



Making a Difference

2015 – 2016

Natural Resources Program Focus Team Managing Natural Resources While Protecting the Environment

Grand Challenges

K-State Research and Extension: providing education you can trust to help people, businesses, and communities solve problems, develop skills, and build a better future.

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Situation

Agricultural producers are concerned about natural resource issues. Producers continue to face unprecedented challenges. Timely results and recommendations from research projects and practice implementation are important to the survival of agricultural operations.

What We Did

K-State Research and Extension agents and specialists and other agencies and stakeholders, organized educational events for producers to improve natural resource management efforts, while protecting the environment including:

- **Calling All Coyotes:** Charlie Lee, K-State wildlife damage control specialist shared the latest research information about the behavior of the coyote including travel habits, food sources and calling and trapping. The Frontier District identified a new audience, of the 90 farmers, ranchers, hunters, trappers, and photographers, only 15 to 20 had previously attended an extension-hosted meeting.
- **Burn School:** Producers learned best management practices related to prescribed burning, including regulations and considerations for populations that may be affected by smoke. One producer commented, "This school had some of the best speakers on the subject of burning of any of the meetings I have ever attended."
- **Bee Keeping – What's the Buzz About?** A panel of local beekeepers, a representative from the Northeast Kansas Beekeepers Association, and Sharon Dobesh, K-State Research and Extension bee specialist, presented information ranging from feeding bees to checking for insect pests to a group of 80 producers in the Frontier District.
- **Pond Waterer Demonstration:** Twelve producers and three contractors attended a pond waterer demonstration on a 10-acre lake. A water line was dug through the pond dam. The line was brought behind the dam to a tire tank. Putting a tank below the pond and fencing the pond extends the life of the pond, improves water quality in the pond, and gives cattle a preferred place to drink. Since the demonstration, the landowner put waterers below two more ponds.

Outcomes

- **Calling All Coyotes:** This program reduces costly losses to Kansas livestock producers, while creating an opportunity to generate revenue through fur sales.
- **Burn School:** Implementation of prescribed burning techniques will increase cattle gains, provide cost-effective weed and brush control, reduce the chance of wildfires, and improve wildlife habitat.
- **Bee Keeping:** Increased production of honey from a renewable natural resource (nectar and pollen), as well as the creation of a new learning community, was facilitated by this program.
- **Pond Water Demonstration:** Installation of the dam pond waterers extends the life of a pond; improves water quality in the pond and gives the cattle a preferred place to drink.