) closes one week prior to each conference date. Registration is still available by calling 1-800-432-8222; however, Conference Services will be closed Dec. 24, 2014 - Jan. 2, 2015. Walk-in registrations are available, but space and meals may be limited. □

Congress is Over-- How the “Cromnibus Bill” Settled Out for Conservation and Sustainable Ag

The 113th Congress finished its work on the “cromnibus” appropriations bill and President Obama signed it on December 16, avoiding much of last year’s drama of the threat of government shut-down. The term “cromnibus” was a combination of CR for continuing resolution that was necessary for NSA funding and the omnibus bill Congress often uses to combine multiple spending bills into a single mega-bill that was needed for everything else.

The bill authorizes \$1.1 trillion in discretionary spending to fund the federal government through September 30, 2015, excepting the Department of Homeland Security

Women in Agriculture

Tunnel to Table...

Continued from page 13

In 2015, KRC will continue to serve this critical and growing demographic of farmers through its “Women in Farming” initiative. With support from USDA’s Risk Management Agency, this initiative will lead to the production of a risk management guide for women in agriculture, as well as the hosting of four different women-only workshops across the state.

Workshop topics will range from specialty crop and high tunnel production, to integrated crop and livestock farming, to crop insurance and business, legal and financial risk management. See page 14 for more details.) For more information on the project, contact Mary Fund at (866) 579-5469 or mfund@kansasmruralcenter.org. □

whose funding will be renegotiated in February.

Overview. According to analysis from the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, the bill represents flat or slightly shrinking domestic social program spending levels, including cuts to EPA, the IRS, and USDA. Of the \$1.1 trillion in appropriate funds for 2015, about two percent is directed to food, farm and rural development programs administered by USDA and the Food and Drug Administration. This is \$305 million below last year’s funding.

The bill includes new multi-billion dollar increases in funding for military spending in the Middle East, for Ebola, and assistance to reduce the flow of Central American children to the U.S.. It also keeps a tight lid on domestic spending for normal government functions. It includes a number of policy measures needing to be passed before the new 114th Congress comes into town. White House priorities like climate rules, affordable health care, and water regulation were unscathed, but the new bill takes major steps to weaken campaign finance reform, Dodd-Frank financial reform, and fair competition rules, among others.

Conservation. While the 2014 Farm Bill cut \$4 billion from voluntary conservation programs, or over \$6 billion when sequestration is taken into account, the new spending bill cut nearly \$600 million more, primarily from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). CSP fared the worst with total number of acres that can be enrolled

cut by nearly a quarter what was approved in the 2014 Farm Bill.

Fair Competition Rules. Included in the bill was a rider that prevents basic contract protections for farmers from being finalized. This includes protections preventing a company from pulling a farmer’s contract or providing them sick animals when they exercise their free speech rights, including their right to speak to their Congressional representative without fear of company retaliation.

Basically the rider supported by the big livestock and meat companies prevents the Packers and Stockyards program at USDA from protecting the rights of farmers and ranchers and from ensuring a fair marketplace for meat and poultry.

SARE. The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program funding stays at \$22.7 million, which is only a third of its authorized funding level. This is the longest-standing research program addressing the research needs of sustainable and organic farmer over the past 25 years.

Food Safety Outreach. This program will receive \$2.5 million to train farmers and help them get their farms up to speed on the new food safety standards. The bill also includes funding for the FDA to administer the new Food Safety Modernization Act.

Education. Also ATTRA, the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service, received a small increase to \$2.5 million.

Continued on page 17

Farm Policy

Omnibus Funding....

Continued from page 16

Farm Loans. NSAC claims the biggest win in the bill is the increase in funding for FSA farm loans- including \$1.5 billion dollars for direct farm ownership loans (to help purchase farmland) and \$1.3 billion for direct operating loans)to cover annual farm operating expenses). This level is almost triple recent funding levels, and should help reduce the backlog of applications who are approved but were unable to get an FSA loan due to lack of funding.

Congressional Letters. Also at the close of the year, Congressional representatives sent a number of letters to USDA Secretary Vilsack urging action on specific issues:

Commodity Program Reform. In mid-December several Congressmen wrote to USDA Secretary Vilsack urging him to use his authority to reform the “actively engaged in farming’ rules to prevent mega-farms from abusing the commodity payment programs by collecting multiple payments in violation of the Farm Bill’s statutory limits. Congress- men signing the letter include Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Tim Johnson (D-SD), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), and Representatives Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE), and Rosa DeLauro (D-CT).

The letter urges the Secretary to follow the reform provisions included in both the House and Senate-passed farm bills that were dropped by the Ag Committee leaders as they cut a deal in the final negotiating sessions that led to passing the 2014 Farm Bill. Those provisions closed the existing loopholes in the actively engaged rule and replaced them with an allowance for a single farm manager to qualify for payments in addition to the farm operators.

Briefs

USDA Seeks Comments on New EQIP Rules

USDA has opened a public comment period for changes to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Comments are due by February 10, 2015.

Changes in the rule are intended to simplify the EQIP regulation regarding conservation practice scheduling, payment limitations and other administrative services.

Highlights of the change include:

- * Requires at least 5% of available EQIP funds be targeted for

conservation practices to promote wildlife habitat;

- * Increases the advanced payment from 30% to 50% for eligible historically underserved producers, including beginning farmers;

- * Targets assistance to Veteran farmers and ranchers;

- * Incorporates the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program functions under EQIP.

Find out more about how to comment at the USDA NRCS website at: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=STELPRDB1265528 . □

Antibiotic Use in Agriculture. Another letter to Vilsack and the Secretaries of Defense and Health and Human Services asks the Secretary to address the critical gaps in the current FDA policies on antibiotic use in agriculture. This was requested by Senators Elizabeth Warren, Diane Feinstein and Kirsten Gillibrand.

Sodsaver Implementation. Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and John Thune (R-SD) wrote to USDA Secretary urging implementation of the 2014 Farm Bill’s sodsaver provision, reducing crop insurance subsidies for conversion of grassland to cropland in six states (ND, SD, MT, IA, MN and NE). □

From NSAC Dec. 17, 2014 and December 11, 2014 at <http://sustainableagriculture.net>.

Join KRC for our
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For more information, contact Dale Kirkham at 620-344-0202

Small Farmer Commentary

Making 2015 the Year of Crucial Conversations

by Mary Fund

"That was the best conference I have ever been to. It changed the way I think!" So claimed a long time friend of KRC a few days after our annual conference. This was from someone who has seen more than his share of conferences. As a conference sponsor, you can't get any higher praise than that. And he was not alone.

In the days following our November conference, I heard similar comments from a number of people. The blend of practical information and how-to's and thought provoking speakers on the emerging opportunities to rethink farming, natural resource management, and our food system struck a chord for many.

Wes Jackson has written that since the advent of modern agriculture and the industrial revolution, that we have been a "species out of context," removed from ecological realities. Robert Jensen, a Texas journalism professor and activist, describes this as "having to recognize that the biological processes that govern the larger living world, along with our own evolutionary history, impose limits on human societies." In short, if we are to create systems and structures that make a sustainable world possible, we must understand our history and adapt our institutions and behaviors.

What worked for the KRC conference was that it helped people put their concerns, needs and personal interests, and their desire to **do something** into this bigger context. Whether it was raising fruits and vegetables for a local food system, planting prairie strips in row crops for pollinator habitat and water quality protection, discussing state budget woes, or discussing the future of water supply and quality in a world of changing resource availability and vulnerability, it did not matter.

People were able to think and discuss essential questions within the context of their farms, businesses and their local community as it fit into the larger global community. For instance, we were able to recognize that something like the state's 50-Year Water Vision with its emphasis on development and likely movement of water from one end of the state to the other to support the economic status quo, was out of context with the larger ecological and economic realities that Fred Kirschenmann presented about our natural resources. (See page 6).

"We as a people appear to know very much about things that matter very little, and very little about critical things."

**Jim Van Der Pol,
MN farmer & writer**

We were able to look at KRC's newly released **Feeding Kansas** report within the larger context of the public food and farm policies described by Ricardo Salvador, and see the value- and perhaps the necessity- of finding ways to increase local food production ~ both to feed people in our own backyards and to better manage the natural resources where we live.

And we were able to grasp that here at this time and this specific place, we are part of something bigger than our farms, our businesses, or our jobs- that we are part of a living, constantly evolving reality, part of the people keeping alive the ecological and cultural knowledge that is critical to our future; and that there are ~ and must be- alternatives to the extractive,

exploitative ways of the past and current systems.

As people everywhere struggle to make sense of the world around them they are looking for the connecting dots, and to understand what they can and must do. As we make those connections, the next step is having crucial conversations with those who disagree or hold different opinions.

We Kansans are a polite bunch. We like to avoid conflict. We learn from an early age to avoid discussing religion and politics at family dinners and community events. Thus, we don't really discuss the important issues of the day.

Minnesota grazer/farmer and writer Jim Van Der Pol recently wrote that "we as a people appear to know very much about things that matter very little, and very little about critical things."

He also pointed out that when you begin thinking and acting differently, even in so small a thing as adopting a different grazing system on your farm (or in other farmer's cases perhaps adopting organic practices or starting an alternative fruit and vegetable enterprise), people are afraid and begin to avoid you. Multiply this several times if you begin to talk about critical issues like school budgets in Kansas, rethinking the food system, questioning the safety of GMO crops, the evidence of climate change, and the growing disparity in income and wealth. You immediately run into conflict and adversarial stances.

But talk we must, and it has to be about more than football scores and television shows or movies. Fred Kirschenmann and Ricardo Salvador alluded to this, too: . that we need to start these critical conversations in our homes and our communities. Continued page 19

Commentary continued

The good news is that crucial conversations have begun.

At KRC's regional food summits around the state last year and at the initial meetings of the State Local Farm and Food Task Force, conversations about increasing food production in Kansas for Kansans have begun.

Like it or not, the state's budget crisis has begun crucial economic conversations across the state in communities facing school cuts and possible closures, and how to meet other local needs. And on a larger stage, the questions about 'wealth trumping fairness' have begun.

Above my desk hangs a poster with the Margaret Mead quote: "Never Doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

As we move into the New Year, I hope the participants at KRC's conference have taken their energy back home and begun talking to their friends and neighbors. And I challenge each of you to make 2015 the Year of Crucial Conversations. □

Mary Fund can be reached at

mfund@kansusruralcenter.org or 866-579-5469.

Briefs

Cover Crop Survey Documents the Benefits

For the second year in a row a national survey of farmers has documented a yield boost from the use of cover crops in corn and soybeans, as well as a variety of other benefits. The North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NC-SARE) survey details the challenges and benefits farmers expect from cover crops, data on the costs of seed and establishment, and insight into how farmers learn to manage cover crops.

The report notes that respondents found an average yield increase of five bushels per acre to corn on fields that had been cover cropped before corn, and a two bushel to the acre increase of soybeans following cover crops. The year before that the increases in yield were 11 bushels per acre for corn following covering crops, and 4.9 bushels of soybeans after corn. The difference may be attributable to drought the first year.

The report also reveals other benefits including increases in soil

organic matter, reduced soil erosion and compaction, improved weed control, and the availability of "free" nitrogen through soil fixation by legumes.

Other insights include:

- * Seventy-one percent of the cover crop users seed their own cover crops.
- * Nearly half (48%) apply a herbicide for termination; tillage and choosing species that winter-kill each are employed by about half as many growers (21% and 20 percent).

- * Winter cereals are the most popular cover crops, planted by 73% of survey respondents. About 34% plant a multiple-species mix.

- * and cover crop users say they learn most about cover crop management through trial and error. Local workshops are the second most popular source of insight.

The 2013-2014 SARE-CIIC Cover Crop Survey Report is available online at www.sare.org/covercropsurvey.

(From NC-SARE Summer/Fall 2014 Newsletter)



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www.kansusruralcenter.org

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Calendar

Monday, Jan. 12, 2015 KRC Grazing Call, 7:30-9 p.m. Call 877-304-5632
Code: 300 356 2424#. For more info contact Dale Kirkham, 620-304-0202

January 22, 2015 Webinar: Cover Crop Economic Decision Support Tool; 1 to 2 p.m. CST; Pre-registration not required.
For access information, go to:
<http://www.conservationwebinars.net/webinars/cover-crop-economics-decision-support-tool>

Jan. 20-30, Partnerships in Conservation: Bridging the Gap between Science and Politics, Kansas Natural Resource Conference, Wichita, Ks. For more info, go to
<http://www.kansasnrc.org/>

Please check the KRC website for updated and more detailed calendar and announcement information on the above and for additional events at:

www.kansasruralcenter.org

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