

Priority Goal #6: While focused on the preservation of our water resources agricultural water users will double the value of irrigation-based production over the next 50 years. Coordinate with public/private research and development programs to develop and promote less water and nutrient intensive crops. Provide incentives for operators to implement irrigation efficiency improvements immediately. Increase efforts to implement water conserving agricultural production practices utilizing no-till methods, cover cropping systems and a rangeland cedar tree management program.

Action Steps

- ❖ Preserve water resources and coordinate programs to develop less water-intensive crops.
 - ◇ Develop 4 water demonstration farms which compare multiple less water intensive crops.
- ❖ Coordinate public/private research and development for development of viable drought tolerant crops.
 - ◇ Invest in Center for Sorghum Improvement.
- ❖ Identification and development of markets for alternative crops.
- ❖ Establish a technology farm within the Equus-Walnut Region where no-till, cover cropping systems and a rangeland management program can be evaluated. Rely on expertise of state and local experts to identify an appropriate location for technology farm within the Equus-Walnut Region.
- ❖ Provide and support workshops and field days starting in February/March 2017 in advance of annual burn season for fire management of invasive vegetation for improved rangeland management.
 - ◇ Outcome of these efforts and previously mentioned technology farm would be improved soil health, improved moisture holding capacity of soils, and increased groundwater recharge potential through increased education and awareness area residence

Responsible and Assisting Agencies/Organizations

- ❖ State of Kansas, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Water Office, Kansas State University, Grain Associations, willing farmers, Kansas Livestock Association, Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Grazing Land Coalition

Resources Needed

- ❖ \$80,000 for equipment and consultant salary for water demonstration farms.
- ❖ \$400,000 for investment in Center for Sorghum Improvement.
- ❖ Funding for Land Grant College Research.
- ❖ Payments to farmers for research plots.

Timeframe of Completion

- ❖ Complete within 2 years.

Geographic Scope

- ❖ Sedgwick and Harvey Co for water demonstration farm development.
- ❖ Statewide area of impact for Center for Sorghum Improvement.

Regulation/Policy Changes

- ❖ GMO approvals