

Little Arkansas River WRAPS

Summer 2024

Volume 6, Issue 3

Harvesting Knowledge: Little Ark's Productive Producers



In this issue, we are high lighting the work of **Mr. Shaun Ortman**. Shaun's great-great grandfather came to the area back in the 1880's. Ortman Farms LLC was established when Shaun's father, Dale, retired in 2018. Shaun is now the 5th generation to farm, working the same land that has been farmed by the Ortman family for over 110 years.

Mr. Ortman's grandfather began the family's interest in conservation by establishing terraces and waterways back in the 1960's. More recently, Shaun and his father have planted 55 acres of field borders and established 6.5 acres of wetlands. Shawn has also added wildflower pollinators to provide bee habitat.

Shaun has been participating in the WRAPS program dating back to 2013. He has primarily been involved in the atrazine program, striving to prevent atrazine runoff and reduce soil erosion. This program offers producers an incentive to use post-emergent application, early application, reduced soil applied rate, split application, or to use no atrazine at all. Shaun has been doing a post-emergent application of Degree Xtra at V4 to V5 stage of the corn and he adds other chemicals to control the pigweeds that come up later. Ortman states, "I have been getting great control of weeds and hoping the taller corn plants will shade the ground and hold the herbicide better to slow down any water that would run off".

Thank you, Shaun Ortman for your continued dedication to improving agriculture and protecting our water resources in the Little Arkansas River Watershed!



SAVE THE DATE

FLICKNER INNOVATION FARM
MOUNDRIE, KANSAS
AUGUST 1, 2024
8 A.M.

Spend your morning at the Flickner Innovation Farm where you'll see all the newest irrigation technologies in action, including one of the only 360 Rain systems in Kansas.



REGISTER TODAY

Calling all Producers!

The Little Arkansas River WRAPS program has funding that needs to be distributed by the end of next June! If you are interested in atrazine, livestock, nutrient management, and/or sediment BMPs, now is the time to try a new conservation practice on your farm!

Examples of **Cropland BMPS** that you can receive incentive payments on include:

- No-till
- Conservation tillage
- Conservation crop rotations
- Grid sampling for Nutrient Management and better soil health parameters
- Changes in how you apply atrazine
- Buffers
- Incorporate manure
- And more!

Examples of **Livestock BMPs** you may want to implement include:

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



Contact us for more information!

Protecting Livestock from the Summer Heat

We cannot control the heat, but here are some things we can do to help our cattle through it!

1. **Water** - Make sure cattle have access to plenty of clean water, and that there is access space for ALL cattle, including the calves.
2. **Shade** - If you have the option, move cattle to a pasture that offers shade, or use portable windbreak panels to provide some shade.
3. **Air movement** - Give cattle the opportunity to get into the breeze, if there is one.
4. **Surface** - Access to surfaces that are covered with vegetation will help cattle keep their temperatures lower.
5. **Stress** - If it is an option, consider rescheduling events that may add stress to your cattle, like gathering, weaning, etc.

MOOve us to Alaska...



Also, the Kansas Mesonet has an **Animal Comfort Tool** that tracks current heat stress values with real-time data and looks ahead at the 7-day forecast, helping farmers stay one step ahead of potential weather-related issues. This tool can be found at: <https://mesonet.k-state.edu/agriculture/animal/>.

Upcoming Events:

1. August 1st - Flickner Innovation Farm (FIF) Demonstration Day: 420 19th Ave., Moundridge

The Demonstration Day will run from 8 to 11 AM. Coffee, water, and pastries will be provided. Registration IS required, please see the front page for registration information!

The new, self-driven, 360 RAIN irrigation system will be featured and other topics will include: remote sensing and management systems, plant and soil moisture sensors, soil moisture probes and the soil pit and more. Representatives from local, regional and national industry will be onsite to answer questions and provide details on how their products are functioning at the FIF.

2. August 9th - Summer Grazing Field Day

Come join us on Friday, August 9th for a two-stop cover crop grazing and perennial forage tour! The tour will hit two locations near Burrton and end around 10:30 AM. Feel free to join us at one field or both, no registration necessary. Coffee, water, and pastries will be provided. See below for agenda details:

- **8:00 AM – Meet at the Boese Field: 23000 W 1st Street, Burrton**
 - Topics discussed will include extending the grazing season, cover crop mixes and their positive effects on controlling wind erosion, livestock forages, and soil health.
- **8:45 AM – Meet at the John McCurry Farm: 1107 E. Illinois Ave., Hutchinson**
 - Topics will include perennial forages and some novel ways to provide forage including No-till Rye and Crabgrass, irrigated Crabgrass, Bermuda and Jose Tall



Wheat grasses! Fertilization and production strategies will be shared as well as tire tanks and alternative watering systems.

★ Jaymelynn Farney, K-State's Beef Systems Extension Specialist for Southeast Kansas, will be there to share information on soil health, utilizing crop residue, covers, and forages in integrated grazing systems.

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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.

