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### **KCSAAC and Kansas SARE Program Sponsor Systems-Based Training Activities**

In a 2007 survey, 60 percent of Kansas Agricultural Extension Agents indicated that in-service professional development workshops with hands-on training and field/farm tours are extremely or very useful. KCSAAC is focused on facilitating and sponsoring in-service trainings that integrate all aspects of farm and land management with in-field and hands-on experiences. KCSAAC Coordinator, Jana Beckman, used Kansas Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program funds to sponsor the four training sessions featured in this newsletter. The Kansas SARE Program is funded through the North Central Region SARE Program.

### **Eastern Kansas Forage School**

The Eastern Kansas Forage School was held April 15-16 in Ottawa, Kansas. Thirty-eight people attended the school sponsored by the Kansas SARE Program and KCSAAC. The school included presentations on managing warm and cool season forages, the nutrient requirements of grazing cattle, economics of haying versus grazing, brush control, optimizing forage utilization, determining stocking rates and designing a year-round forage management plan.



**Above:** Dan Lekie, Johnson County Extension, Shannon Blocker, Anderson County Extension and Bill Wood, Douglas County Extension use a grazing stick to calculate the pounds of Smooth brome grass available in the pasture.



**Above:** Eastern Kansas Forage School presenters from K-State Research and Extension included (left to right), Dale Blasi, Karl Harborth, Gary Kilgore, Cade Rensink, Doug Shoup and Kevin Harmony. Not pictured: Kevin Dhuyvetter.

*“Knowledge  
for Life”*



**Left:** Forage School presenter, Jerry Jost, Kansas Rural Center, answers a question about forage management planning. Jost uses K-State Research and Extension’s KansasGrazer forage system program software to develop year-round forage plans for farmers and ranchers participating in the Clean Water Farms project.

**The Value-Added Agriculture Resource Guide is available on the web in html and pdf formats.**

<http://www.kansassustainableag.org/valueadded.htm>

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<http://www.kansassustainableag.org>

## Plant Identification and Cost-Share Program Training Sessions

Individuals representing noxious weed departments, Conservation Districts, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, the Kansas Rural Center, NRCS and K-State Research and Extension attended native plant identification and cost share program training sessions held on May 21 near Valley Falls and May 30 near Salina.



**Above:** Tim Miller, NRCS Rangeland Specialist, describes how to identify native grasses while still in the vegetative state. Left to right, Nathan Geiger, Doniphan County Extension, Tim Miller, and Dottie Harris, Jefferson County Conservation District.



**Left:** Randy Whiteaker, Wildlife Biologist with Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks describes the benefits of forbs for wildlife habitat.



**Left:** Tom Meek, Clay County Conservation District Manager explains State Conservation Commission cost share programs available to land owners.

**Right:** Extension agents Nathan Geiger, Doniphan County Extension, Mike Epler, Leavenworth County Extension, and Matt Young, Brown County Extension examine a native grass plant.



**Left:** K-State Research and Extension Rangeland Specialist, Walt Fick explains identification characteristics of native grasses. Left to right: Dale Ladd, McPherson County Extension, Walt Fick, and Carl Garten, Central Kansas Extension District #3.



## Sustainable Agriculture Theme of Spring KACAA Tour

On May 2, a sustainable agriculture tour was held in conjunction with the Kansas Association of County Agricultural Agents 2008 Spring Meeting. Tour stops included the Jim and Sue Keating farm, Homestead Milling, New Cambria, KS and Advanced Enterprises, a sorghum flour processing mill.



**Left:** Ed Reznicek, Goff, KS explained about transitioning to organic production, the importance of on-farm storage and IPM strategies for sustainable cropping systems.



**Above:** Rachael Boyle, Phillips-Rooks Extension District #5, and Ron Seyfert, Central Kansas Extension District #3, are two of the extension agents who attended the tour. Keatings' grow certified organic alfalfa, sorghum, wheat, asparagus and produce organic bread and baking mixes near Minneapolis, KS.

Training sessions sponsored by the Kansas SARE Program and KCSAAC

