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.

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.

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.

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 implementation 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. For more than a decade, work by the KCARE Extension Watershed Specialist team 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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Kansas State University Extension Watershed Specialists

Decades of Service
Knowledgeable experts working in partnership with Kansans to improve water quality for the whole state.
Watershed specialists: A dedicated team for Kansas water quality

About Us
The Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE) coordinates and enhances research, extension, and teaching activities pertaining to environmental issues related to agriculture. Restoring water quality in Kansas requires a fundamental change in behavior and practices toward the land and water. It is a monumental task requiring facilitation from unique people with expertise in the area of agriculture and water with the ability to build rapport with landowners.

Our KCARE Extension Watershed Specialist team was created with these qualities in mind. Historically, we provided assistance to producers and various Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) groups in 70 Kansas counties. 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 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
KCARE’s strategy to help 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 operation, and we help farmers identify financial programs that can help offset the costs of BMP implementation.

The goal of K-State watershed specialists is to improve water quality by reducing the sediment and nutrients flowing into Kansas waterways. From 2010-2020, 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, K-State watershed specialists had nearly 3,000 consultations with producers, resulting in significant load reductions for nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and atrazine.

LOAD REDUCTIONS

From 2010-2020, 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
- 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 14,300 linear feet of streambank

A FOCUS ON:
cropland and livestock

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Partnerships. We built trust through 445 one-on-one consultations and farm visits. Last year, our team attended more than 380 events.

Innovations. We helped foster inventive urban-rural partnerships to advance water education, significantly decrease atrazine runoff, and save city businesses millions of dollars.