

Little Arkansas River WRAPS

Fall 2023

Volume 5, Issue 4

Harvesting Knowledge: Little Ark's Productive Producers

In this issue, we are highlighting the work of **Mr. Terry Jacob**. Terry Jacob has been farming most of his life. He started out raising sheep at a young age with his father, Robert Jacob. At the age of 16, Terry started working fields and helping work cattle at the Kurr Feedlot. In 1997, Terry and his uncle, Larry Jacob, formed J Farm and bought the quarter section where he currently lives, between Halstead and Sedgwick. No-till farming practices were used on all ~2,200 acres. Crops planted included wheat, corn, milo, soybeans and sunflowers. Terry quickly could see the advantage of no-till because he had been utilizing flood irrigation on many acreages. Flood irrigation was a process of working fields every year and then leveling them out, sometimes resulting in moisture loss. The fields would then have beds made and ditches sloped to allow for proper water flow. Furrowing also needed to be done to control weeds. Pivot irrigation came along and helped with many flood irrigation issues and water was used more efficiently.

Terry said that he signed up with the CRP program through NRCS in 2004. He wanted to try to keep the flood irrigation water from running into the Kisiwa Creek along with the herbicides that were being used at that time. It also helped prevent sediment from flowing into the creek and the tall grasses in the CRP mix helped provide more habitat for wildlife. He added that there is an annual payment in the CRP program that probably pays better than farming the few acres of land which is close to trees and streams.

One of the fields farmed by Jacob Farms is owned by Terry Miller of Wichita. About 15 years ago, Terry realized that the edge of the field was eroding along the bank of the Little Arkansas River. The NRCS office in Newton was contacted about the problem and Ron Graber and Rick Schlender were called in to discuss the best approach to keep the erosion under control. Terry and Ron talked at that time about how the City of Wichita would benefit from stream bank erosion control and how buffer strips would help keep herbicides and sediment from flowing downstream. NRCS had a cost share program that helped with the repair. Now, the City of Wichita will help fund similar projects through the WRAPS program.

Terry's advice to fellow producers is to "take advantage of conservation programs! Be informed and be aware of what cost share programs are out there. Producers, along with the City of Wichita and other communities, will benefit from everyone being good stewards of the land. Be ahead of the game. Help support projects like WRAPS. Go to meetings and learn what is offered and share what knowledge you have to help these programs help us and all those downstream from your farm". **Thank you, Terry for your continued dedication to improving agriculture and protecting our water resources in the Little Arkansas River Watershed!**

Flickners Receive Conservation Honors

Article by: Melissa Harvey, K-State KCARE

Ray and Susan Flickner received the prestigious Leopold Conservation Award at the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting in Wichita on November 20. The award recognizes those who inspire others through their extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation.

This recognition was given to the family for their strong conservation ethic on their farmland in Dickinson, Hodgeman, McPherson, and Norton Counties. They carefully manage their farm using conservation tillage, a variety of water-saving irrigation technologies, cover crops, nutrient management, wildlife and pollinator habitat restoration, and more.

"We were blessed with this land, and with these resources," said Ray Flickner. "We see our role as making sure that we leave everything better than how we found it."

The Leopold Conservation Award, named for wildlife ecologist and author Aldo Leopold, is presented annually to farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners in 28 states who showcase conservation practices such as improving soil health, water resources and wildlife habitat on their lands. In Kansas, it is presented by the Sand County Federation, in partnership with the American Farmland Trust, the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, and the Ranchland Trust of Kansas. The Flickners are the 9th landowners to receive the award in Kansas. **Congratulations to this special family and thank you for your continued work in conservation!**



Photo Credit: Keila Sherman, KACD

Upcoming Events:

- Harvey County Conservation District Annual Meeting – Monday, February 5, 2024
- McPherson County Conservation District Annual Meeting – Monday, January 22, 2024



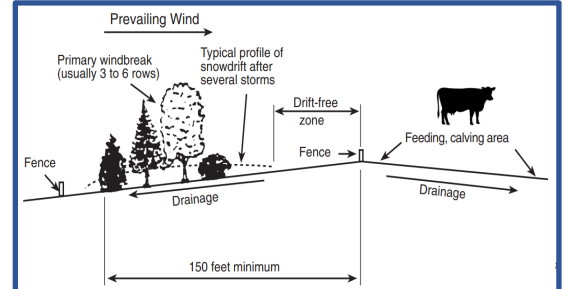
Winter Livestock Protection: Windbreaks

Windbreaks can reduce winter stress on livestock. According to James Strine of the Kansas Forest Service (*Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service, MF-2120*), “all livestock have critical minimum temperatures that must be maintained. When animals are subjected to air temperatures below this critical temperature, they require more food to offset the increase in energy lost to maintain themselves. By reducing wind velocity, windbreaks significantly lower stress on animals and reduce feed energy requirements. This results in better animal health, lower feed costs, and greater financial gain”.

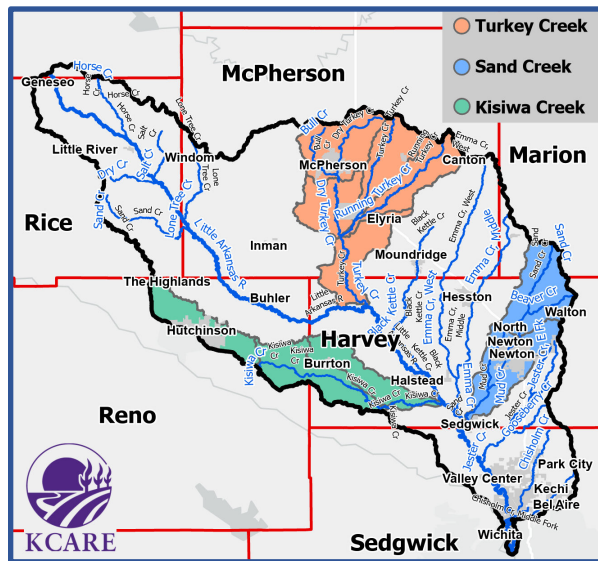
Strine goes on to say that “on open grassland, windbreaks are especially valuable during the calving season when protection from late winter and early spring storms is most critical. Livestock in open grassland receive good winter protection from windbreaks consisting of three to ten rows of evergreen trees. Windbreaks shaped like the letters “L” or “U,” with the open ends facing southeast will provide the most protection”.

Confined livestock can also benefit from winter and summer protection that can be provided by windbreaks. However, drainage from melting snow trapped in the windbreak needs to be considered (see figure). Also, drainage from the feedlot should not be allowed to flow into the windbreak.

Homes and crop fields can also benefit from windbreaks. For more on windbreaks, refer to Strine’s publication: <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF2120.pdf>.



Let's Mooove Cattle Out of Our Creeks!



The Little Arkansas River WRAPS program has expanded its area for livestock practice implementation! What does this mean to you? If you are a livestock producer in the **Turkey, Sand, or Kisiwa Creek** sub-watersheds, the WRAPS program now has funding to help you implement a best management practice (BMP) to help you improve your livestock operation and nearby water quality!

It has been proven that good agricultural choices can improve the health of our waters. The WRAPS program has funding available to get those cattle out and away from the creek! This will save your streambank from erosion and sloughing from over-use by cattle, while improving water quality!

Examples of BMPs you may want to implement include:

- Alternative watering sources
- Cover crop grazing
- Relocate feeding sites
- Rotational grazing
- Vegetative filter strips

**Contact
Ron Graber or Rick Schlender
for assistance!**

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.

