

## News Column

Stacy Campbell

Cottonwood Extension District, Hays

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### **Cover Your Acres Winter Conference**

On January 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, [K-State Research and Extension](#) in partnership with the Northwest Crop Residue Alliance and conference sponsors will host the 16<sup>th</sup> annual '[Cover Your Acres Winter Conference](#)' in Oberlin, Kan. for crop producers, consultants and others interested in northwest Kansas agriculture.

The meeting is a producer-driven program that focuses on the latest technology, methods, and conservation practices to improve crop production on the High Plains, said Lucas Haag and Jeanne Falk Jones, K-State Research and Extension crops and soils specialists. It annually brings in more than 500 attendees from the surrounding area. In addition, there are vendor booths and equipment displays by agriculture industry companies and some industry speaking sessions will be offered by these vendors.

"Economics is big on everyone's mind right now," said Haag. "So we have Jordan Steele, the lead economist with Northwest Kansas Farm Management Association, presenting their analysis of (KFMA) members' data and trying to look at what is driving profitability in our operations here in northwest Kansas and what potential pitfalls producers should be aware of." In addition, Mykel Taylor with K-State's Department of Agricultural Economics will discuss land values and rental rates.

Weed control continues to be a leading challenge for many producers in the Central High Plains. Marshall Hay, a Ph.D. candidate in K-State's Department of Agronomy, will present on the topic of how producers can get better effectiveness from paraquat, an old herbicide that has found new favor in the era of herbicide-resistant kochia and palmer amaranth. Additionally, Rich Zollinger, weed science professor emeritus from North Dakota State University will provide a comprehensive look at how applicators can use the proper adjuvants to improve tank mix performance.

Other topics include dryland corn hybrids, seeding rate, and planting date selection, reclaiming eroded high pH soils with beef manure, irrigated soybean management, avoiding wheat production mistakes, corn insect resistance, and palmer amaranth management.

Registration begins both days at 7:45 a.m., with educational sessions starting at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m. followed by a 'bull session' on Tuesday evening where attendees can visit with industry and university specialists. The same programs will be offered both days of the conference; participants attending both days will find it easier to catch most or all of the presentations. The program offers a

total of 10 continuing education unit (CEU) credits for Certified Crop Advisors and 4 CEUs for Commercial Applicators.

The conference will be held at The Gateway Civic Center at 1 Morgan Drive in Oberlin. An early registration fee of \$45 for either day and is **due by Jan. 9th**. For those who plan to attend both days, the fee is \$65 if paid by Jan. 9th. After Jan. 9th, the cost is \$65 per day. The conference fee includes refreshments and meals.

More information and online registration is available at [www.northwest.ksu.edu/CoverYourAcres](http://www.northwest.ksu.edu/CoverYourAcres) or by mailing a check to the K-State Research and Extension, Northwest Area Office, P.O. Box 786, Colby, Kan. 67701. Please make checks payable to Kansas State University.

I am planning on going to the January 16<sup>th</sup> session, so if you are interested in going for the day, you can give me a call at 785-628-9430 or e-mail me at [scampbel@ksu.edu](mailto:scampbel@ksu.edu) for carpooling arrangements to the conference.

*Stacy Campbell is an Agriculture and Natural Resources agent in the Cottonwood District (which includes Barton and Ellis counties) for K-State Research and Extension. You can contact him by e-mail at [scampbel@ksu.edu](mailto:scampbel@ksu.edu) or calling 785-628-9430.*