

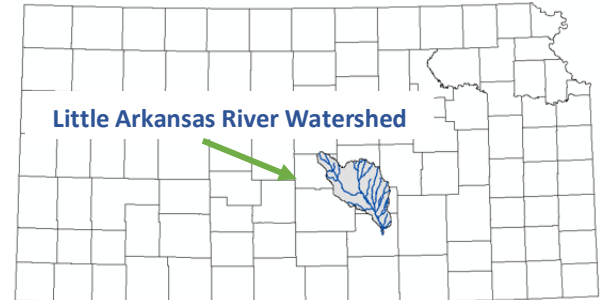
Little Arkansas River WRAPS

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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 the town of Geneseo, and the river travels southeast approximately 80 miles, draining numerous tributaries before emptying into the Arkansas River at 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.



What is a Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS)?

WRAPS is a planning and management framework built to engage local citizen-stakeholders within a particular watershed. It is a process used to **identify** restoration and protection needs, to **establish** management goals for the watershed community, to **create** an action plan to achieve those goals, and to **implement** the action plan. The Little Arkansas River Watershed WRAPS action plan was written and approved in 2010 and has since been in the implementation phase.

Working Through Covid-19

Our WRAPS Coordinator and leadership team are still working through Covid-19! If you have questions or need us, please feel free to contact us using the contact information below. These are strange times indeed and though we are unable to have large-scale face-to-face meetings, we want to stay engaged in our work and not lose momentum on our progress.

Harvesting Knowledge: Little Ark's Productive Producers

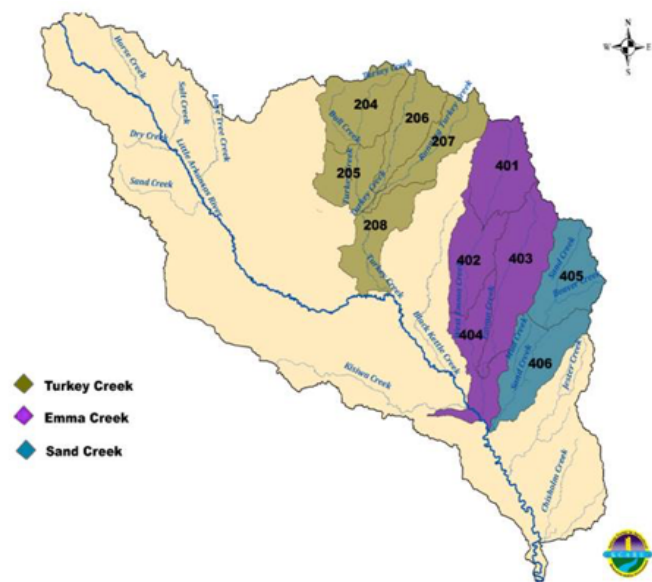
In this issue we are high-lighting the work of **Mr. Frank Harper** of Sedgwick, KS. Frank Harper grew up farming and graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in Agronomy in 1992. Frank has been involved in volunteer leadership and served as the KLA President in 2012 and says that his years of involvement in KLA and NCBA helped to broaden his understanding of the importance of being involved beyond his own operation. Harper says that, *"Understanding the challenges of our friends in agriculture within and beyond Kansas made me recognize the importance of communicating with those outside of agriculture, as they can have huge impacts on our operations. Whether it's working with local towns and cities, the state legislature, or even Congress, the need to communicate and do our best to work together is always a better strategy than fighting against each other."*



Mr. Harper has participated in the WRAPS atrazine program for numerous years. His operation is headquartered within roughly a mile or less from Sand Creek, Emma Creek, and the Little Ark River. As he farms adjacent to all three of these high-priority streams, Frank recognizes that his farming practices have the potential to impact all three streams. Harper shared, *"As ag producers, we have a big responsibility to provide food to our nation and beyond. Along with that responsibility comes the need to be sustainable both economically and environmentally. I feel production agriculture does an excellent job at both. The value that the WRAPS programs can have on the producer is to help bridge the economic gap to adopt practices that can potentially have additional positive impacts by slightly modifying our normal practices."*

To close, Frank Harper has some encouraging words to share with his fellow producers and watershed residents. *"I know that the strength of U.S. agriculture has and will continue to lead the world in sustainable food production. Our crop and livestock operations are the best in the world and continue to strive to improve daily. As our nation gets back on our feet from the current challenges, I feel agriculture will lead the way to prosperity for all people within our country and beyond."*

Get Paid to Change the Way You Apply Atrazine



Improper atrazine application can result in excessive atrazine that leaves crop fields during heavy rainfall events and enters nearby streams. Turkey, Emma and Sand Creeks have been listed as “needs improvement” for atrazine loading by the KDHE TMDL section.

The Little Arkansas River WRAPs group has received funding for the implementation of atrazine best management practices (BMPs). The goal of this program is to provide producers with a financial incentive to implement atrazine BMPs in high priority fields with high runoff potential in the Turkey Creek, Emma Creek, and Sand Creek sub-watersheds, *see figure to the left*.

The program is locally-driven, volunteer-based, and has minimal paperwork. The success of our program requires the participation of our local producers! If you are located in these areas and interested in the program, please contact Rick Schlender at (620) 200-4496.

Atrazine Herbicide Best Management Practices

- Incorporate atrazine into top two inches of soil prior to planting
- Apply atrazine in the fall or prior to April 15
- Apply atrazine as a part of a post-emergence premix
- Reduce soil-applied atrazine
- Use split applications of atrazine
- Band apply atrazine at planting
- Use no atrazine
- Incorporate atrazine with 1/2 inch sprinkler

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!

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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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