



P.O. Box 133
Whiting, Kansas 66552
(785) 873-3431
FAX (785)- 873-3432
E-mail: ksrc@rainbowtel.net
Website: www.kansasruralcenter.org

NEWS RELEASE Contact: Mary Fund, KRC, 785-873-3431, or Mary Howell 785-562-8726
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 27, 2011

Improving Livestock Production in Tuttle Creek Watershed Set for Hanover February 17

Whiting, Ks.- On Thursday February 17, 2011, a dinner meeting will be held for livestock producers in the Tuttle Creek Watershed area in Washington and Marshall Counties to discuss best management practices (BMP) and cost-share programs to better manage winter feeding sites for profitability and natural resource protection. The meeting will be held at the Kloppenberg Community Center, 512 East North Street in Hanover, Ks., beginning at 5:30 p.m., with dinner and the program starting at 6 p.m. and running until 8:30 p.m. RSVP's for the dinner are needed.

Livestock producers are continually searching for new ways to improve the health of their herds while lowering production costs, and protecting their farm's soil and water. Now is a good time to be thinking of ways to improve winter feeding operations. Typically, the best opportunity to improve cowherd profitability is by reducing winter-feed costs. However, maintaining herd health is another key factor in the productivity/profitability picture for livestock producers.

Dr. Larry Hollis, K-State Extension Beef Veterinarian, and Dale Kirkham, Kansas Rural Center Field Organizer, featured speakers for the upcoming workshop, will show how to use a combination of approaches to improve livestock operations.

Dr. Hollis, will talk about winter-feeding, bacteria and nutrient management for cattle herd health, and discuss how to improve productivity and profitability. Dr. Hollis received his DVM from Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine and has a Masters degree in Beef Management and Nutrition from West Texas A&M.

Dale Kirkham will talk about “low- and no-cost” BMPS for livestock operations. Dale is a Clean Water Farms Field Organizer for the Kansas Rural Center, working directly with farmers and ranchers with the River Friendly Farms self-assessment, and organizing grazing, forages and livestock education for producers. Dale has a Masters in Range Management from the University of Wyoming, and a PhD. in Botany (Ecology) from the University of Missouri. He also worked for USDA NRCS for over 25 years.

One goal of the workshop is get cost share funds into the hands of livestock producers interested in adopting BMPS to protect their own water sources and local water supplies in the Tuttle Creek watershed. Representatives from the Washington County USDA offices, the Kansas Rural Center, and from the Tuttle Creek WRAPS (Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy) team will be on hand before and after the workshop to talk about the specific programs or services they can provide to help producers implement some of the program practices discussed by the presenters.

Barbara Donovan, Tuttle Creek WRAPS coordinator, will provide an overview of the WRAPS and describe the cost-share funds currently available to livestock producers in Tuttle Creek watershed for water quality Best Management Practices (BMPS).

The new Watershed Forester, Billy Beck, will also be on hand to talk about the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI), a voluntary conservation initiative that works in conjunction with the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and can potentially be coupled with non-USDA cost share programs to provide 100% cost share for some projects.

The workshop will open at 5:30 p.m. for participants to come in and visit with the program representatives about cost share options. The program begins at 6 p.m. with a beef dinner catered by Ricky’s Restaurant in the Kloppenberg Community Center, Hanover, KS. There will be a \$5.00 fee to help cover the cost of supper.

Workshop sponsors include the Tuttle Creek WRAPS, Kansas Rural Center, Marshall County Extension, and Marshall County Conservation District. Mike Vogt, Marshall County Extension Director and Ag and Natural Resources Agent, is helping to host the workshop.

To register for dinner, please call the Extension Office at 785-562-3531 or email Mike Vogt at mvogt@ksu.edu, or contact Mary Howell at 785-562-8726 (cell) or marshallcofair@gmail.com. Dinner will be provided for a \$5 fee to all who RSVP by Monday, February 14, 2011.