

Little Arkansas River WRAPS

Spring 2024

Volume 6, Issue 2

Harvesting Knowledge: Little Ark's Productive Producers

In this issue, we are highlighting the work of **Mr. Ryan Goering and R&E Goering Farms, LLC**. In 1934, Goering's grandfather established the farmstead in McPherson County. In 1970, Ryan's father took over and Ryan became more involved in 2005.

R&E Goering Farms utilize several conservation practices on roughly 1,250 acres of cropland. These practices including crop rotation, terraces, CRP, grassed waterways, reduced tillage, and early atrazine application. Atrazine application changes were made and supported by WRAPS funding. Goering says that he has participated in the WRAPS atrazine program for several years and is now getting involved in the WRAPS nutrient management program. Goering says, "The nutrient management program is a significant opportunity to better manage nutrient applications and utilization and obtain financial support for what has been a beneficial practice for our farm." Goering goes on to mention that "Rick and Erica Schlender are our agronomists and have been instrumental in supporting our efforts and participation in the programs."

Goering says that they [R&E Goering Farms, LLC] also started using low pressure drop nozzles for irrigation in 2019. Some of the irrigation practices they use were developed as part of their participation in the Kansas Water Office WaterTech Farm program. A few of the irrigation changes were funded by RCPP and REAP grants. Goering said, "I would recommend the irrigation practices. We have significantly reduced both the energy required to irrigate and the amount of water used to produce our irrigated crops."

When asked what his conservation aspirations were for the future, Ryan said, "Given the stresses in/on the aquifers in Kansas, determining how to better protect and more efficiently utilize water should always be of interest and focus." Goering also shares some advice with his fellow producers in the Little Arkansas River Watershed, "Our experience with better nutrient management and more efficient utilization of irrigation water has shown that it makes economic and environmental sense. We can utilize water effectively."

Thank you, Ryan Goering and R&E Goering Farms for your continued dedication to improving agriculture and protecting our water resources in the Little Arkansas River Watershed!



Attention Livestock Producers in Kisiwa Creek Area!

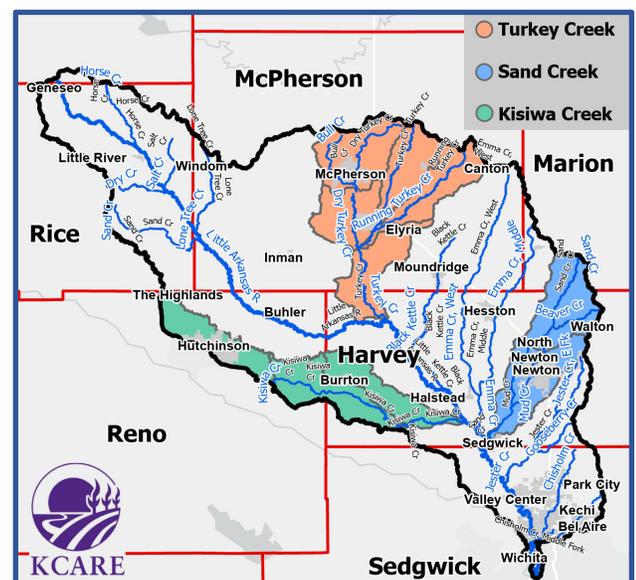
The Little Arkansas River WRAPS program has expanded its area for livestock practice implementation! What does this mean to you? If you are a livestock producer in the **Turkey, Sand, or Kisiwa Creek** sub-watersheds, the WRAPS program now has funding to help you implement a best management practice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



K-State Releases Guidelines for On-farm Alternative Water Sources

Article by K-State Research and Extension News Service

A team of Kansas State University watershed specialists have revised a publication with tips on how to safeguard the state's water resources while providing grazing animals with the water they need. The publication, *Waterers and Watering Systems: A Handbook for Livestock Producers and Landowners*, provides alternatives to watering livestock from streams, or through direct access to a farm pond.

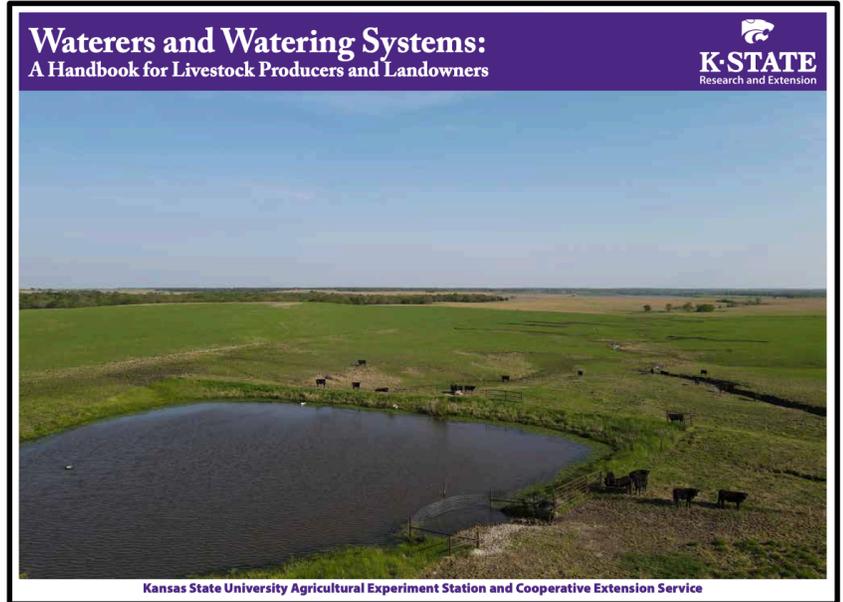
The 173-page publication, now available in the KSRE Bookstore, has numerous options for supplying water to grazing livestock. The handbook includes step-by-step instructions, technical drawings, and example photos to assist producers and landowners interested in implementing one or more of these best management practices.

"Livestock have a major impact on the water quality of a stream or pond," said Herschel George, retired extension watershed specialist, and one of the publication authors. "By providing livestock with an alternative watering tank versus direct access to a pond or stream, 80% of the livestock will drink from the tank and thus reduce the time livestock spend in a riparian area."

George added that the ideas and illustrations provided in the publication are applicable for large and small producers; and cattle, sheep and goat producers. He likened the publication to holiday-themed catalogs from retail merchants that were popular in the 1980s.

"It's a book full of new ideas that a producer can consider for installation on their own farms," George said. "We hope the handbook will inspire producers to try a different approach to providing water to their livestock."

More information about the handbook, including photo galleries and other resources, can be found on the [KCARE website](#) or by typing/searching bit.ly/WaterHandbook.



Upcoming Events:

Please watch your emails and mailboxes for more information regarding an upcoming **SUMMER GRAZING FIELD DAY!**

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](https://twitter.com/KStateKCARE).

