Our Watershed Specialist Team

**Will Boyer, Northeast Kansas**
Will provides education and technical assistance to stakeholders by working one-on-one with producers to find solutions to water quality concerns associated with their confined feeding and grazing operations.

**Stacie Minson, Big Creek/Middle Smoky Hill River**
In addition to serving as the WRAPS coordinator for the Big Creek/Middle Smoky Hill River Watershed, Stacie spearheads educational events within her area, including the distribution of rain barrels in the community.

**Ron Graber, Central Kansas**
Ron works with landowners and operators to identify and implement management options that address water quality concerns. His efforts led to the development of new partnerships benefiting urban and rural interests in protecting water resources.

**Jeff Davidson, Flint Hills**
Jeff provides research-based information and educational programs related to environmental stewardship of water resources. One of his main objectives is the utilization of off-stream watering sites for cattle.

Measuring Success
We are proud to partner with Kansas producers and landowners for the benefit of the state. In the last decade, our work has resulted in significant reductions in sediment and nutrients polluting Kansas waterways. Contact a watershed specialist near you for water quality solutions and innovations that will benefit your operation.

Reach us at:
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About Us
The K-State Extension Watershed Specialist model is a proactive, multi-agency, private-public partnership. To restore water quality in Kansas requires a fundamental change in behavior and practices toward the land and water. It is a monumental task which requires facilitation from unique people with expertise in the area of agriculture and water with the ability to build a rapport with landowners.

Our Watershed Specialist team was created with these qualities in mind. Historically, specialists have provided assistance to producers and various WRAPS groups in 70 Kansas counties. In 2019, the watershed specialists’ designated areas changed as KDHE converted many WRAPS projects to a Partnership Grant. For the most part, only active WRAPS projects have “purchased” time with watershed specialists for technical assistance. However, the specialists can and do work outside these areas as deemed necessary.

Our roles might be changing, but our commitment to improving water quality in Kansas remains as strong as ever.

Our Goals
We work to reduce non-point source pollution from cropland and livestock sources. Our priorities include:
- Restoration of impaired water resources (TMDLs)
- Abatement of fecal coliform bacteria, atrazine and pesticides
- Reduced nutrients and sediment loads
- Protection of water resources
- Implementing farmer/producer Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Our Strategies
The watershed specialists’ strategy to improve water quality in Kansas is simple and proven. The first component is providing information and education to our stakeholders. This can include anything from meeting farmers one-on-one to presenting our work at community events. The second component is implementing Best Management Practices, or BMPs. We provide technical assistance to producers so they understand which BMPs are right for their specific situation, and we help farmers identify financial programs that can help offset the costs of BMP implementation.

Since 2010, K-State watershed specialists had nearly 2,500 consultations with producers, resulting in significant load reductions for nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and atrazine.

LOAD REDUCTIONS

The goal of K-State watershed specialists is to improve water quality by reducing the sediment and nutrients that flow into Kansas waterways. In the last 10 years, our work has resulted in annual load reductions of:

- 26,387 tons of sediment
- 449,834 pounds of nitrogen
- 177,626 pounds of phosphorus
- 9,112 pounds applied atrazine

Since 2010, our team of watershed specialists has provided assistance in the implementation of BMPs for the benefit of Kansas watersheds.

Livestock BMPs
- 155 livestock waste management and storage systems
- 201 alternative watering facilities
- 82 pipeline BMPs
- 73 fencing BMPs
- 29 heavy use area protection BMPs
- 9 livestock exclusion BMPs
- 12 ponds installed or maintained
- 5 access roads constructed
- 8 prescribed grazing BMPs

Cropland BMPs
- Implemented atrazine-related BMPs on 173,415 acres
- 411,419 linear feet of terraces installed or reconstructed
- 31 waterways built or maintained
- Installed 8 buffer strips, 140 acres of contour buffer strips and 6 diversions
- 6 water/sediment control basins
- Over 31,000 acres of conservation crop rotation
- Nearly 15,400 acres of no till
- Converted 6,500 acres to using cover crops

Streambank BMPs
- 29 streambank stabilization BMPs implemented, stabilizing nearly 14,100 linear feet of streambank

Partnerships. We build trust relationships through one-on-one consultations and farm visits.

Strategies. Our expertise helps producers improve farm management and water quality in their watersheds.

Progress. BMPs resulted in significant load reductions of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and atrazine.

Innovations. We helped create a method for farmers to store poultry litter while safeguarding groundwater.