

DID YOU KNOW?

It takes 115 gallons of water to grow enough wheat for one loaf of bread!



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WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY COMMUNITY?

Public Forums - Greeley, Melvern and Rossville

Check the Community Corner section of this newsletter for meeting times and details.

October 21 – Kansas Native Plants Society (KNPS) – 10:00 a.m.-12 p.m.

The Discovery Center in Kansas City, MO, is hosting the Plants of Merit Presentation to educate the public about landscaping with native plants.

For more information: (816) 759-7300

Or visit: www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/events.htm

October 28 - Melvern Fall Festival - ALL DAY

Pancakes, ham and bean feed, craft fair, Halloween costume parade, hayrides, late-night haunted house and more. PRIDE program and local science teacher will provide fun youth activities at the community center throughout the day.

For more information: Kay Salisbury, (785) 549-0116

Agri-tourism Opportunities

The Agriculture Marketing Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce is sponsoring \$30,000 in scholarships to help registered Kansas agri-tourism operators attend conferences, seminars and educational tours.

For more information: Sarah Larison (785) 296-3737

Or visit: www.kansascommerce.com/

HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



The Healthy Ecosystems-Healthy Communities project of the Kansas PRIDE Program assists communities with a process of civic engagement and resource planning for positive environmental actions and benefits to their community's natural resources.

KANSAS
PRIDE

PRIDE Communities Receive Grants For Community Improvement

Welcome to the Healthy Ecosystems-Healthy Communities Project for your community!

This is the first issue of the Healthy Ecosystems-Healthy Communities newsletter. The K-State Community PRIDE Program has received special funding to help three PRIDE communities: Melvern, Greeley, and Rossville, to develop plans for community improvement and conservation of their natural resources. A project coordinator from K-State will help each

community with this process. Your community will also receive a \$5,000 grant to undertake projects you identify as important to protect local water quality and improve your community's health, economy and quality of life. Don't miss the opportunity to participate in this process!

Knowledge of the resources in your community is a vital element of the Healthy Ecosystems-Healthy Communities project. An appraisal of those resources will help each community balance their use. If a resource, such as water, is disappearing or declining in quality, then a plan may be needed to determine how that resource can be sustained or protected. The plans you and your community develop will assure that the water, soils, plants, and animals in your community will be there for your children and grandchildren to use and enjoy!



Manhattan, KS 66506

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Kansas State University

Kansas PRIDE

COMMUNITY CORNER

This section of the newsletter is devoted to sharing what each community is doing on its Healthy Ecosystems-Healthy Communities project.

What's Happening in Greeley?

In September, the Greeley PRIDE group invited several guests to share information and resources with the adults and youth at the Greeley Smoke-off—a meat-smoking, tasty event that involves people from all around the community. There was a ground water model and a “live” display of invertebrates from S. Pott Creek, a solar-powered water pump to move water from streams to the livestock, a “Citizen Science” representative talked about water quality test kits and interpreted results of water sampled for E. Coli bacteria from several sites around Greeley, and a Stream Model trailer that showed how erosion affects stream banks which was brought out by the Miami county conservation district.

Greeley's first public meeting was held October 11, 2006, at Saint John's Hall. Marilyn Katzer and other PRIDE group members organized and hosted the meeting, which included dinner for everyone who attended. Watch for a local announcement for your next public meeting or other activities you may want to be a part of!

What's Happening in Melvern?

Melvern's first public meeting will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2006, at the Melvern Community Center, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Refreshments and lunch will be served and registration is requested to plan for food service. Please call Margie Beatty (620) 256-6507, Dee Robinson (785) 549-3376, or Darrell Schultz (785) 549-3240 to let them know you can attend or for more information about this project.

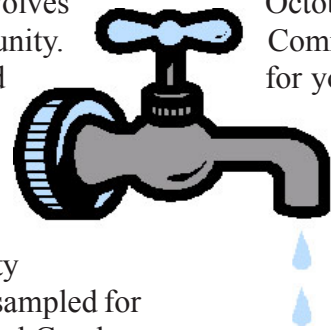
Melvern has also invited a new group of leaders to the Melvern Fall Festival on October 28, 2006. The Melvern PRIDE Youth Group will work with Margie Beatty on some fun water activities for

youth to be held indoors. There will also be other water-related models, as well as information about the “Citizen Science” test kits, and how to receive test kit training to monitor water quality on your farm. Don't miss this fun event!

Danny Rice will also be working with Melvern High School students this year on a local water quality monitoring program. A big thanks goes out to the Melvern educators for volunteering their time and expertise to help Melvern's youth understand the importance of water quality!

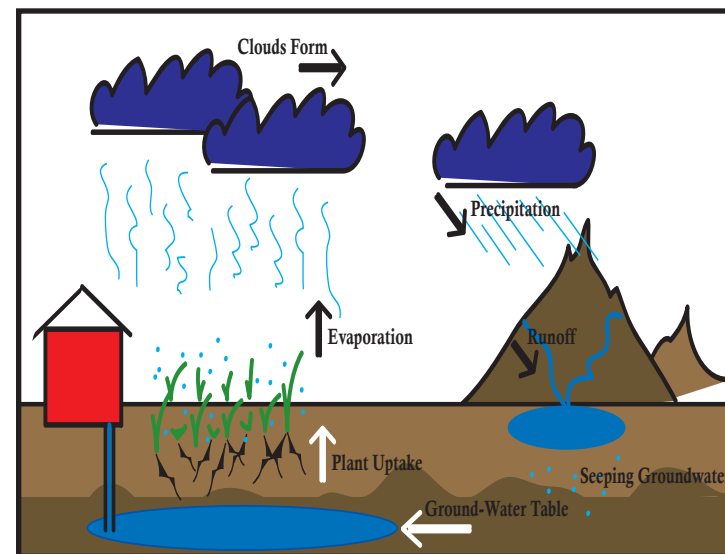
What's Happening in Rossville?

The first Rossville public forum was held October 19, 2006, at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Community Center. Watch for a local announcement for your next public meeting or other activities you may want to be a part of!



WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

Did you know that less than one percent of the water on this earth is available for all the humans, plants, and animals that live on land? Many people know this small freshwater supply is part of a cycle known as the hydrologic cycle. In the hydrologic cycle, rain or snow falls, then runs off into lakes and streams or seeps into the ground. Groundwater taken up by trees and other vegetation is returned to the atmosphere by a process known as transpiration. Water is also returned to the atmosphere when it evaporates from ground, lake or stream surfaces.



Precipitation that doesn't seep into the ground becomes runoff which travels down a slope to combine with other draining water in creeks and streams to move the stormwater out of an area. These drainage areas or basins are known as watersheds. Water can pick up contaminants as it flows through a watershed that will negatively affect its quality.

To get a better picture of water quality, imagine this—if you add a pinch of salt to a cup of water, you may still be able to drink it. But if you add a pinch of salt to that cup everyday, soon it would be too salty to drink. Contaminants in groundwater and surface waters can build up in the same way, eventually becoming so contaminated the water must be cleaned up by special equipment or treatment processes before it can be used. Unfortunately, plants and animals have no way to clean the water available in their ecosystem and are often negatively affected by poor water quality.

KEEPING OUR WATER CLEAN

Underground and surface water can pick up contaminants in many ways. Broken or poorly functioning septic systems, pesticides and fertilizers improperly applied to yards, leaking underground storage tanks, used oil, manure, and other household wastes can all contribute to poor water quality. In addition, cement and land surfaces that don't absorb water can often speed up the rate that water travels across it, contributing to erosion, flooding and pollution problems.

There are many ways homeowners, businesses, and agricultural producers can help protect their water quality by changing the way things are done. These new ways of doing things are referred to as “best management practices” or BMPs. Many people already use BMPs everyday. For example, stopping for groceries on the way home to save gasoline or turning off the lights when leaving a room to reduce electricity.

BMPs are listed below that can be used to reduce contaminants that affect water quality. Don't miss our next newsletter to learn more BMPs to protect your water supplies!

Pet waste contributes to water pollution when left uncovered and improperly stored near streams and storm drains. Pet wastes should be collected on a daily basis and stored in sturdy, insect-resistant and leakproof-plastic garbage cans with lids. Dispose of pet waste with your normal trash.

DID YOU KNOW?

One quart of oil pollutes 250,000 gallons of water.

Check your car, boat, motorcycle and other small engine equipment for leaks and spills often. Make repairs as soon as possible and clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material such as kitty litter. Do not rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain! Storm drains go directly into a stream or river without being treated. Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations or your local household hazardous waste collection center. Do not dump old chemicals or fertilizers down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.

Whenever possible, purchase and use non-toxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable products. Make sure that your trash is properly anchored down so it cannot topple over easily and that it always remains covered. Spilled trash and debris can easily travel to a nearby storm drain contaminating the water and often clogging the storm drains. Pick up trash and recycle within your community as often as possible.

