

Written and Photos by Jana Beckman, KCSAAC Coordinator
Pat Murphy, KCSAAC Director

Producers Change Management Practices

Using information learned at the 2007 and 2008 Kansas Graziers Association Winter Grazing Conferences, producers have improved grazing/livestock production and management practices.

- Seven producers have made changes to livestock handling facilities including redesign of the work chute and corrals, and installing a Bud Box.
- Five producers have planted crops including brown mid-rib sorghum and turnips to extend the grazing season and have increased the amount of stockpiled forages.



Above: Renewing friendships and building new networks was an important part of the “Growing Together” Conference.



Above: Terry Gompert, Knox County Extension Educator from the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension, was the featured speaker at the 2009 Kansas Graziers Association Winter Conference. Diversifying forages and forage management systems was the theme of the conference. KCSAAC Coordinator, Jana Beckman, serves on the Kansas Graziers Association Board.

Growing Together Theme of 2009 Farmers’ Market Conference

Over 150 people attended the “Growing Together” Farmers’ Market Conference held February 23rd in Topeka. Participants learned about resources to grow, launch or revitalize their markets and attended one of five breakout sessions including a special session for market managers and board members. Also presented was information on rules and regulations, cut flowers and plants, launching or revitalizing your market, meat and dairy sales, and methods of improving displays and marketing techniques. Keynote speakers Kevin and Charuth Loth, ShadowBrook Farm, from Lincoln, Nebraska shared information about establishing and diversifying their 34 acre organic farm. The Loth’s provided many ideas on methods to increase revenues through marketing, building an on-farm sales outlet and developing relationships with shoppers through bountiful displays and superior customer service.

Food Safety and Nutrition of Local Foods Training Sessions

Food safety and the nutritional value of local foods have been the focus of four training sessions held since February. The trainings for over 80 participants included a small scale food processing bus tour, an incubator kitchen workshop and tour, a farmers' market food safety conference call and a dairy product food safety and regulations web conference. Speakers included Susan Krumm, Douglas County Extension Agent, Mary Meck-Higgins, K-State Research and Extension Nutrition Specialist, George Blush, Kansas Department of Agriculture Dairy Inspection Program Manager, and Steve Moris, Kansas Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Lodging Program Manager.



Above: Steve Moris, Kansas Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Lodging Program Manager spoke at the “Growing Together” Farmers’ Market Conference, the Incubator Kitchen Workshop and answered questions about regulations on the Farmers’ Market Food Safety Conference Call.



Above: Susan Krumm, Douglas County Extension Agent, explains the process Douglas County followed to install a rentable incubator kitchen on the Douglas County Fairgrounds.



Above Right: An inspected and licensed kitchen requires separate food and hand washing sinks. A sink for washing and rinsing food items is pictured above.

Right: Commercial grade steamer, grill, stove and oven are components in the Douglas County Incubator Kitchen.



Training sessions sponsored by the Kansas SARE Program and KCSAAC



Educators Attend Native Plant Identification Training

Educators representing noxious weed departments, extension agents and conservation districts attended a native plant identification training on May 28th in Manhattan. Walt Fick, K-State Research and Extension Range Management Specialist, was the instructor for the training held at the Washington-Marlatt Park. Twenty-nine people attended the training. Over 50 native grasses, forbs, legumes and woody species were shown during the training session.



Above: Rose verbena, manyflower scurfpea and Illinois bundleflower.

Right: Missouri eveningprimrose

Left: Walt Fick explains the characteristics and nutrient value of blue wildindigo.



Above: Kara Mayer, Wabaunsee County Extension Agent and Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent, examine the identifying characteristics of Indiangrass.

