

# Katie Miller joins Kansas Rural Water Association as Source Water Protection Specialist

The Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA) is pleased to announce the employment of Katie Miller for the position of Source Water Protection Specialist. Katie will provide assistance to communities and rural water districts to reduce or eliminate the potential risks to drinking water supplies through the development of Source Water Protection Plans and with the "substantial implementation" of contamination prevention measures. The position is being funded through US EPA through a contract to the National Rural Water Association.

Katie has worked for Flint Hills Resource Conservation and Development as a Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy Project Coordinator since 2003. She wrote and administered grants focusing on water quality and watershed restoration in the headwaters of the Neosho River. She worked with local stakeholders through educational events, hosting field days, and installing conservation practices for water quality improvement. Katie's technical experience in the field not only came from training under NRCS, but also from working for her family farming, ranching, and dirt contracting business.

Katie has organized and coordinated the Twin Lakes Water Festival for five years (2005-2009). This children's water festival, held at Council Grove, has been attended by more than 6,000 participants and has provided hands-on experience and appreciation for all natural resources, with an emphasis on water quality. Coordinating this event with more than 200 staff members has been a great opportunity for Katie to foster and maintain partnerships with local agencies, communities, and individuals.

Since 2003 Katie also served as the Morris County Conservation District Buffer Coordinator. She assisted landowners in installing CCRP practices to not only benefit their operation, but improve water quality and wildlife habitat as well.



Katie has received numerous commendations for her work in conservation and environmental education. In 2005, she was presented the Water Quality Award from the Geary County Conservation District. Also in 2005, she was named the Water Conservationist of the Year by the Kansas Wildlife Federation; in 2007, she received the Conservation Educational Event of the Year Award from the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts. In 2008, Katie received the Rising Star Award from the Kansas Association of Conservation and Environmental Education.

Katie grew up on a farm and ranch in southwest Kansas where she also helped with her family dirt contracting business. She and her husband currently own and operate a diversified cow/calf ranching operation in Geary County.

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