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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**JUNE 8 FIELD DAY IN JACKSON COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS
COVER CROPS, ALTERNATIVE FORAGES, AND WILDLIFE HABITAT**

Cover Crops/Pollinators/Plant ID and More is the emphasis of the June 8th field day hosted by the Jackson County Conservation District. Tour starts at 9 a.m. with coffee and donuts at Henry Hill's pasture located three miles north of Holton on Hwy 75 and 2-1/2 miles east on 254th Road.

The tour begins there at Henry Hill's pasture with David Kraft, NRCS State Range Conservationist, who will identify various cover crops, discuss their use in grazing, and benefits to soil health. These plants were drilled on March 15, 2012 and include berseem, arrowleaf, crimson, red, yellow sweet and white ladino clover, grazing alfalfa, plantain, hunter hybrid and graza radishes. Please note that these plants are only in the beginning stages of plant growth.

At 10 a.m. Holly Wilkins, Pheasants Forever Wildlife Biologist, will talk about pollinators and why they matter to you. David McAfee, FSA, will discuss CRP Haying and Grazing options. The location of this stop is Mary Shupe's CRP field located 2 miles north on Holton on Hwy 75 and 2 miles east on 246th Road.

At 10:30 a.m. David Hallauer with the Meadowlark Extension District will explain the benefits of cover crop residue to plant growth and development. The location of this stop is 3 miles north of Holton on Hwy 75 and 1/8 mile east on 254th Road in Henry and William Hill's bean field. Last year this field was planted to various cover crops including cocktail mixes.

At 11:30 a.m. tour participants will travel to Aaron Allen's eastern gama grass field where David Kraft will discuss the benefits of using eastern gama grass as an alternative forage. Location is 10 1/2 miles west of Holton on K16, north on F Road & 1/4 mile west on 238th.

At 12:15 p.m. lunch will be served at the Red Rock Guest Ranch located 1-1/4 miles east of Soldier on 270th Road. Lunch is free compliments of the Middle Kansas WRAPS and the Jackson County Conservation District. Following lunch at 12:45 p.m. the Middle Kansas and Delaware WRAPS groups will speak on the cover crop programs that are available in targeted watersheds including Rock Creek, Soldier Creek and the Delaware Watershed.

In order to know how much food to prepare, please call the Conservation District office by June 4th at (785)364-4638, ext. 136 if you plan to attend.

Sponsors for the field day include the include the Jackson County Conservation District, NRCS, Meadowlark Extension District, Middle Kansas WRAPS, Kansas Rural Center, Pheasants Forever, Delaware WRAPS, and Kansas Department of Agriculture, Department of Conservation.