

A Peer-to-Peer Outreach Effort for Best-Management Practices in Water Quality

The Kansas Forest Service hosted the first Water Quality Advocate Network training on August 22 at the Garden House at Lake Shawnee. With an initial group of twenty-eight committed advocates and multiple presenters, the network came together to discuss effective ways to promote best management practices to improve Kansas water quality. Training included topics on the current state of Kansas water, best management practices for crop farming, ranching, wildlife, forests, streambank stabilization, waterways, tools and strategies for communication and outreach, and programs available to provide cost-share benefits from all representative agencies. This will be the first step in a peer-to-peer outreach model to inform, educate, and promote methods that improve water quality.



Jarran Tindle, Watershed Forester (Kansas Forest Service) presents on streambank stabilization projects.



Will Boyer, Watershed Specialist (K-State Research and Extension) presents on livestock BMP's.

Now that advocates are initially trained, they are tasked with the effort of the next step; a grassroots movement. The network will now proceed forward to problem solve together the diverse and complicated landscape of improving Kansas water quality. These advocates will serve as volunteer mentors and leaders in their watershed by demonstrating best management practices, providing site visits to area producers, hosting workshops and meetings, and having conversations about water quality. Through this community we can make a positive impact for Kansas water quality by reducing sedimentation of reservoirs, improving streambank stabilization, establishing riparian buffers, and utilizing best management practices. There is a great amount of knowledge, experience, energy, and excitement within the Water Quality Advocate Network and together the network is ready to reach out to their local watershed. For more information, contact Shane Neel at shane@ksu.edu or 785-617-0717.



WQAN Advocates and Presenters at the Garden House at Lake Shawnee