



**“Farming As If People Matter:  
How to Feed Ourselves, Build New Farms  
and Adapt to a Changing World”**

**Farm and Food Conference**  
**Saturday, November 2, 2013**  
**Meridian Center | Newton, Kansas**  
**9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**The 2013 Kansas Farm and Food Conference is organized by the  
Kansas Rural Center.**

**Presented with generous support by the following sponsors:**



*Advancing sustainable agriculture since 1988!*



# Farm and Food Conference Schedule

Saturday, November 2, 2013

8:30—9:00 a.m.	<b>Registration Open</b>	(Coffee and fruit in North Pointe)
9:00 a.m.	<b>Welcome—Julie Mettenburg, Executive Director, KRC</b>	Meridian
9:15 a.m.	<b>Keynote:</b> Wes Jackson, President, The Land Institute, Salina, Kansas <i>When Ecology Replaces Agronomy for Food Production</i>	Meridian
10:15 a.m.	<b>Break</b>	
10:30 a.m.	<b>Workshops, Session 1</b>	
	[FT] Family Matters: Handling Hard Conversations About Family Farm Transitions	South Pointe #1
	[FM] Unlocking the Secrets of Soil	South Pointe #2
	[CF] Farm to School: Challenges and Opportunities in Kansas	South Pointe #3
	[PP] The Farm Bill As If People Matter: The Changing Policy Landscape in Washington	Meridian
11:45	<b>Lunch</b>	(Food line in North Pointe)
	The Climate + Energy Project: Water + Energy Progress Awards	Meridian
1 p.m.	<b>Workshops, Session 2</b>	
	[CF] Community Gardens: Growing Food Access, Growing Neighborhoods	South Pointe #1
	[FM] New Issues with Crop Insurance for Diversified Sustainable and Organic Farmers	South Pointe #2
	[FT] How to Farm with Limited Access to Land, Credit or Capital	South Pointe #3
	[LM] Emerging Opportunities for Direct Marketing Farms in Kansas	North Pointe
	[PP] Emerging Policy Issues in Kansas: Farming, Water, Energy, & More	Meridian
2:15 p.m.	<b>Break</b>	
2:30 p.m.	<b>Workshops, Session 3</b>	
	[FM] Integrating Cover Crops into Your Specialty Crop Operation	South Pointe #1
	[FM] Integrating Cover Crops into Crop and Livestock Operations	South Pointe #2
	[FT] Pollinators on the Farm: A Mutually Beneficial Relationship	South Pointe #3
	[LM] Pricing Your Products for Local Markets	North Pointe
	[CF] [PP] Democracy in Action: Driving a Civil Discourse Around Farming and Food	Meridian
3:45 p.m.	<b>Break</b>	
4 p.m.	<b>Networking Sessions and Closing Remarks</b>	Meridian
	<i>Women on the Farm “Lean In” Circle</i>	
	<i>Beginner-Established Farmer Connections</i>	
	<i>Emerging Issues in Kansas Food &amp; Farming</i>	

# 2013 Farm and Food Conference Workshops

## [FT] Farm Transitions

**Family Matters: Handling Hard Conversations About Family Farm Transitions** — Practical advice and resources for navigating difficult conversations -- for landowners and potential heirs. **Duane Hund**, KSU Ag Mediation Services, **Barry Carroll**, Ag Mediator ; **Karen McIlvain**, Attorney  
10:30 a.m.—11:45 p.m., South Point #1

**How to Farm with Limited Access to Land, Credit or Capital**—Hear from experienced farmers who have advice and ideas for acquiring the resources you need to begin or continue farming utilizing the means surrounding you. **Ed Reznicek**, Kansas Organic Producers, Producer; **Jason Schmidt**, Producer; **Maria Stewart**, Producer  
1:00 p.m.—2:15 p.m., South Point #3

**Pollinators on the Farm: A Mutually Beneficial Relationship**—Featuring information about bees and their fellow pollinators, why they matter, and how we can help them thrive in Kansas. **Debbie McSweeney**, Board of Partners for Sustainable Pollination; **Chip Taylor**, Founder and Director of Monarch Watch and Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas  
2:30 p.m.—3:45 p.m., South Pointe #3

## [FM] Farm Management

**Unlocking the Secrets of Soil**—Basic training in the how, what and why of soil function and biology, including how cover crops and other practices can improve the soil's ability to produce healthy, abundant crops. **Dean Krehbiel**, USDA NRCS State Resource Conservationist; **Lisa French**, Cheney Lake Project Coordinator  
10:30 a.m.—11:45 a.m., South Pointe #2

**New Issues with Crop Insurance for Diversified Sustainable and Organic Farmers**—NCAT specialist Jeff Schahczenski will provide information on new crop insurance options for diversified sustainable, specialty crop, and organic farmers. **Jeff Schahczenski**, National Center for Appropriate Technology  
1:00 p.m.—2:15 p.m., South Pointe #2

**Integrating Cover Crops into Your Specialty Crop Operation**—Incorporate cover crops and rotations into your vegetable and fruit operation or your hoophouse to build soil and raise healthy crops. **Cary Rivard**, KSU Horticulture Specialist  
2:30 p.m.—3:45 p.m., South Pointe #1

**Integrating Cover Crops into Crop and Livestock Operations**—Gail Fuller will share knowledge gained from his Emporia-area diversified farming operation that includes corn, soybeans, wheat, field peas, forage peas, sunflowers and a variety of cover crops, and livestock. **Gail Fuller**, No Till Cover Crop Farmer, Emporia, KS  
2:30 p.m.—3:45 p.m., South Pointe #2

## [LM] Local Food Marketing

**Emerging Opportunities for Direct Marketing Farms in Kansas**—Hear from the Kansas Department of Agriculture about current, new, and upcoming opportunities to expand local markets for agricultural products in Kansas. **Cole Cottin**, Kansas Rural Center; **Annarose Hart**, KDA "From the Land of Kansas" Specialist; **Mary Marrow**, Public Health Law Center  
1:00 p.m.—2:15 p.m., North Pointe

**Pricing Your Products for Local Markets**—Review principles of cost accounting, competitive analysis and pricing of farm products for local markets, to ensure you are keeping profitability at the forefront of your farm marketing efforts. **Cherie Schenker**, Producer; **Duane Hund**, KSU Ag Mediation Services; **Lisa Roberts**, Kansas Small Business Development Center  
2:30 p.m.—3:45 p.m., North Pointe

## [CF] Community Food Solutions

**Farm to School: Challenges and Opportunities in Kansas**—An overview of farm-to-school and school gardens in Kansas, including the challenges and opportunities in placing fresh foods in the fingers of our children. **Barb Depew**, Kansas Department of Education; **David Warner**, Chase Co. School Principal; **Dan Phelps**, MAD Farm, Producer  
10:30 a.m.—11:45 a.m., South Pointe #3

**Community Gardens: Growing Food Access, Growing Neighborhoods**—How to obtain funding, select a model that works best for your community, and meet other organizational requirements to successfully grow a community garden. **Bob Neier**, KSRE Sedgwick County Horticulture Agent  
1:00 p.m.—2:15 p.m.—South Pointe #1

**Democracy in Action: Driving a Civil Discourse Around Farming and Food**—This session will address techniques and topics across our representative democracy and its institutions, and how the grassroots can grow a voice to help advance positive change. **Julie Mettenburg**, Kansas Rural Center; **Mary Fund**, Kansas Rural Center; **Elizabeth Ablah**, KU Med Wichita; **Paul Johnson**, KRC Policy Analyst; **Natasha Frost**, Public Health Law Center  
2:30 p.m.—3:45 p.m., Meridian

## [PP] Food & Farming Policy

**The Farm Bill As If People Matter: The Changing Policy Landscape in Washington**—Learn how it could help build a new agricultural paradigm for production, natural resources, and beginning farmers; provide a food safety net for our most vulnerable; and help farms provide healthy food for all. **Mary Fund**, Kansas Rural Center, **Donn Teske**, Ks. Farmers Union; **Troy Schroeder**, Kansas Wildlife Federation; **Barbara LaClair**, Kansas Health Institute  
10:30 a.m.—11:45 a.m., Meridian

**Emerging Policy Issues in Kansas: Farming, Water, Energy, & More**—An expert roundtable reviews issues of concern to Kansans, including budget, finance and tax issues, renewable energy including transmission line debates, and potential changes to our corporate farming law. **Paul Johnson**, KRC Policy Analyst; **Dorothy Barnett**, Climate + Energy Project; **Donn Teske**, Kansas Farmers Union; **Lisa French**, Cheney Lake Project and former Kansas Water Authority member  
1:00 p.m.—2:15 p.m., Meridian

## Keynote Address

*When Ecology Replaces Agronomy for Food Production*

**Wes Jackson** is the founder and President of the Land Institute in Salina. He established and served as chair of one of the country's first environmental studies programs at California State University-Sacramento and then returned to his native Kansas to found The Land Institute in 1976. Jackson and the Land Institute's primary work has been to develop a perennial polyculture using nature as model. Jackson is the author of several books including *Nature as Measure* and *Consulting the Genius of the Place; An Ecological Approach to Agriculture*, and is internationally recognized as a leader in sustainable agriculture. He was a 1990 Pew Conservation Scholar, in 1992 became a MacArthur Fellow, and in 2000 received the Right Livelihood Award (called the "alternative Nobel prize"). Life magazine named Wes Jackson as one of 18 individuals it predicts will be among the 100 "important Americans of the 20th century." In November 2005, Smithsonian called him one of "35 Who Made a Difference."

**Presentations and resources will be posted on the Kansas Rural Center website following the conference at:**

**[www.kansasruralcenter.org/conference](http://www.kansasruralcenter.org/conference).**

# 2013 Kansas Rural Center Farm and Food Conference

## Presenter Biographies

### **Elizabeth Ablah, KU Med, Wichita**

Dr. Ablah received a Bachelor of Arts with distinction from St. Olaf College, a Master of Public Health from the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita, and a Master and Doctorate in Community Psychology from Wichita State University. Dr. Ablah is an associate professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita. Her research interests include community-based participatory research, physical activity and healthy foods, the built environment, worksite wellness, and health impact assessments.

### **Dorothy Barnett, Climate + Energy Project, Hutchinson**

Dorothy is the Executive Director for the Climate +Energy Project. CEP is a non-profit that seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the heartland through ambitious deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy in policy and practices. Dorothy coordinated a successful effort to defend the Kansas renewable portfolio standard from special interest group attacks on clean energy in the 2013 Ks. Legislative session. Formerly Reno County 2020 Growth Coordinator, Dorothy got her start in wind energy with the Reno County Wind Energy Task Force, which was awarded the Governor's Energy Award for Energy Education in 2008. Dorothy has a BA in organizational management from Friends University.

### **Barry Carroll, Ag Mediator, Wichita**

Barry is a Kansas Approved Mediator and started mediating with the Kansas Agriculture Mediation Service [KAMS], administered by Kansas State University, in the early 1990s. Barry enjoys mediating with families and finds it both challenging and rewarding! Barry is also the Director of the Sedgwick County Medical Reserve Corps that is part of the Health Department. He leads approximately 120 volunteers who respond to medical emergencies and natural disasters. Barry was born in Kentucky where his parents and grandparents were farmers. While in Kentucky, Barry earned a BA and Master's Degree from Western Kentucky University. Barry continued his education at Kansas University and earned a Master's of Social Work in 1988.

### **Cole Cottin, Kansas Rural Center, Program Coordinator & MAD Farm, Lawrence**

Cole Cottin is a Program Coordinator for the Kansas Rural Center where she helps develop and organize KRC's local food systems and specialty crop programs. Cole with her husband, Dan Phelps, founded MAD Farm in 2010 to produce vegetables, fruits, and garden starts for the surrounding community. Located on several urban plots, MAD Farm is currently in the design phase for integrating multi-story perennial polycultures and micro-livestock into their farming systems. Cole views food as medicine and is passionate about the concept of edible ecosystems and widely-accessible, chemical-free, nutritious whole foods in general. She obtained a BA in Anthropology with honors from University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) in 2007 and has been engaged in ecologically-based, diversified agriculture ever since.

### **Barb Depew, RD, LD, Child Nutrition Consultant for the KS Dept. of Education, Wamego**

Barb Depew provides leadership, training and technical assistance to 40 School Nutrition Program sponsors. She is a K-State graduate with a degree in Dietetics. For the past three years, Barbs special project area has been the Farm to School area. Her goal is to link the farmers to our school nutrition programs. Her partnerships in our State have helped develop a Farm to School video, culinary classes, October Farm to School month activities and grant initiatives. She enjoys working in an area that will help develop healthy children who know where their food comes from.

### **Lisa French, Cheney Lake Project Coordinator, Hutchinson**

Lisa French has been Project Coordinator for Cheney Lake Watershed since 2002. Cheney Lake Watershed facilitates a partnership between watershed landowners and the City of Wichita to improve water quality through conservation work and improved farm management. Lisa served 8 years on the Kansas Water Authority from 2005 to 2013 representing conservation and environmental interests. Lisa farms in Reno County with her husband, Jim where they raise and sell grass-finished beef.

### **Natasha Frost, Public Health Law Center, St. Paul, MN**

Natasha Frost is a staff attorney at the Public Health Law Center, located at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota. Natasha helps communities around the country on legal and policy strategies to increase access to healthy food and opportunities to be physically active. In addition to working with the American Heart Association nationally, she provides in-depth legal technical assistance in Kansas, Minnesota and Wisconsin. In Kansas, works at the local and state level to support Kansas Health Foundation grantees involved in the Healthy Communities Initiative and Statewide Partnership. This work includes resource development, trainings and individualized technical assistance to grantees.

**Gail Fuller, No Till Cover Crop Farmer, Emporia, KS**

Fuller practices no till farming and grazing cattle near Emporia, Ks. Gail describes his farming method as farming in nature's image. At Fuller Farms, Gail grows corn, soybeans, winter wheat, field peas, forage pea mix, sunflowers and a large variety of cover crops, in addition to raising cattle. Gail uses cover crops to strengthen the health and integrity of his soil, planting diverse seed mixes to increase the biodiversity of his farm. His plantings include cover crop "cocktails," mixtures of legumes, grasses and up to 13 different plants. "Nowhere in nature will you see a monoculture," Gail points out. "So why do we farm that way?" His practices—including no-till farming, cover crops and grazing—protect the health of his land and the quality of his products.

**Mary Fund, Policy and Program Director, Kansas Rural Center, Goff**

Mary is editor of KRC's newsletter, Rural Papers, and KRC's Policy Watch Weekly E-Updates. Mary represents KRC on the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, and monitors the farm bill for KRC. Mary has coordinated numerous projects at KRC including the Clean Water Farm Project (1995-2012) and the Women and Conservation Project. Currently she is working to develop an ecological/diversified farming system program for KRC. She and her husband, Ed Reznicek own and operate a certified organic farm in Nemaha County. Mary also serves on the board of the Organic Farming Research Foundation.

**Annarose Hart, "From the Land of Kansas" Specialist, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Topeka**

Annarose is responsible for the collaboration and development of Kansas food and agricultural companies in addition to the organization of Kansas farmers' markets. She works with both production and value-added agricultural companies acting as a resource to connect businesses with industry, education and regional resources. Annarose is the outreach coordinator of the specialty crop block grant program and is the coordinator of the Kansas Grape and Wine Advisory Council. Annarose grew up on a small hobby farm in Paola, Kan., where she discovered her passion for Agriculture through her involvement in 4-H and FFA.

**Duane Hund, KSU Ag Mediation Services, Paxico**

Duane Hund is the Coordinator of the Farm Analyst Program with K-State Research & Extensions Department of Agricultural Economics. Recognized for his work throughout Kansas and nationally, Duane has consulted with over 900 Kansas farm families since 1985, facilitating, analyzing and challenging farm families to look at the realities they face and discover where they can be most competitive. With an emphasis on human resources management, detailed financial analysis and conflict resolution, Duane has assisted many families in improving communication and defining realistic goals. Duane is a fifth generation Kansan. Duane and his wife Diane, operate a farming and stocker cattle operation near Paxico in east central Kansas.

**Paul Johnson, Kansas Rural Center Policy Analyst, Lawrence**

Paul is currently a Policy Analyst for KRC's Policy Watch Weekly E-Updates during the State Legislative session. He was a lobbyist for the Kansas Catholic Conference (1992-2010) and assisted with the writing of two Agriculture White papers on farm policy for the Kansas Legislature. Paul represented KRC on the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition from 1994-2004 and worked on the 1996 and 2002 farm bills. He is also one of seven market gardeners with the Rolling Prairie CSA in Lawrence, Ks. since 2004, providing produce weekly from May-October to over 300 households in the Lawrence/Kansas City area.

**Dean Krehbiel, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Conservationist, Salina**

Dean works in the Salina, Kansas office of the NRCS as a Resource Conservationist. USDA NRCS launched a Soil Health Initiative a year or two ago to help farmers and ranchers improve the health of their soils by applying basic agroecology principles. Through workshops and presentation staff shows farmers and ranchers how farming practices can affect soil quality and what they can do to improve soil health. Topics covered include soil function and biology, and how diverse cover crops can improve the soil's ability to infiltrate water, resist drought and erosion, improve nutrient cycling, and produce healthy, abundant crops.

**Barbara LaClair, Kansas Health Institute, Topeka**

Barbara J. LaClair is a Senior Analyst at the Kansas Health Institute, where she conducts and analyzes research on a variety of public and population health issues, but has a special interest in issues related to hunger, healthy eating and access to healthy foods. She chaired the Kansas Food Security Task Force during the time that it was active, and has authored a number of reports on hunger and food insecurity, including the Kansas Hunger Atlas that was released in 2012.

**Mary Marrow, Public Health Law Center, St. Paul, MN**

Mary Marrow is a staff attorney at the Public Health Law Center, located at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota. Mary helps communities around the country on legal and policy strategies to increase access to healthy food and opportunities to be physically active. Mary supports community work in Minnesota's Statewide Health Improvement Program. In addition, Mary works in Kansas at the local and state level with the Kansas Health Foundation, working to support the Healthy Communities Initiative and Statewide Partnership. This work includes resource development, trainings and individualized technical assistance to grantees. In addition to her legal work, Mary is a master gardener.

**Karen K. McIlvain, Attorney, Madison**

Since 1984 Karen has practiced Law as a sole practitioner with an office in Madison and Eureka, KS. Her practice includes an emphasis in Agricultural Law and Estate Planning, including transition planning of family farms. She has provided legal representation in mediation cases through the Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services (KAMS) through K-State since its inception. Her practice also includes Federal Court work and Administrative Hearings related to FSA, RMA, NRCS, etc. Karen has an Undergraduate degree from KU and graduated from Washburn Law School in 1984.

**Debbie McSweeney, Partners for Sustainable Pollination, Board Member, Peabody**

Debbie is a former seasonal gardener at Botanica, the Wichita Gardens. She is a Chef and Beekeeper, currently working on Master Bee Keeping Certification, from the University of Nebraska. Debbie was the Market Manager for the Doyle Valley Farmers Market from 2007-2012 and is currently studying Medicinal Herbs with Rosemary Gladstar.

**Julie Mettenburg, Kansas Rural Center, Executive Director, Lawrence**

Julie joined KRC as a local foods field coordinator in April 2011, taking on the role of KRC executive director in December 2011 after the 20-year directorship of Dan Nagengast. Julie was raised on a small farm near Princeton, Kansas, in Franklin County, where she is still active in the day-to-day operations of grass-finishing and direct marketing beef and other meats with her parents and siblings. Julie has a master of arts degree in politics from the City University of New York with a specialty in public policy, and a bachelor of science degree in journalism from the University of Kansas. She lives in Lawrence with her husband, Peter Burns, and their two children, who are already involved in projects as fifth-generation farmers.

**Rachel Mysilvy, Program Director, Climate+ Energy, Lawrence**

Rachel heads up CEP's Water and Energy Efficiency Project, which identifies farmers and ranchers successfully innovating to conserve resources in Kansas. Rachel is finishing up a Master's degree in Religious Studies and a Graduate Certificate in Environmental Studies. Her research focuses on the intersection of religion and ecology. She and her family live on a small farm in Jefferson County.

**Bob Neier, KSRE Sedgwick County Horticulture Agent, Wichita**

Bob has been a County Extension Agent with K-State Research and Extension since May 1979 in Reno and Sedgwick Counties. He has helped start many gardens including the Hutchinson Community Garden in 1980, Newman Community Garden, Hilltop Community Garden and Garden of Eat'n in Wichita. Today Bob Mainly works in ornamental horticulture programming. He is married to Evelyn Neier who coordinates a Community Garden Development Grant program for K-State Research and Extension. Bob was also involved in starting the restoration of the Fromme Birney Round Barn and serves on the Round Barn Committee of the Kiowa County Historical Society and the board of directors of the Kansas Barn Alliance.

**Dan Phelps, Kansas Rural Center & MAD Farm, Lawrence**

Dan and his wife, Cole Cottin, produce specialty crops through their urban agriculture business: MAD Farm. Dan served four years as Garden Educator at the Growing Food Growing Health school garden program in Lawrence. He is also a board member for Growing Lawrence. In 2013, Dan began work coordinating the Kansas Rural Center's Tunnel to Table extended season specialty crop production research and education activities. Dan obtained a BA in Community Studies with an emphasis on social justice in agriculture from University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) and received a certificate in Ecological Horticulture through UCSC's decades-old Farm and Garden apprenticeship program.

**Ed Reznicek, Kansas Organic Producers, Amerugi Farm, Goff**

Ed Reznicek and his wife live in Nemaha County where they operate a diversified 400 acre beef cattle and certified organic grain farm. They raise organic corn, soybeans, cereal grains, alfalfa, and other forages. Ed is the general manager for Kansas Organic Producers, a cooperative that markets organic grains for member farmers in Kansas and bordering states. Beginning in the early 1980's Ed worked part time and seasonally for the Kansas Rural Center on various projects including: farm finance, debt restructuring and farm credit policy; research and adoption of low cost sustainable farming practices; and farm management and production practices to protect water quality. In Ed's work with both the Kansas Rural Center and Kansas Organic Producers, he has helped farmers plan and implement transitions to organic and diversified farming systems.

**Cary Rivard, KSU Horticulture Specialist, Olathe**

Cary is currently the Fruit and Vegetable Extension Specialist at Kansas State University Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources. Cary grew up working in his parents' greenhouse near Kansas City, MO. He received his B.S. from Truman State University and earned his M.S. and PhD in Plant Pathology from North Carolina State University. He is located at the K-State Horticulture Research and Extension Center in Olathe, KS and his research is focused on organic and sustainable vegetable production, tomato grafting, and high tunnel management.

**Lisa Roberts, Kansas Small Business Development Center, Derby**

Lisa Roberts is a life-long entrepreneur. She is currently updating her degree by pursuing a Master of Science in Integrated Marketing Communication at West Virginia University (graduating this December). As the marketing and product manager for the Kansas Small Business Development Center state-wide network (KansasSBDC), she has the opportunity to support daily the experts within the Kansas SBDC network, our partners in economic development - including the Kansas Rural Center – and Kansas businesses, as together we all work together to grow entrepreneurship across our Kansas communities.

**Jeff Schahczenski, National Center for Appropriate Technology, Butte, MT**

Jeff, a program Specialist for the National Center for Appropriate Technology, is an agricultural and natural resource economist. His recent work includes agricultural risk management through crop insurance focusing on specialty crop and organic production, and publication of studies on biochar and soil carbon sequestration, and the role of agriculture in climate change.

**Cherie Schenker, Schenker Family Farms, McCune**

Cherie Thomas-Schenker owns Schenker Family Farms along with her husband Kevin and four children. The Schenkers raise animals following organic, grass-fed methods and currently serve retail customers along with wholesale customers at more than 30 stores. In addition, the Schenkers are the only company in the U.S. that ships steaks, brats, etc. frozen to our troops overseas. They also ship to customers across the U.S.

**Jason Schmidt, Producer, Newton**

Jason Schmidt, a 5th generation farmer from rural Newton, moved back to his home community with his wife Carol to dairy farm. Jason has experience with a variety of farming systems having worked with organic vegetable farmers, grass-fed beef producers, and conventional grain and livestock farmers in the U.S. and abroad. Jason has a Master's degree in Plant and Environmental Science from Clemson University researching grass-finished beef. Before moving back to the family farm, Jason worked for the Kansas Rural Center as a field organizer for the Clean Water Farms project.

**Troy Schroeder, Producer, Kansas Wildlife Federation, Rush County**

Troy is currently president of Kansas Wildlife Federation. He has a masters degree in biology from Ft. Hays State University, and spent 30 years with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks as a field biologist, and prior to his retirement he spent six years as KDWP's farm bill coordinator. Troy grew up on a farm near Albert, KS and he and his son operate a no-till farm in Rush county. He also raises Scottish Highland cattle and sells grass-fed beef.

**Maria Stewart, Promised Land Farm, Lebanon**

Maria Stewart is a beginning farmer with a 4 year old CSA farm in Lebanon, Kansas. After an illness in 2000, Maria regained her health and developed a passion for organics and a desire to educate others about the connection between healthy soil and the health of our bodies. She has adapted the CSA model to fit the communities in rural Kansas by having a monthly pay schedule, delivering weekly baskets of various sizes, and using sign-up sheets, newsletters and report cards to ensure good communication between herself and CSA members. Her farm also has organic sections at two grocery stores, and sells "ugly" vegetables at the local farmers market.

**Orley R. "Chip" Taylor, Founder and Director of Monarch Watch, Professor Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas, Lawrence**

Trained as an insect ecologist, Chip Taylor has published papers on species assemblages, hybridization, reproductive biology, population dynamics and plant demographics and pollination. In 1992, Taylor founded Monarch Watch, an outreach program focused on education, research and conservation relative to monarch butterflies. The goal of this program is to inspire the public, schools and others to create habitats for monarch butterflies and to assist Monarch Watch in educating the public about the decline in resources for monarchs, pollinators and all wildlife that share the same habitats.

**Donn Teske, Producer, President of the Kansas Farmers Union, Wheaton**

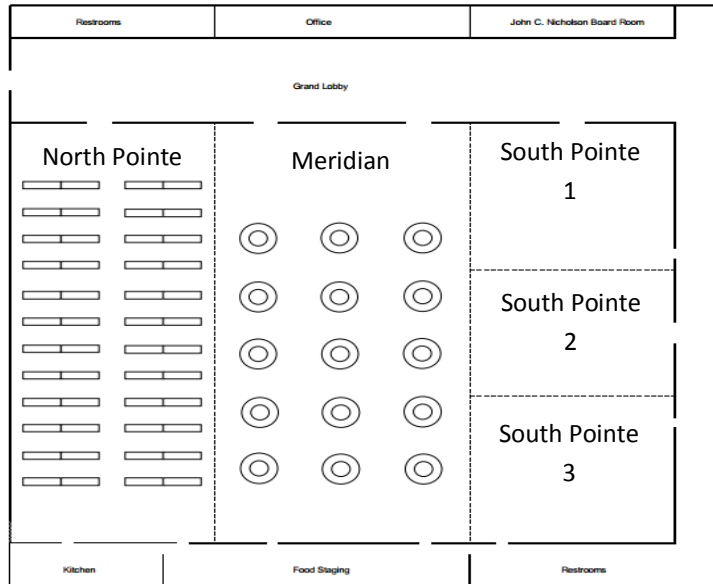
Donn is in his 13th year as president of Kansas Farmers Union. He owns and operates a farm near Wheaton in Pottawatomie County, as a 5th generation farmer. Donn also worked for the Kansas Rural Center and for Kansas State University Ag Econ as a farm financial analyst. Donn's farm is about 2/3 grass and 1/3 crops. He serves on the board of some twelve states, regional and national boards concerning agriculture and the environment.

**David Warner, Chase Co. School Principal**

David Warner is the K-6 Principal & K-12 Activities Director at Chase County Elementary, USD 284. Chase County recently received funding to develop their Outdoor Learning Center, which includes greenhouse activities, rainwater collection, composting and caring for livestock. David has served in the United States Air Force and taught 4th & 5th grades at Nemaha Valley Elementary USD 115. He also served as an After School Coordinator for Raider Academy (Nemaha Valley Elementary).



# The Meridian Center Map



## Explore Newton!

Want to grab a bit to eat tonight before heading home? Or continue a great conversation with folks you've met today? Check out these great local Newton restaurants and coffee shops.

### **Acapulco Mexican Restaurant**

217 W. Broadway  
(316) 283-6026  
acapulconewton.com

### **The Breadbasket**

219 N. Main  
(316) 283-3811  
newtonbreadbasket.com

### **China Inn**

2300 Anderson  
(316) 283-6295

### **CJ's Pancake House**

1525 E. First  
(316) 283-5653

### **El Toro Cafe**

121 W. Fifth  
(316) 283-4044

### **Karen's Kitchen**

701 N. Main  
(316) 804-4573  
karenskitchennewton.com

### **La Fiesta**

1607 N. Main  
(316) 283-7690

### **Prairie Harvest**

601 N. Main  
(316) 283-6623  
prairieharvestnewton.com

### **Tacos Mexico**

507 N. Main  
(316) 284-0082

### **Beck's Burger Garage**

1400 S. Kansas  
(316) 283-3000

### **Charlie's Restaurant**

200 Manchester  
(316) 283-0790  
newelltravelcenter.com

### **Chong's**

1816 N. Main  
(316) 283-8250

### **Curtis C's Diner**

1039 S. Washington  
(316) 283-6333  
curtiscsdiner.com

### **Island Blue**

513 N. Main  
(316) 804-4199  
islandbluellc.com

### **Jacky Chen III**

512 N. Main  
(316) 283-3388  
jackychen3.com

### **The Leaf Tea Lounge**

605 N. Main  
(316) 283-1033  
theleaftealounge.com

### **Luigi's Italian Restaurant**

1021 Washington Suite 300  
(316) 804-4313

### **Reba's Restaurant**

301 N. Main  
(316) 284-9800  
rebasrestaurant.com

### **Druber's Daylight Donuts**

116 W. Sixth  
(316) 283-1206  
drubersdonutskansas.com

### **Mojo's Coffee Bar**

600 Medical Center Drive  
mojoscoffeebar.com

### **Pages Books and Coffee**

605 N. Main  
(316) 283-1423  
pagesnewton.com

### **Twisted Cow Soft Serve**

**Frozen Yogurt**  
1400 S. Kansas  
(316) 804-4949  
twistedcowks.com

### **Mojo's Coffee Bar**

300 E. 27th  
(316) 284-5204  
mojoscoffeebar.com

### **Norm's Coffee Bar**

125 W. Sixth  
(316) 804-4924  
normscoffeebar.com

### **Sarah's Sweet Bliss**

513 N. Main  
(316) 772-2798  
sarahssweetbliss.com

### **Le J's Bar-B-Q**

601 SE 36th Suite 108  
(316) 283-0802

**This list is also found at  
tonewton.com.**



*Since 1979, the Kansas Rural Center has worked to advance an ecologically sound, diversified food and farming system. KRC helps farmers and ranchers implement alternative practices, enhance their natural resources, improve their livelihoods and support their rural communities. We also help farmers and citizens join together in growing opportunities for local and regional food.*

## SAVE THE DATE!

2014

Kansas Rural Center  
Farm and Food Conference  
Saturday, November 8, 2014

For updates visit:  
[kansasruralcenter.org](http://kansasruralcenter.org)

### The KRC Vision for Our Farm & Food System:

#### Ecologically Sound.

It preserves and improves our soil, water and air, and honors our fellow creatures.

#### Economically Viable.

It supports those who grow our food, and new farmers, with vibrant communities and options.

#### Socially Just.

It connects our rural and urban communities in our common destiny of sustaining the planet.

#### Get Involved!

**Sign Up for Our Emails**—stay informed about important news and events

**Donate**—receive the rural Papers and other information during the year

**Attend Our Events** —our annual farm and food conference, workshops, farm tours & more

[Kansasruralcenter.org](http://Kansasruralcenter.org)

[info@kansasruralcenter.org](mailto:info@kansasruralcenter.org)

785-873-3431

304 Pratt Street, Whiting, KS 66552

### Promoting the Health of the Land and Its People

#### For Farmers and Ranchers:

- KRC helps farmers and ranchers implement alternative practices for an ecological and prosperous future.
- KRC collaborates with our university researchers to increase knowledge in alternative systems.
- KRC advocates for policies that grow small and family farms and resilient rural communities.

#### For Food Consumers and Communities:

- KRC helps grow local food opportunities, such as farmers markets and farm to school.
- KRC advocates for policies that enhance local control, property rights and healthy food access.
- KRC helps build community-farm connections across Kansas, for the health of our farms, our land, and our people.