

Greenwood County Conservation District

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 www.greenwoodcounty.org

District Board of Supervisors

Andrew Davis
 Glen Collinge
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District Staff

Keila Sherman, Manager
 Morgan Shorter, Technician
NRCS
 Luke Westerman, Conservationist
 Garan Belt, Rangeland Specialist

Farm Service Agency

Cindy Coon, Program Technician
 Brandi Dimick, Program Technician
 Velma Larimer, Executive Director
*The Service Center is open
 Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm
 Closed on all federal holidays.*



The Greenwood County Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. **Board Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of each month**

Greenwood County Conservation District
 1819 E River Street
 Eureka, Kansas 67045

Greenwood County Conservation District Newsletter

Cost-share Sign-up

Do you own land in Greenwood County? Are you interested in improving the environmental quality of your land? If so stop by the conservation office and find out how you could possibly qualify for state financial assistance to improve your land.

The Conservation District will be conducting a county-wide sign up for interested owners and operators to accept requests for state cost share assistance beginning in April for the 2020 program year. The cost share programs are administered by the State Conservation Commission (SCC) through the conservation districts which provides landowners financial assistance to implement approved conservation practices.

These conservation practices must comply with USDA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide Standards and specifications, or other standards specifications approved by the SCC. Applica-

tions receiving approval from the Greenwood County Conservation District and SCC may start implementation. Any project completed prior to approval by either the District or SCC will not be available for cost share assistance. Participating in the sign-up does not guarantee approval or cost share assistance.

If funds are still available after the initial sign-up, applications will still be taken through November 2020. Projects must be in contract form by December 1, 2020.

Anyone interested in receiving cost share assistance is encouraged to contact the Conservation District Office to sign up.

If you have any questions or concerns about these programs please call the office at (620) 583-5544 Ext. 3. *"Funding provided by the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund."*

Kansas Fire Season Returns

If you've lived in Kansas for any time at all, you know the state can throw some curve balls; especially when it comes to weather. We've recently seen some active grass fires getting out of control throughout our area. Despite our recent moisture, Kansas's primary fuel (grass) is abundant due to last year's above normal rainfall.

The Kansas Forest Service says (and as most producers in the Flint Hills already know), fire is a natural process that is essential to the health of forests and prairies alike and has long been used by property owners and land managers to prevent unwanted stands of brush and cedar trees. Used properly, it can be a valuable tool. Used incorrectly, it contributes to many escaped fires in Kansas that cause property damage to neighbors, and expense to already under-funded fire departments all over the state. There is also a push in some other areas, where smoke from spring burning in Kansas causes air quality issues (as far away as the Tennessee valley on some days) to restrict any open burning. Politically, this seems unlikely to happen in the near future, but with current hot button issues of global warming and greenhouse gasses, it is only common sense for landowners to police themselves so that outside regulations will not limit our use of this valuable tool in the future.

Recently the Greenwood County Extension office partnered with other local and state



2021 State Cost
 Share Sign-up

Beginning April 1 through the
 month of May 2020.

GovDelivery

To subscribe to text message alerts from Greenwood/Elk County Farm Service Agency

Text **KSGreenwood** to
FSANOW (372-669)



Important Dates

April-May- 2021 Cost Share Sign-up

May 27- Memorial Day

June 30- End of 2020 Cost Share Year

July 4- Independence Day

Receive Future

Newsletters By E-mail

Please submit your e-mail address to gwcokansasconservation@gmail.com.

Place **SUBSCRIBE** in the subject line or call 620-583-5544 Ext.3.

Spring 2020

2019 Grassland Award Winners

Congratulations to Marylin & Bob Brink!

Bob and Marilyn Brink were recognized as the 2019 Grassland Award recipients for Greenwood County at the annual Greenwood County Conservation District Meeting. The Brink's property is located approximately 11 miles southwest of Eureka.

The couple, who are well-known Braunvieh breeders, moved to Greenwood County in 2004 and have operated Brink Livestock since then.

"Our goal on the ranch is to mimic nature," commented Bob when referring to their desire to copy the grazing system that was around when bison roamed the countryside. "It's not as easy as it sounds, but we try to incorporate as much rest for the grass as we can," explains Bob.

"I have decreased the sericea lespedeza on my place by 90%," claimed Bob. Every beast and machine he rides on in the summer has a tank that he can use to spray sericea lespedeza. Bob has found persistence is the key to winning the battle of sericea lespedeza.

The Brinks have recently rebuilt several ponds and added livestock access lanes to provide clean drinking water for livestock. Access lanes provide access to water by livestock on a limited in size, hardened surface, while restricting the livestock from the rest of the pond. "With the access lanes, we are able to keep pollution and pond damage down and keep our cows from getting onto the ice," commented Marilyn. Bob and Marilyn have also installed water tanks below ponds and have fenced the ponds. The result of Bob and Marilyn's efforts to improve their pastures so a sustainable cattle operation can continue is commendable. The work they have done on their property and the conservation practices they have implemented is why they are deserving of the 2019 Greenwood County Grassland Award.



Kansas Fire Season Returns continued from front page...

agencies to host the Flint Hills Burn School in Hamilton, KS. Throughout the day landowners heard from agency professionals on how to conduct a safe prescribed burn. The Kansas Forest Service was one of the agencies that presented at the Flint Hills Burn School, they give the following details on conducting a safe burn.

One of the first steps in burning is to develop a plan for proper burning and to assemble the needed equipment. Proper preparation is essential to conducting a safe burn. Also contact local fire or law enforcement authorities to see what permits or notifications are required to burn legally. Once the plan is developed, the site prepared, and the equipment and needed help available, the final step is to actually select a time to burn. The critical factor for this is to study weather forecasts carefully. Many of the escaped burns on private land in Kansas occur because someone begins burning on an ideal morning, without being aware of weather changes that are coming – either because a weather system is changing later in the day, or the normal daily changes that occur as a spring day gets hotter, drier, and windier over the course of the day, which dramatically changes the fire behavior.

If there is a Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning issued, no burning should occur.

Check the Fire Weather Information section of your local National Weather Service office website to learn of any watches or warnings. The other valuable information to review in the fire weather forecasts include wind changes, lowest relative humidity (if it will likely drop below 20%, burning will be very difficult to control), and other such factors that influence fire behavior. Items that are not fire safety related, but could impact future regulations, include transport winds and smoke dispersal. These help to identify where your smoke is going and who it will impact. If smoke dispersal is poor, wait to burn. If it is good, see where transport winds will take it.

If those wishing to burn will ensure that weather conditions will be safe, and that smoke dispersal will be good, without unduly impacting urban areas, prescribed fire will likely remain a useful resource in the land manager's tool box for years to come. If not, we may eventually find it regulated to the point of being unusable.

For more information regarding Agriculture and Natural Resources, 4-H Youth Development, or K-State Research and Extension call the office at 620-583-7455, email me, Lindsay Shorter, at lindsayshorter@ksu.edu. Be sure to follow K-State Research and Extension- GW County on Facebook for up-to-date information on Extension education programs and the GW Co. 4-H program.

Contractor List 2020

Aerial Chemical Application

Pence Aerial Service 816-536-6959
Central Kansas Ag Aviation 785-258-3649
Roth Aerial Spraying, Inc. 402-761-2322
Sowder Seed Company 620-637-2228

Brush Control

Brushbusters LLC 620-340-2555

Ground Chemical Application,

No-till Planting/Custom Cutting/ Farming/Drill-Grass Seeding

Ranch Aid Feed & Supply 620-583-5585

Dirt Work

Larcom & Son Construction 620-853-2247
Wilson Brothers Construction
620-366-1891

Pipe & Tank Supply

Coyote Culvert & Pipe Co. 620-583-5767
Collinge Cattle Company 620-687-3688

Fencing

Bogle Fencing, LLC 620-583-3137
Collinge Cattle Company 620-678-3688

This list is provided to customers as a service. Contractors listed have paid fee. By providing this list to customers, it is in no way serves as a recommendation of anyone on this list. We encourage customers to check references and get bids from several contractors prior to starting work. Contractors are doing conservation work in Greenwood County.

If you would like your business to be on this list and advertised within our publications and distributed by flier, contact the district. Yearly fee is \$50 per calendar year. Funds for 2020 are set to help provide educational events.



To everyone that contributed to the 2020 Annual Meeting, the District says "Thank YOU".

Citizen's State Bank
Beeman Backgrounding
RanchLand Feed
Bluestem Farm & Ranch
Home Bank & Trust
Emprise Bank
Roth Aerial Spraying Inc.
KAWS & WRAPS
Kansas Maid
Frontier Farm Credit
Sharp Bros. Seed Co.
Sowder Seed, Toronto
Sherman Photography
Star Seed Co.

Contact the Conservation District to see how you can become a Friend of Conservation.



Want to plant new trees? Wonder what kind to buy?

Kansas Forest Service has a fantastic digital map you can input your legal land description in and BAM! You have a list of trees and shrubs that will grow in the soil found on your property. This map and more information can be found at <http://www.kansasforests.org>

District Manager To Receive KACEE Award

The Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2020 Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Education Awards. Nominated by their peers, these awardees exhibit outstanding innovation, leadership and achievement, as well as collaboration and cooperation within and beyond the environmental education field. "KACEE is pleased to honor these deserving individuals and organizations, who contribute so much to environmental education in Kansas," said KACEE President Dr. Mike Hotz.

KACEE is pleased to honor Keila Sherman, the Greenwood County Conservation District Manager with the 2020 Award for Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Education. Keila has only been the District Manager for the last five years, but has already demonstrated her leadership in environmental education. Keila knows the future success of conservation in her Greenwood County relies on the engagement and education of youth. From sharing information with youth at popular events like the Greenwood County Fair and the Cattlemen's Day Young Ranchers program. Keila also visits classrooms in the county to do environmental education programming. Keila will bring out the Soil Tunnel Trailer, the Earth Balloon or the Stream Trailer to local schools so that students have a hands-on learning experience about the connections between agriculture and the environment. She also provides educational programming for area students through a water festival, Day on the Farm, Envirothon, and Range Management School. Keila will often locate and organize guest speakers for the units the students are studying. These guest speakers are scientists or specialists in their field. Older students are exposed to careers that involve conservation and sustainable agriculture.

This year Mrs. Sherman went above and beyond, working with the sixth-grade science students in Eureka with a week of lessons using an Augmented Reality Sandbox, a 3D interactive tool that helps students visualize topography and watersheds. Mrs. Sherman developed lessons with the sandbox that supported the classroom's learning goals and made it relevant by tying in a local landmark, Teter Rock, which is a source of pride for local residents. Students constructed the hill in the sandbox and then used what they had learned to create a model using TinkerCAD, a computer assisted drawing software to print their 3D design and paint the model according to the elevation colors found on the sandbox simulation. As teacher Pam Collinge stated, "This project reinforced the im-

portance of the ecosystem in which the students live and promoted pride in where they are from. I think this is the purpose and power of place-based science lessons." This is just a small sample of the outstanding conservation and environmental education work that Keila provides in her county and KACEE is very proud to present her with this award.

Below is a portion of news article written by The Eureka Herald on March 10, 2020 with permission to use here.

Sherman spends countless hours sharing education regarding conservation with local schools. For years, the Greenwood County Conservation District has held the Water Festival and Poster Contest for local youth, but within the past five years, the district has added several additional educational pieces.

"We will continue to bring the Earth Balloon, Soil Trailer, AR Sandbox and a few other presentations I've created to share with the kids," commented Sherman. Four years ago, the district began hosting a "Women In Ag" event. The fourth annual event will be held in June. "There are so many subject areas for our ranchers and producers that are ever changing. We are looking forward to implementing more adult education in the future," she continued.

Sherman was nominated for the award by county resident Pam Collinge. Sherman knew the nomination was made, but she never dreamed she would receive the honor. "I'm grateful for it. It was enough for me that Pam appreciates me and the job I'm doing and told me so," stated Sherman. "A highlight of my job is getting to work with the kids," she continued.

When asked what Sherman's favorite education piece was, she responded, "Absolutely, no doubt the Augmented Reality Sandbox. It is a hands on learning experience that even adults love. It brings an amazing way to learn to our arsenal of education tools." This tool gives people an easier way to understand the lay of the land and how it all works. From the water cycle, rock cycle, topographic maps and more.

Sherman will be honored later this year at the Sunset Zoo Nature Exploration Center in Manhattan.



Toronto & Fall River WRAPS in 2020

The Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) offers planning and financial assistance to address water quality and soil erosion concerns on farms and ranches. Both Fall River and Toronto WRAPS have similar goals-reduce sedimentation and the nutrient load in streams and the two federal reservoirs. Funding for WRAPS is provided through 3-year grants from Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. A new 3-year grant was awarded to Toronto and Fall River on July 1, 2019 and is funded through June 30, 2022. Kansas Alliance for Wetlands & Streams (KAWS) is the sponsor for this WRAPS and has been the sponsor for the last 8 years.

In 2019, over \$52,475 of WRAPS cost share money was expended in these two watersheds to assist 9 landowners with projects. Landowners completed the following projects:

- Relocated one livestock feeding site
- Fenced 4 ponds, 1 stream and add alternative livestock water sources (tanks and access lanes)
- Implemented 335 acres of cover crops on cropland for soil improvement and livestock forage
- Planted 36 acres of cropland to permanent grass for livestock forage and erosion control
- Added a heavy use protection area for livestock feeding site improvement
- Constructed 3 check dams and 2 Zuni Bowls (hand laid rock in a headcut) to slow gully erosion in a rangeland site

WRAPS funding has been utilized in priority areas for the last 10 years to use limited dollars in areas where the biggest improvements can be realized. Those priority areas were determined by water quality testing that was collected and analyzed by Kansas Department of Health and Environment. WRAPS priority areas have been adjusted to better address funding of Best Management Practices. Priority areas will include riparian areas within ½ mile of all named streams and rivers within the watershed and will extend beyond that limit where the floodplain is wider than ½ mile. This new targeting methodology will cover approximately 40% of the all land above the two federal reservoirs. This change will allow funds to be utilized to address water quality issues in close proximity to the streams throughout the entire watershed. A map showing these areas is a part of this newsletter. However, if your land is outside these priority areas, other funds may be available to assist you, so please contact us.

Best management practices funded by WRAPS include: relocating livestock feeding sites away from streams, providing alternative livestock watering systems such as tanks below ponds, implementing cover crops for producers who would like to try this practice, grass seeding, buffers, stream bank revetments and gully erosion repair. Precision agriculture and nutrient management may also be addressed with assistance for grid soil sampling and subsequent variable rate nutrient applications to make the best use of nutrients that are applied on crop land, brome and fescue fields. WRAPS will also be collecting information on active brine scars in the watershed and researching ways to address these erosion sites in an economical manner.

Below are the steps to WRAPS financial assistance:

- Contact project coordinator, local NRCS personnel, Conservation District, or local Kansas State University extension personnel. Describe and discuss project and location. Schedule site visit.
- Project coordinator, in cooperation with NRCS, will estimate project cost based on county wide average costs. Toronto and Fall River WRAPS stakeholders (board of local individuals) vote to approve project.
- Sign project contract with Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams Inc. (KAWS) to complete the project in one year (weather conditions permitting).
- Provide receipts to project coordinator and receive reimbursement in around 10 days.

In addition to funding best management practices, WRAPS offers and assists with a variety of workshops, information and education within the watershed aimed at water quality and soil health. The Greenwood County Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Kansas State Extension Service and Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism often partner in the delivery of these workshops and programs.

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (KAWS) is a private non-profit company dedicated to education and implementing projects that ensure the future of wetlands, streams, and their adjacent riparian areas as an integral part of our Kansas heritage and landscape.

How Can You Receive Cost Share Funds

It is time to submit an application to receive help on implementing conservation practices on your land. Funds are available July of each year. First step is to visit with the Conservation District and NRCS staff. We can help you find the best practice to help your land. A full list of available practices can be shared with you via e-mail, postal mail or our online website. Second step is to have a plan put together by our staff. Third step is to receive approval by the District Board of Supervisors and a contract must be signed.

First round of applications will be taken April through June 2020. These applications will be ranked. The applications received will be looked at for eligibility using criteria set by the state. NRCS technical staff will determine soil and water quality benefits and practices needed. Cost share is not a first come first served program. No work of any kind shall begin on any project until after notification of approval and a contract between the landowner and the State of Kansas has been signed. Funding for program is provided through the Kansas Water Plan Fund and is subject to State budget

allocations. All practices must be designed and constructed to meet NRCS standards and specifications. NRCS staff is available in our office to discuss and explain all standards and specifications with landowners.

There may be a chance of ALL funds not being committed at the end of the first round of applications. If this is the case, then after July 1st the funds will still be available. We will then take more applications. All funds for 2021 year MUST be committed and in contract form by December 1, 2020. If you have questions or would like more detailed information please contact the district office at 620-583-5544 ext.3.

Below are a few available cost share practices:

- Abandoned Well Plugging
- Pasture & Hay land Planting
- Buffer Strips ~ Critical Area Planting
- Pipeline ~ Diversion
- Pond Restoration ~ Fence/Pond fence
- Range Planting ~ Riparian Forest Buffer
- Field Border ~ Filter Strip ~ Grassed Waterway ~
- Spring Development ~ Livestock Waste System
- Livestock Watering Facility ~ Terrace Restoration

Pictures are popular practices being implemented in our county. On the left is an access lane. This is used when the pond is fenced to keep livestock out of pond other than in the lane. The photo on the right is one form of a watering facility called a tire tank. There are several options available.



Conservation District — Who We Are

Conservation Districts provide local leadership by helping local people address local natural resource needs. The Conservation District is the primary local unit of government responsible for the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources within the county boundary. Kansas Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of state government charged with this vital role. The district's governing board is comprised of five elected local citizens known as supervisors. They establish local priorities, set policy and administer non-regulatory conservation programs during monthly board meetings. The supervisors, although serving as public officials, do not draw a salary. Conservation District employee (s) are hired by the supervisors to provide day-to-day coordination of district activities.

Conservation Districts address a wide range of environmental concerns. Those interests include agricultural and urban erosion and sediment control, water quality, water quantity, range and pasture management, fish and wildlife habitat, and other natural resource management issues. Conservation Districts work cooperatively with local citizens to solve local conservation problems. This benefits both the agricultural community and society as a whole. Clean water and productive soil are basic to our quality of life now and in the future. Because conservation districts are citizen-directed organizations, they are practical partners to coordinate local, state and federal initiatives to protect natural resources and enhance water quality.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation (DOC), works to protect and enhance Kansas' natural resources through the development, implementation, and maintenance of policies, guidelines, and programs designed to assist local conservation

district and individuals in conserving the state's renewable resources. The DOC has the responsibility to administer Conservation District Law, the Watershed District Act and other statutes authorizing various programs. Districts work closely with DOC staff to ensure public records of the conservation district are filed correctly and timely; program delivery is administered within program guidelines and general district operations are conducted appropriately.

County commissioners across the state provide financial assistance to conservation district because they recognize that:

1. Preventing erosion can save dollars spent on road drainage clean-up efforts.
2. Preventing floods can save dollars spent on flood control and water supply problems or damages.
3. Conservation improves local environmental quality and economic growth.
4. Salaries paid to conservation district employee (s) contribute to the local economy.
5. Cost-share dollars and conservation incentives paid to landowners contribute to the local economy.
6. Added value of well-cared for properties maintains the local tax base.
7. Conservation district programs are cost-effective because of high volunteer inputs.
8. Cooperative agreements with assisting agencies bring significant state and federal dollars and services into the county.

Greenwood County Conservation District is a native grass and wildflower seed dealer, sells geotextile fabric and has a root plow for rent.

Old World Bluestem

Chemical control is the best option for control. Burning and mowing are ineffective but can improve chemical control if done in the spring prior to chemical application.

Apply chemical in mid June when plant is at the 4-5 leaf stage.

Long hairs visible on stem



Caucasian bluestem

Warm Season, perennial bunch grass
Grows 2-3 feet tall
Thin, tapered yellowish-green leaves
Long hairs around base of leaf blade on lower leaf
Flowers late June to early July with reddish-purple seed head



Caucasian

Yellow bluestem

Similar to Caucasian Bluestem but often taller, up to 3-4 ft. tall
Long hairs on leaves often extend further up the blade
Flowers late June to early July with reddish-purple seed head
Best way to distinguish between Caucasian & Yellow is the seed head. Readily invades disturbed areas such as road ditches, over grazed range and pastures.



Yellow

Caucasian early summer



Do you think you have Old World on your property? Contact us to help identify the grass.

A good way to track locations of it is by using GPS marking points. Use these points later during time to spray. Late fall is a good time to identify for the recommended spraying time.

Currently Recommended Control Options

Broadcast Treatment:
.25lb/Ac imazapyr
Applied in mid June

Spot Spraying:
.25lb/Ac imazapyr
or 1-1.5% glyphosate
Applied in mid June

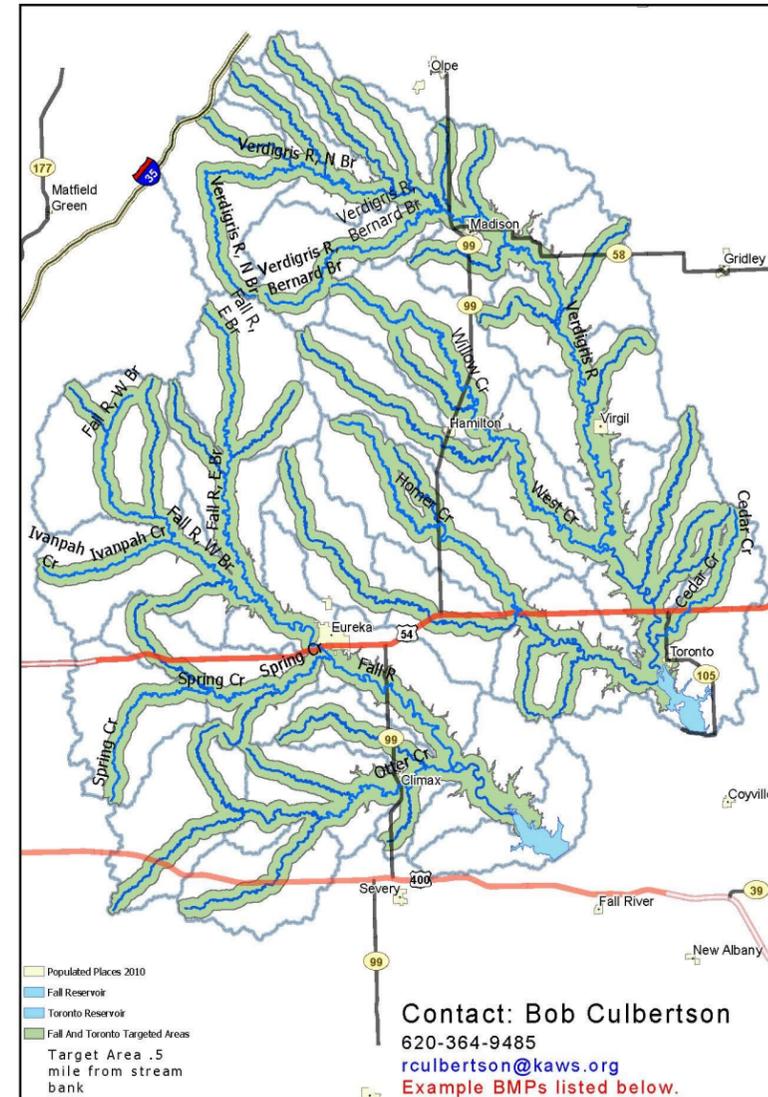
Follow-up Treatment:
Follow-up treatment of .25 lb/ac of imazapyr 8 weeks after.

Both treatments will negatively impact native warm season grasses, however, they are more tolerant to imazapyr.

Caucasian early summer



Toronto & Fall River Reservoir WRAPS Watershed Restoration & Protection Strategy



KAWs
KANSAS ALLIANCE FOR
WETLANDS & STREAMS