

**2014 Farm & Food Conference
November 7 & 8, 2014
Four Points Sheraton, Manhattan, Ks.**



Friday, November 7 Agenda

8:00 Conference opens, Registration

9:00 a.m. Welcome, Mary Fund, Program and Policy Director, Kansas Rural Center

9:15 a.m. Keynote: Fred Kirschenmann, Distinguished Fellow at the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture “**Alternative Paradigms for the Future of Agriculture**”

10:15 a.m. Break / Silent auction opens

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Concurrent Workshops, Session I

Building Soil Health through Diversification: The Carbon Foundation

Soil health is the latest buzz word in agriculture and conservation circles. It is the result of ecologically based diversified farming and ranching practices: multiple-species cover crops, livestock and crop integration, and diversified cropping systems. Gail Fuller is one of the state’s leaders in adoption of cover crops and carbon farming for building soil health. Learn what Gail and others are doing to improve soil health.

Presenter: Gail Fuller, Fuller Farms, Emporia, KS

Fruit & Vegetable Production: Promoting Soil Health & Water Conservation Strategies

Resilient crops and abundant harvests are built from the ground up. Extension specialist Cary Rivard will share planning, production, input and equipment strategies to support optimal soil health and irrigation and water conservation strategies for successful fruit and vegetable production.

Presenter: Cary Rivard, KSU

Saving & Creating Pollinator Habitats

Worldwide, pollinator populations are in decline. One in three bites of food humans eat is pollinator-dependent, signifying critical implications of the pollinator crisis on our farm and food system. Habitat loss is a primary factor in pollinator decline. Come learn about the importance of pollinators and pollinator habitat from Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Holly Shutt. Holly will also talk about wildlife habitat in general and how it different habitat types intersect. She will also discuss cost share programs which are available for implementation of pollinator and wildlife habitat.

Presenters: Holly Shutt, Wildlife Biologist, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever

Growing for Farm to School

Barb and Nellie will cover the status of farm to school programs in Ks. Success stories, and new ideas that could increase local food offered in school programs across the state.

Presenters: Barb Depew, KSDE; Nellie Hill, KDA

Water in Kansas: An Alternative 50-Year Vision

It has been said we came to the semi-arid Plains with humid region hopes, and humid region vision, and we have yet to develop a vision based on the Plains environment. The State of Kansas will release its official 50 Year Vision for water in mid-November. Thus far the recommendations appear to lack focus on sustainability, ecological systems, water quality, wildlife and habitat. Join us for a discussion of the future of water in Kansas.

Panel: **John Strickler**, former director of KS. Forest Service, and former environmental liaison for Gov. Hayden on history of water planning and funding; **Joyce Wolf**, Kansas Audubon; **Danny Rogers**, KSU Extension Irrigation Engineer; **Marlene Bosworth**, former coordinator Delaware WRAPS Watershed; **Mary Fund**, Kansas Rural Center; **Andi Dale**, Dale Family Farms

Noon – Lunch

Keynote Speaker Julie Mettenburg, KRC Executive Director

“Who Will Farm? The Future of Land Stewardship in a Time of Transition”

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Concurrent Workshops, Session II

Grazing Strategies for a Hotter Drier Climate

The only thing certain about Kansas weather is its variability. Learn how to plan for the challenges of hotter, drier times with one of Kansas’ gems of a rangeland ecologist and rancher.

Presenters: Dale Kirkham, Ted Alexander, David Kraft

What Women Need to Know About Land, Leases, & Estate Planning

More and more women will become major landowners and decision makers on farms and ranches in the next ten to 20 years, based on the aging demographics of farmers. Also women farmers are a fast growing sector in agriculture. Planning for transition whether it be a spouse, daughter, or selling to a beginning farmer—everyone can benefit from business and legal advice. Join an attorney from the KAMS for basics of estate and transition planning, and a KSU Ag economist on the latest about leasing arrangements and land price trends. While targeted toward women, men are welcome to attend too!

Presenters: Forrest Buhler, KAMS; Mykel Taylor, KSU

Small Fruits, Huge Potential

Small fruits can offer strong profit margins for farms in our region, but in Kansas demand far outweighs supply. Marlin Bates, Kansas-State Research and Extension - will highlight high-demand small fruits that perform best in our region, and receive key information and resources to support planning for and producing profits from small fruits on your farm.

Presenter: Marlin Bates, KSU Extension

Community Gardening

Rural communities and land owners across the country are embracing the use of vacant properties within city limits in communities large and small to provide space and increased access to fresh, healthy food. Hear from Evelyn Neier, Extension Specialist in Youth Gardening and Plant Science and experienced community garden organizer about best practices for organizing and maintaining a community garden. What works, what doesn't work, and the challenges and opportunities community gardens provide.

Presenter: Evelyn Neier, KSU

Political Landscape for 2015

With the election just past, it's a good time to assess the political landscape at our state and federal levels. Who won, who lost, and what messages can we take from this year's election outcomes? What issues do we face on the horizon, given the new landscape? How can we continue to be effective as advocates for sustainability, food and farming?

Panel: Paul Johnson, KRC; Bob Beatty, WU; Mark Tallman, KASB; Jeff Schahczenski, NCAT

3:00 p.m. Break

3:15- 4:45 p.m. Concurrent Workshops, Session III

GMO Seed Challenges & Non-GMO Opportunities

The news is full of stories about super weeds and weed resistance to the herbicides required by GMO crops. Farmers are also becoming more vocal about soil problems from repeated use of the same herbicides year after year. Questions about the health impact in food concerns many. Learn about the issues surrounding GMO crops, potential health issues, and how some farmers are switching to non-GMO crops and the growing market for non-GMO grain.

Presenter: Ken Roseboro, Editor Organic and Non-GMO Reporter

Crop Insurance for Specialty Crops, Organic and Diversified Farms

For too long, specialty crop, organic and sustainable farms with complex cropping systems have suffered without workable, affordable crop insurance. But federal crop insurance programs now have available improved coverage for these farmers. Learn about these new options plus whole farm revenue insurance options that no longer penalize a farm for being diversified.

Presenter: Jeff Schahczenski, NCAT

How to handle cattle...without getting handled

With the right tips, tools and technologies, farmers and ranchers no longer have to rely on physical strength for effective and safe livestock handling. From working chutes to calving, from the routine chores of tagging to weighing, learn tips and tricks to increase your safety and enjoyment -- along with animal performance -- through lower-stress handling strategies.

Presenter: Lucinda Stuenkel, Sunny Day Farm, Palmer, KS

Farming with Limited Access to Land, Capital and Credit

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.

Panel: Ed Reznicek, Amerugi Farm & General Manager KS Organic Producers; Hank Will, Editor Grit Magazine

Climate Change: Impact on Agriculture and Strategies for Adaptation

Early in 2014, three major climate change reports were released—all agreeing that climate change is here and now, and already impacting weather patterns and agriculture through long term drought and weather extremes causing soil and water degradation and loss of crops. Whether you agree or deny, farmers are already adapting to the changing conditions. Learn steps we can take to build resilience on farms and communities.

Presenter: Dr. Chuck Rice, KSU & the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

KRC 35th Anniversary Celebration Reception and Dinner Friday November 7, Four Points Sheraton, Manhattan, KS

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Reception, Live Music, Author Book Signing, Silent Auction

Live Music: Bob & Melissa Atchison

Authors:

- Bryan Welch, Mother Earth News, [*Beautiful and Abundant*](#)
- Hank Will, Grit Magazine, [*Plowing with Pigs*](#)
- Jane Marshall, KSU, [*Teatime to Tailgates: 150 Years at the K-State Table*](#)
- Joy Lominska, Hoyland Farm, [*The Old Home Place: The Story of a Kansas Farm*](#)
- Marjorie Van Buren, Food and Farming Activist, [*In Our Hands: An Energy Adventure for the Slightly Skeptical*](#)
- Wayne White, Creekridge Farm, [*Biosequestration and Ecological Diversity: Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change and Environmental Degradation*](#)
- Jake Vail, Lawrence, Co-Author of [*A Kansas Bestiary*](#)

Poetry Reading: David Hann, short story author from Lawrence

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Dinner

Introductory Comments: Dan Nagengast, KRC Executive Director 1992-2011

Key Note: Bryan Welch, Editor & Publisher Mother Earth News

“Beautiful and Abundant: The Future of the Sustainability Movement”

9:00 p.m. Live Auction of Kansas Art, Phillip Bass, Auctioneer

Saturday, November 8 Agenda

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Welcome, Julie Mettenburg, KRC Executive Director

9:15 a.m. Keynote: Ricardo Salvador, Senior Scientist & Director of Food & Environment Program, Union of Concerned Scientists **“The Future of Food”**

10:00 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Concurrent Workshops, Session IV

STRIPS: Agro-ecology that Harnesses Prairie Power

Learn how a team of researchers in Iowa has shown that strategically integrating contour buffers and native prairie filter strips into row-cropped fields allows for multiple conservation goals to be met within the context of row-crop production systems. The Strategic Trials of Row-crops Integrated with Prairie Strips (STRIPS) project studies the environmental and socioeconomic impacts from converting small amounts of row-cropped agricultural fields to native prairie.

Presenter: Matt O’Neal, Iowa State University

Reduce Risk and Increase Yields with High Tunnels

Dan Phelps, researcher and educator for KRC’s Tunnel to Table program, and Greg Garbos with Four Season Tools will highlight key findings and innovative solutions for beating extreme and “normal” Kansas weather conditions across all seasons through strategic application of high tunnels and low tunnels. Plastic-covered tunnels are no silver-bullet solution; they can be labor intensive to manage and may be destroyed by extreme weather such as heat, cold, high winds, heavy snow, and hail. However, Phelps’ and Garbos’ presentation will offer specific strategies for abating tunnel disaster and avoiding common mistakes, in order to maximize return on investment. Workshop participants will receive a copy of KRC’s newly released Tunnel to Table “toolkit” – which includes a comparative polytunnel informational & decision-making guide, and a regional resource list.

Presenters: Dan Phelps, KRC; Greg Garbos, Four Season Tools

Farming with Limited Access to Land, Capital and Credit

Hear advice and ideas from experienced farmers on how to acquire resources you need to begin or continue farming.

Panel: Ed Reznicek, Amerugi Farm & General Manager KS Organic Producers; Hank Will, Editor Grit Magazine; Jason Schmidt, dairy farmer

Water in Kansas: An Alternative 50-Year Vision

It has been said we came to the Plains with humid region hope and humid region vision, and we have yet to develop a vision based on the Plains environment. The State of Kansas will release its official 50 Year Vision for water in mid-November. Thus far the recommendations

appear to lack focus on sustainability, ecological systems, water quality, wildlife and habitat. Join us for a discussion of the future of water in Kansas.

Panel: John Strickler, former director of KS Forest Service, and former environmental liaison for Gov. Hayden on history of water planning and funding; **Andi Dale**, Dale Family Farms; **Lisa French**, Cheney Lake Watershed; **Phil Barnes**, KSU Associate Professor Biological & Ag Engineering; **Mary Fund**, Kansas Rural Center; **Duane Schrag**, Sierra Club

11:45 a.m. Lunch

Discussion: The Future of Sustainability in Kansas – A Tale of Two Communities

Hattie Mitchell, Treasurer, Prairie Band Potawtomi Nation

Bob Dixson, Mayor City of Greensburg, KS

12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Reflections on Sustainability: Looking Ahead 35 Years. Panel Discussion featuring Fred Kirschenmann, Ricardo Salvador, Hattie Mitchell, Bob Dixson, and others.

2:00 p.m. Break/ Silent Auction Closes

2:15 p.m. Concurrent Workshops, Session V

Building Soil Health through Diversification: The Carbon Foundation

Soil health is the latest buzz word in agriculture and conservation circles. Soil health is the result of ecologically based diversified farming and ranching practices: multiple-species cover crops, livestock integration, and diversified cropping systems. Dale Strickler is an agronomist at Star Seed, but he is also a farmer and former Vo-Ag teacher, who loves soil and working with farmers and ranchers on introducing cover crops to their systems.

Presenter: Dale Strickler, Star Seed

Fruit & Vegetable Production: Promoting Soil Health & Water Conservation Strategies

Resilient crops and abundant harvests are built from the ground up. Johnson County Community College processor and organic farmer, Stu Shafer will share planning, production, input and equipment strategies to support optimal soil health and irrigation and water conservation strategies for successful fruit and vegetable production.

Presenter: Stu Shafer, JCCC

Organic Certification: The Why's and How-to's of Certifying Organic

Organic agriculture is one of the brightest sectors of agriculture with markets booming.

But the number of certified organic producers in Kansas has remained flat. Organic grain production holds lots of opportunities for those willing to transition. While some fruit and vegetable producers see no need to certify, others like the extra proof of their production practices. Join representatives of a certifying agency and independent organic inspectors to learn more about why and how to certify.

Presenter: Jackie Keller, OCIA; Rachel Savage, Organic Crop Improvement Association; Ib Hagsten, independent inspector

Marketing: How to Market with Limited Time

Marketing can sometimes take the backseat to all the work needed on the farm so how do you promote your products with limited or no time? Hear from a panel of experienced farmers who are just like you and have found a few ways to slip in some market planning between picking tomatoes and feeding the chickens. The panel will offer advice on how to choose (at least) one thing to do to promote your business, and they will provide tips on how to do it.

Panel: Lisa Roberts, Kansas Small Business Development Center; Bob Lominska, Hoyland Farm; Tonia Rupe, Lucky Star Farm

Advocating for Action: A Plan for Growing the Farm-to-Fork System in KS

For the first time ever, the Kansas Rural Center will unveil the fresh-off-the-press “Feeding Kansas: Statewide Farm & Food System Assessment with a Plan for Public Action” - which includes key recommendations for bolstering the capacity Kansas’ agricultural sector to address food security challenges in Kansas. Over a year of deep engagement with individuals across Kansas yielded seven pressing priorities for strengthening our farm and food policy environment – to help Kansans feed more Kansans. Now it’s time to strategize on next steps for activating our communities and policy makers to enact these recommendations by 2016! Please join in this exciting conversation.

Presenters: Julie Mettenburg, Natalie Fullerton, and Cole Cottin, Kansas Rural Center

3:45 p.m. Silent Auction Pick Up

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Final Remarks and Close of Conference

KRC • PO Box 133 • Whiting, KS 66552 • www.kansasruralcenter.org
Please note our new, toll-free phone number: (866) 579-5469 • info@kansasruralcenter.org