Virtual Training Series:

Water Resource Management and Irrigation In Kansas

This workshop series will provide overviews on a variety of key issues related to managing water resources using irrigation and other technologies. Using an online format, experts will provide a live, 30-40 minute presentation followed by a discussion forum. Participants will be able to ask questions and follow up with both presenters and panelists. At the end of the training, participants will be able to access a digital package that includes the slides, extension publications, and other materials relevant to each topic.

These series are offered as Professional Development Event by the Natural Resources PFT and the Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE). Information about previous training themes are available on the Training Website.

We encourage you to preregister for this training or contact KCARE for more details. The training agenda is shown in more detail below, or you can click on a specific day to learn more.

Participants can access all trainings in this series using the virtual meeting link.

**SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES IN KANSAS**

Wednesday, 3/24: 8:30 a.m.

Presenters: Shannon Kenyon, Manager, Northwest CMD; Lane Letourneau, Program Manager, Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture; Michael Meyer, Water Commissioner, Garden City Field Office, Division of Water Resources, KDA; Kyle Spencer, District Manager, CMD; Matt Unruh, Chief of Policy and Communications, Kansas Water Office; and Brownie Wilson, GIS/Support Services Manager, Geohydrology Section, Kansas Geologic Survey

As a kick-off to the training series. Day 1 will provide foundational knowledge on the condition and management of water resources in Kansas. Panelists will share information related to water appropriation, groundwater conditions and trends, water right administration and conservation tools, local conservation efforts, and a legislative update.

**UNDERSTANDING IRRIGATION SYSTEMS AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES**

Thursday, 3/25: 8:30 a.m.

Presenters: Jonathan Aguilar, K-State Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering; Bill Golden, K-State Department of Agricultural Economics; and Matt Sanderson, K-State Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work

Speakers will summarize key findings from a recent survey of agricultural producers in the Ogallala Aquifer region and highlight recent advances in irrigation technologies and irrigation scheduling. With the expansion of irrigated crops to eastern Kansas, as well as growing concerns about the current levels of groundwater consumption in northwest Kansas, presenters also will discuss economic studies that provide knowledge of how irrigated crop producers react to conservation policies which will, in turn, provide guidance on future expectations as groundwater supplies are diminished and/or conservation policies are implemented.

**CLIMATE AND WEATHER RESOURCES TO SUPPORT WATER DECISIONS**

Tuesday, 3/30: 8:30 a.m.

Presenters: Mary Knapp, K-State Climatologist; and Chip Redmond, Assistant Meteorologist, K-State Department of Agronomy

Panel: David Hallauer, Meadowlark Extension District; and Cody Miller, Phillips County Extension District

Climate is the driving force for numerous industries and especially influential on water management within Kansas. This presentation will focus on the state’s climatic data and its influences on water decision and issues. Changing environments present additional challenges in sustaining water quality and quantity, which makes data accessibility critical to help agriculture agents provide the best decision support to their clients. Speakers will examine some data sources and how they can be used. In addition, this presentation will provide information on weather resources and how to utilize them in an operational scenario as well as details about applications to support water decision management.

**INNOVATIVE WATER MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES**

Wednesday, 3/31: 8:30 a.m.

Presenters: Jeff Davidson, KCARE Watershed Specialist; Ray Flickner, Flickner Innovation Farm, Moundridge, KS; and Andres Patrigiani, K-State Department of Agronomy

Panel: Shad Marston, Agricultural and Natural Resources Agent, McPherson County; and Rick Schlender, San-B-Air Farms Consulting

Speakers will cover recent research that explores alternatives to identify the number and tentative location of soil moisture sensors in production fields. Presenters will discuss methods to conserve water while maintaining yield in a cost effective and efficient manner, with some discussion on applying nutrients to maximize production economically while limiting environmental impact. Participants will also get a short overview of a project in the Rattlesnake Creek watershed to prevent erosion, floodwater and sediment damage in areas that include the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge.

**IRRIGATING LAWNS AND URBAN WATER CONSERVATION**

Thursday, 4/1: 8:30 a.m.

Presenters: Cathie Lavis, K-State Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources; and Holly Dickman, Water Conservation Specialist, City of Hays

With a focus on urban irrigation and water conservation, presenters will discuss the critical components necessary to achieve the goals of irrigation efficiency and uniformity. Speakers will also share an overview of current water conservation efforts in the City of Hays, including landscape irrigation and “WaterSmart” landscaping systems.