

2010 Sustainable Agriculture Conference

Connecting
**COWS,
CARBON,
& CARROTS**
*Making Sense of
Our Food Future*

Saturday, November 20, 2010

9 am to 5 pm

**Flint Hills Tech College
3301 W. 18th Ave.
Emporia, Kansas**

www.kansasruralcenter.org

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Connecting **COWS, CARBON, & CARROTS** Making Sense of Our Food Future

2010 Sustainable Ag Conference
11.20.2010 Emporia Kansas

Food, farming, climate change, carbon footprints, environmental risks—open any popular publication today or click onto any number of online news services, and you will find stories about these issues are increasing. As more people understand the link between how we raise our food, how we treat our resources, and how we treat each other, food and farming become critical issues for our future food security and well-

being. Even as population trends count more of us as urban dwellers, an increasing number of people are concerned about where their food comes from, what the story is about how it was raised, and what are the environmental, social and economic impacts—good or bad—of its journey from field to plate.

At the Kansas Rural Center (KRC), we think this growing interest is positive, and that identifying shared values and common concerns are the way forward.

KRC is hosting a one-day conference of speakers and workshops for people interested in learning more about climate change and its challenges for agriculture, the budding “food movement” of local and regional production and business opportunities, how to approach the transfer of land to the next generation, plus many more ways of “connecting cows, carbon, and carrots” to reach an understanding of practical approaches and strategies to adapt to the future.

The purpose of the conference is to provide an opportunity to: discuss the big picture of agriculture and our food system as we continue down the path of change and challenges; provide practical information on production and marketing ideas; and provide opportunities for farmer, rancher, and consumer networking.

Join us on November 20, 2010 as we discuss and debate the practical to the political of food and farming for a sustainable future.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Location: Flint Hills Technical College, 3301 W.18th Ave. in Emporia.

Cost: \$20

Registration covers breaks and lunch, which will be prepared from as many Kansas and regionally produced foods as is seasonally possible.

Deadline: Monday, November 15 to ensure a meal ticket.

Registration: Registration is limited to 150 attendees.

We encourage you to use our online registration system where you can pay by credit card or check. To register online, look for the link at:

www.kansasruralcenter.org

You may also register by mail with a check payment using the form located on the inside back cover.

For more information, contact KRC at 785-873-3431, or e-mail ksrc@rainbowtel.net or ddysart@rainbowtel.net.

Conference Sessions

With twenty agriculture, climate, and food systems sessions offered during this year's Kansas Sustainable Agriculture Conference, we thought it might be helpful to categorize them into tracks.

The legend at right can be used to identify which of the themes a session falls under.

PLENARY

Agriculture & Climate Change

COWS & CROPS

Farming Practices

CARBON

Carbon, Climate & Farming Practices

CARROTS

Local Food & Marketing

CONNECTIONS

Politics of Food

Keynote Speaker: Joel Brown

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Joel Brown is a rangeland ecologist at the Jornada Experimental Range with the USDA NRCS where he is involved in research and development of land classification systems, carbon sequestration on rangelands, and grazing land ecology. He also works as the CSIRO (Australia) Project Leader and scientist, and NRCS Global Change Leader and Cooperating Scientist with the ARS Jornada Experimental Range.

He holds a BS in Agriculture/Botany from Fort Hays State University, an MS in Grazing Ecology and PhD in Shrubland Ecology, both from Texas A&M University. He spoke on climate change and the impact on agriculture at the 2002 Kansas Sustainable Agriculture Conference.

SCHEDULE

8:30 AM Registration opens

9:15 AM Welcome Dan Nagengast, Executive Director, KRC

9:30 AM Keynote Joel Brown, USDA NRC

Climate Change and Agriculture: Challenges and Responses

Climate change, whether natural or human caused, presents some serious challenges to agriculture. Agricultural producers are very familiar with responding to variable climate. However, projected increases in climate variability will require an even more flexible approach to management. An important aspect of responding is a realistic assessment of the risks, and development of responses, monitoring, and decision systems to guide implementation.

10:45 AM Break

11:00 AM Workshop Session One

12:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM Roundtable

Climate Change, Agriculture and Sustainability

Panel: Karl Brooks Region VII Director, EPA
Joel Brown Rangeland Ecologist, USDA NRCS
Jeff Schahczenski Policy Analyst, NCAT

What do farmers, ranchers, and consumers need to be doing now to adapt to climate change, restricted or tighter resources, and a changing regulatory environment?

2:20 PM Workshop Session Two

3:30 PM Workshop Session Three

4:30 PM Adjourn

COWS & CROPS

Farming Practices

CARBON

Carbon, Climate & Farming Practices

CARROTS

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WORKSHOP ONE 11:00 AM

Ecological Approaches to Farming: Models and Practices for a Sustainable System

Mary Fund & Ed Reznicek, *KRC*

Explore how more diversity in farming—extended crop rotations, cover crops, grazing systems, organic practices, and more—provides our best insurance for meeting social, environmental economic, and economic goals.

Trends in the Production and Marketing of Grassfed Beef

Jason Schmidt, *KRC*

Whether you're a producer or consumer, you'll learn something from this overview of the history, science, production and marketing of grassfed beef.

Opportunities for Local and Regional Food in Kansas

Scott Allegrucci, *KRC Board*; Rhonda Janke, *KSU*; Dan Nagengast, *KRC*

Consumer demand for local food continues to increase and many players in the food industry are seeking suppliers. Learn more about the opportunities and challenges of working with grocers, restaurants and institutions.

Growing Healthy: School and Community Gardens

Kirk Cusick, *WCFEC*; Candice Shoemaker, *KSU*; Jennifer Smith, *KSRE*

Interest in school and community gardens is soaring. Practitioners from across the state will share their experiences in developing, managing and evaluating these gardening programs.

Kansas Smoke Management: Melding Legislation and Production Practices to Preserve Prairie Ecosystems

Carol Blocksome, *KSU*

Prairie rangelands benefit from fire at intervals, but smoke at concentrated times produces air quality problems. Learn how the Kansas Smoke Management Plan hopes to address both rancher and urban concerns.

Food Policy Councils

Eileen Horn, *DCFPC*; Babara LaClair, *KFSTF*

Food Policy Councils bring together stakeholders from diverse food-related sectors to examine how the food system is operating and to develop recommendations on how to improve it. Learn how councils can educate officials and the public, shape public policy, improve coordination between existing programs, and develop new programs.

Financial and Resource Assistance for Sustainable Ag Farms

Karissa Berks, *USDA RD*; Kerri Ebert, *KS-SARE*; Mari Tucker, *KDOC-RD*;

Federal and state programs can offer financial help—cost-share, grants, or loans—for some conservation or production related enterprises. Learn what's what!

WORKSHOP TWO 2:20 PM

Hoop Houses 101

Dan Nagengast, *KRC*

Seasonal high tunnels will be an important part of future food production, promising longer growing seasons, protection from weather and pest problems, and ensuring quality products. Learn about construction and management.

Specialty Crop Insurance

Jeff Schanzinski, *NCAT*

Crop insurance is a new concept for many specialty crop producers. Learn how you can use this new program to reduce risk for your operations.

GAPs—Good Agricultural Practices for Food Safety

Pete Garfinkel & Mercedes Taylor-Puckett, *KRC*

Pending federal food safety regulations coupled with frequent news coverage of food recalls are motivating many farmers and buyers to seek information on GAPs. We'll cover the basics and explore how developing a Farm Food Safety Plan could benefit your farm.

Cover Crops: The Next Frontier in Farming

Gayle Fuller, *farmer*; Ed Reznicek, *KRC*

Cover crops are the new darlings of no-till and conservation agriculture, and the foundation of organic systems. Learn about the use of cover crops in no-till and in organic systems.

Patch-Burn Grazing the Prairies of Kansas

Cade Rensink, *KSU*

Patch-burning is a relatively new concept in rangeland management, but mimicks the thousands years old patterns of lightening and bison; learn how livestock perform under a PBG system, how rangeland health is impacted, and its value in treating *Sericea lespedeza*.

Intergenerational Farm Transitions: Planning for Success

Charlie Griffin, *KSU*

As the average age of farmers rises, we face the critical question of who will become the next generation of farmers. Learn strategies and tools for successful farm transitions that prepare our next generation farmers with both family legacies and profitable businesses.

Register  at www.kansasruralcenter.org or  this form 

COWS & CROPS

CARBON

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WORKSHOP THREE 3:30 PM

Production and Marketing of Grass-fed Beef in Kansas

moderator: Jason Schmidt, *KRC*

Listen to a discussion among current Kansas grass-fed beef producers of their production and marketing strategies.

Marketing Organic Grain: Trends and Challenges

Harry Bennett & Rodger Schneider, *KOP*

Organic markets are as volatile as conventional; learn how to weather the ups and downs.

Scaling-Up and Diversifying: A Tale of Two Farmers

Tom Buller and Jill Elmers, Common Harvest Farms

Tom and Jill meet the USDA definition of beginning farmers and are decades younger than the average US farmer. Learn about their efforts to supply the Kaw River Valley with diverse specialty crops.

Bio Char

Jeff Schanzinski, *NCAT*

Biochar has the potential to produce farm-based renewable energy in a climate-friendly manner and provide a valuable soil amendment to enhance crop productivity.

Farm Bill 2012: What Does the Future Hold?

Paul Johnson, *KRC Board*; Troy Schroeder, *KWF*; Donn Teske, *KFU*

The 2008 Farm Bill included some positive programs for sustainable agriculture and food security. Join our panel to discuss the next Farm Bill—what to protect, what to change, and how to make it work for our food future

Conference Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Names of additional attendees: _____

of vegetarian meals needed: _____

Mail form and check before Nov. 15 to:

KRC Conference
PO Box 133
Whiting KS 66552

_____ attendees x \$20 \$ _____

Donation to KRC \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____



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Whiting KS 66552

Commentary
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co-sponsored by



Kansas Center
*for Sustainable Agriculture
and Alternative Crops*

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