



# THE WATERLINE

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<http://www.gmd1.org>

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## KWC SUMMER CONFERENCE

The 4th Annual Kansas Water Congress Summer Conference was held August 2-3, at Wichita State University. The two day program had presentations addressing the burgeoning ethanol and biofuels industry,



interstate water litigation and the relevance of 'public interest' to the development of future water policy. David Pope, former Chief Engineer of the KS Division of Water Resources gave the keynote address at the conference luncheon. He recapped his over three decades of experience with KS water issues. Following his presentation, David Brenn, President of KWC presented Mr. Pope with the KS Water Congress Distinguished Service Award. The conference concluded with statewide legislators addressing the pending Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) initiative, Intensive Groundwater Use Control Areas (IGUCA), & developing rural/urban water conflicts.



Left to Right: Dave Brenn presenting Distinguished Service Award to David Pope

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## AT A GLANCE

- *EQIP deadline Nov. 2, 2007*
- *QRA Update Included*
- *Flex Account deadline Oct. 10, 2007*
- *Check out our Website: <http://www.gmd1.org>*

## FLEX ACCOUNTS

The deadline for water right holders to apply for a Flex Account term permit is October 10, 2007. This type of permit allows for more flexible water use over a 5 year period that begins January 1, 2008. The program is based on historical use instead of authorized quantities and is available only to vested and certified groundwater water right holders. Water users can establish a 5 year allotment based on an average of their actual lawful use between 1992 and 2002, less a 10% (Continued on back)

## EQIP UPDATE

The NRCS recently announced Nov. 2, 2007 as the cutoff date for the regular Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications to be considered for FY 2008 funding. EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that promotes environmental quality and helps farmers and ranchers install conservation practices that improve and protect the State's priority natural resources.

## QUICK RESPONSE AREAS (QRAS)

This part of the ground and surface water program within EQIP has provided significant funding in this District as incentive to voluntarily set-aside water right(s), within a 2 mile radius of public water supplies, for a period from 4-10 years. Participation in 2006 and 2007 has been at high levels with a combined total of 3402 irrigated acres and their appurtenant active water rights temporarily retired. This participation has resulted in significant reductions of water use in the target areas around Public Water Supplies.

HOWEVER, it appears that the program could be radically changed or even eliminated in the new farm bill. We have been informed that until this program is defined in the 2007 Farm Bill that NRCS will not be seeking or taking any applications for the QRA program for FY 2008. We suggest you keep tabs with your local NRCS office in regards to the status of the program.

*("Flex Accounts" Continued from front)*

conservation amount that is required by law. After the water user's allotment is determined, that base amount is then drawn down each year by the amount of water that is used. Water use in any one year may exceed the water right holder's appropriated amount as long as the overall use for the 5 year period does not exceed the total allotment. Although this program is not as practical in our District as others in the State, it still lends an opportunity for flexibility in management and cropping plans in five year periods. If interested or if you have questions contact our office (620-872-5563) or the KDWR field office in Garden City (620-276-2901).

### **WHAT ABOUT ABANDONED OR UN-USED WELLS?**

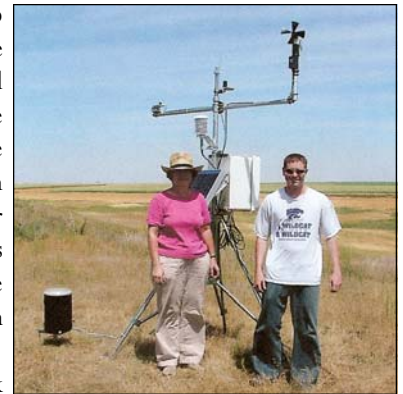
Abandoned wells are potential sources of direct contamination of valuable groundwater. Wells larger than a few inches in diameter also are a safety hazard for children and animals. All abandoned wells should be properly plugged or sealed to prevent contamination and eliminate the safety hazard. If you have questions or are interested in information, contact our office or go to our website located at <http://www.gmd1.org> and follow the links to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment website. You can then do a search using the term "abandoned wells" for additional information.

### **CHIEF ENGINEER RETIRES**

Chief Engineer David Pope retired June 18, 2007 after 24 years of service. David Barfield has been appointed Acting Chief Engineer by Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Adrian Polansky. Mr. Barfield has a Bachelor of Science Degree in civil engineering and a Master of Science degree in water resources, both from the University of Kansas. He is also a licensed professional engineer and has worked for the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources since 1984. During this time he has worked in areas dealing with municipal and industrial water use, as well as dam safety and interstate water compacts. He has been exclusively involved in interstate water issues since 1992.

### **WEATHER STATIONS**

The KSU Weather Data Library, through a contract from the Kansas Water Office, has set up two new stations in Groundwater Management District #1. District Board Members Bob Hoeme of Scott City and Arla Peter of Tribune helped with station site location. These Stations and upgrades to existing KSU and National Weather Service Stations will provide leading edge technology for year round monitoring of weather. Additionally in some locations soil moisture and temperature are also monitored. With the addition of these stations, there are now stations in all five counties of the District. These join a statewide network of over 50 stations. Weather Station data and information may be accessed by going to <http://av.vet.ksu.edu/webwx>. KSU is currently updating and adding the new stations to the website. All data stations should be available soon. GMD1 is cooperating with K-State and folks from other local groups to establish a community based network of volunteers who will work together to measure precipitation (rain, hail & snow). It is called the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRaHS). Volunteer observers will receive a nice rain gauge to take measurements each time a rain, hail or snow storm crosses their area. Mary Knapp, State Climatologist, says "we would like to have measurements of precipitation from as many locations as possible". Anyone wanting to learn more about the program or are interested in becoming a volunteer should contact Mary Knapp at 785-532-7019.



**Mary Knapp & Bryce Kintigh  
after assembling Wallace  
County weather station**



**WESTERN KS GMD1**

**P.O. BOX 604**

**SCOTT CITY, KS 67871**

**Meteorologist Walt Geiger answers questions  
during recent Annual Meeting of Western KS  
Weather Modification Program in Lakin, KS**



**CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE: <http://www.gmd1.org>**