

# The Waterfront



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## Word From The Street

The Governor's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Water Conference will be here before you know it. This year it will be held November 14-15 in Manhattan. I would like to extend a big thanks to our sponsors who have signed up to support this year's event. Most of you have been generous supporters all five years and our sponsor partnerships are what make this conference a success and allow us to keep the prices of the conference affordable for attendees! This year, we had to begin the conference on a Monday. I regret that many will need to travel on Sunday to attend. As a result, we are planning a Sunday evening pre-conference social and entertainment.

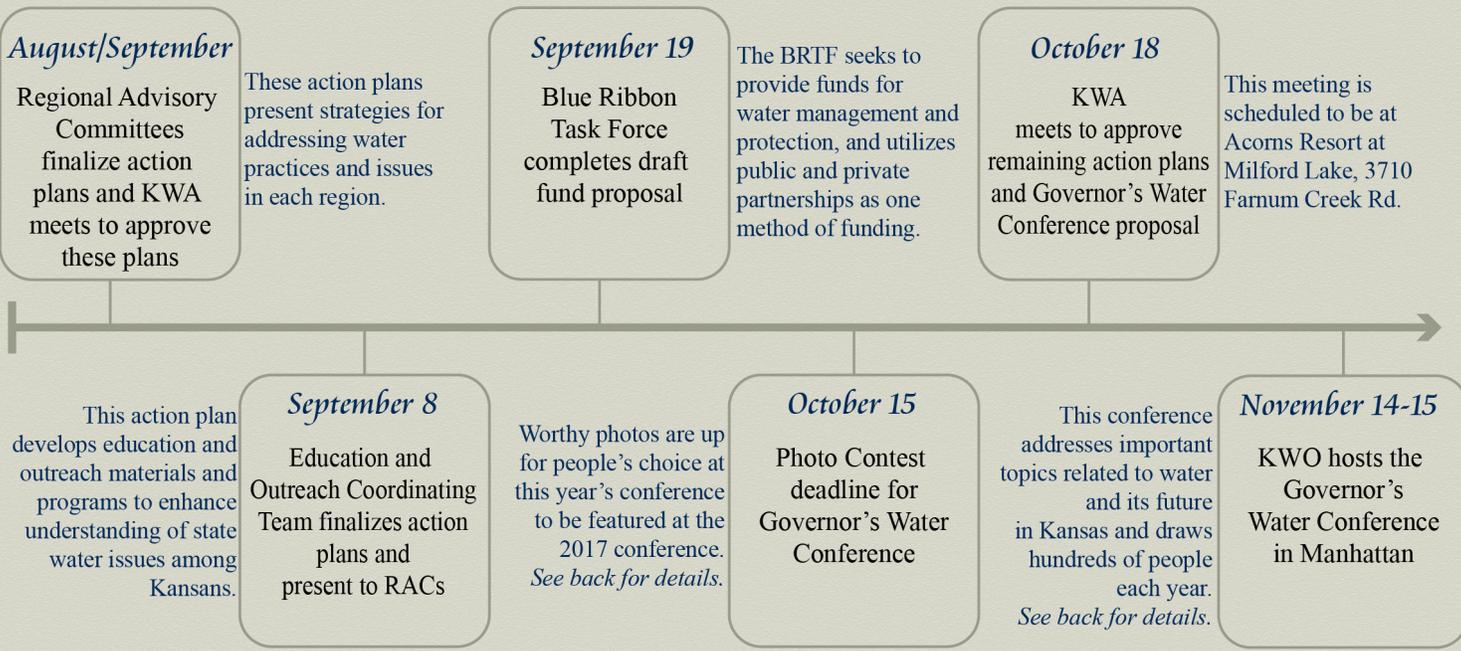
Much has transpired since last year relative to the Governor's 50 Year Water Vision implementation and we're excited to update you on all the projects and studies occurring across the state. We're very close to having all our plenary speakers lined up, including American Water Works Association (AWWA) Executive Director David LaFance, Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment Mike Teague and Denise Hickey, Public Relations Coordinator for the North Texas Municipal Water District. We're also accepting nominations for the 2016 "Be the Vision" honorees. Hardly a week goes by without seeing or hearing about someone or some entity that is taking extraordinary

measures to conserve, reuse or better manage our water resources. If you have someone you think is deserving of "Be the Vision" recognition, please let us know as soon as possible. I look forward to seeing all of you in Manhattan in November!



Tracy Streeter, Director

## Vision Update



# Water Technology Farms

T&O Farms LLC, the first Water Technology Farm, hosted more than 200 attendees to demonstrate technologies implemented that focus on irrigating effectively from a depleting water source.

The Water Technology Farm concept was developed as an action item within the Kansas Water Vision which Governor Brownback called for in 2013 to address the state’s water supply issues.

“It’s time to be passionate about our opportunities in western Kansas. These types of technologies are vital to helping us preserve and extend the aquifer for as long as we can,” said Gov. Brownback. “It’s time to think about the aquifer as a bank account and having an account that you’re passing on to your children or grandchildren.”

Owner of T&O Farms LLC Tom Willis shared his vision for the three year project as well as the future of water supply in western Kansas.

“My motivation is two-fold, not only do we have an ethanol business here but I farm. I want to pass this farm to my son when he returns from serving our country,” said Willis. “My goal for this three year project is to prove it is possible to grow more with less and see this duplicated all over the aquifer.”

Director of the Kansas Water Office, Tracy Streeter, was appointed to lead the Water Vision Team. Two years ago the team developed the Water Technology Farm concept and knew in order to be successful it had to be based on public-private partnerships.



**Governor Sam Brownback shares his excitement for the future of water preservation in western Kansas at the field day Aug. 2.**

The farm has 24 sponsors showing the drive for Kansans wanting to conserve water.

“This farm is a product of two action items in the Vision, Water Technology Farms and Water Conservation Areas,” said Streeter. “It is exciting to stand here today and say not only is this farm one of

the three WCAs in Kansas but to also share to date these technologies have demonstrated the potential for a minimum of at least 3 inches of water conservation in the first year of this three year project.”

Attendees heard comments and technical briefings from Jonathan Aguilar of K-State Research and Extension, Loren Seaman and Scott Schechter of Seaman Crop Consulting, Monty Teeter of Teeter Irrigation and Mike Meyer of the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Water Resources.

The technologies were also demonstrated firsthand to the attendees.

Participants observed the irrigation systems in place, which includes four fields equipped with Dragon-Line™, a technology that delivers water and nutrients directly into the soil rather than spraying the whole canopy and field, and four equipped with low pressure spray nozzles. Each field also has two soil moisture probes to sense the current soil moisture and if or when water application is needed. The systems are fully automated and link water use, groundwater levels and moisture sensor data.

There are two other Water Technology Farms in Kansas. Both farms have field

**More than 200 attendees gathered for the T&O Farms, LLC, Aug. 2 Field Day in Garden City.**



## Aug. 2 field day showcases implemented technologies

days planned in August. One for Innovative Livestock Solutions was Aug. 24 south of Larned, and an event for Duane Roth Farms is set for Tuesday, Aug. 30 at 9 a.m. west of Garden City. More Water Technology Farms are being planned for the 2017 growing season.

For more information about the farms or WCAs visit the Water Technology Farm page at [www.kwo.org](http://www.kwo.org).

### Field Day Sponsors

T&O Farms, LLC (Tom Willis)  
 Kansas Water Office  
 Sorghum Checkoff  
 Kansas Corn Commission  
 Seaman Crop Consulting  
 SW GMD #3  
 Kansas Department of Agriculture  
 Conestoga Energy Partners  
 Teeter Irrigation  
 Dragon-Line  
 Helena  
 Ogallala Aquifer Program  
 Syngenta  
 Hortau  
 Servi-Tech  
 Kansas Farm Bureau  
 Kansas State University Mesonet  
 Aquaspy  
 Kansas Grain Sorghum  
 CropMetrics  
 Netafim  
 Valley  
 Presley Solutions

### Mark your calendars!

**August 30 – 9 a.m.**  
 Duane Roth Farms, *Garden City*

By the  
**NUMBERS**  
 to date

**33%**

set reduction in T&O's water use over the growing season

**48%**

T&O's current proportion of normal average water use this season compared to the last decade

**3"**

amount of water conserved in the first year of the three-year project

**70%**

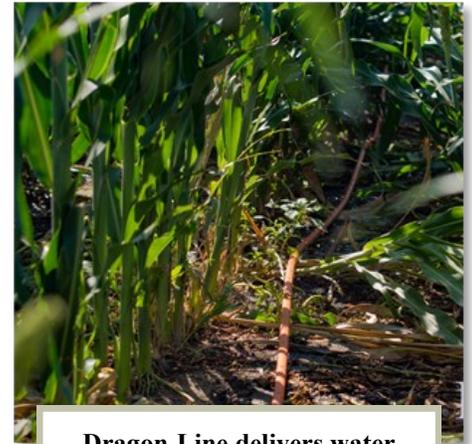
Expected depletion of the Ogallala aquifer by 2064 at current pumping rates

**40%**

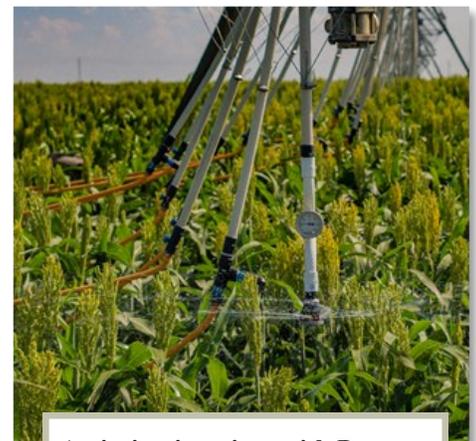
Amount of water lost to evaporation in traditional irrigation systems that never reaches the plants



Mike Meyer, KDA-DWR, checks a meter for T&O's WCA. Meyer briefed attendees on conservation areas at the field day.



Dragon-Line delivers water directly to the soil in one of T&O's demonstration fields.



An irrigation pivot with Dragon-Line attached runs at T&O Farms, while sensors measure soil moisture.

**AUGUST**

31- KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY MEETING — EMPORIA, KS

**SEPTEMBER**

1 - KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY MEETING — EMPORIA, KS

8 - KANSAS RAC MEETING — TOPEKA, KS

19 - BLUE RIBBON FUNDING TASK FORCE MEETING — MANHATTAN, KS

20 - EQUUS-WALNUT RAC MEETING — NEWTON, KS

22 - MISSOURI RAC MEETING — ATCHISON, KS

**OCTOBER**

7 - KANSAS RAC MEETING — TOPEKA, KS

18 - KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY MEETING — MILFORD, KS

**NOVEMBER**

14-15- GOVERNOR'S WATER CONFERENCE — MANHATTAN, KS

**DECEMBER**

15- KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY MEETING — WICHITA, KS

For comments or questions on the WaterFront please contact Katie Patterson-Ingels at: [Katie.Ingels@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:Katie.Ingels@kwo.ks.gov)

Kansas Water Office  
900 SW Jackson, Suite 404  
Topeka, KS 66612  
Phone: 785-296-3185  
Fax: 785-298-0878  
[www.kwo.org](http://www.kwo.org)



## Governor's Conference

## Photo Contest

### SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 14-15, 2016



The Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas is scheduled for November 14-15, 2016, in Manhattan, Kansas, at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center.

Topics for the 2016 Conference include:

- Vision Implementation - Funding and Education Outreach
- The Value of Natural Resources and Water
- Federal Policy and Infrastructure
- Federal and State Resource Cooperation for Water Planning
- Keeping the Kansas Water Vision Momentum

KWO is currently accepting abstracts for presentation at the conference. Student proposals are due October 24 and professional presentation proposals are due October 3.

Registration opens September 7 for the event.

Accepting "Be the Vision" Nominations

[www.kwo.org/Projects/Governors-Conference](http://www.kwo.org/Projects/Governors-Conference)

The Kansas Water Office is accepting water photos for the inaugural KWO Photo Contest.

Photos should pertain to water in Kansas including bodies of water, irrigation and agriculture, recreation and fun or water infrastructure.

Worthy entries will be on display at the Governor's Water Conference, where the winning photo will be chosen by vote. The overall winner earns feature photo at the 2017 Governor's Conference and, along with second and third place, will be on display at KWO.

Entries are due by October 15, with a maximum of five entries per person. They should be sent in .jpg, .png. Or .gif format to



[www.kwo.org/WaterPhotoContest](http://www.kwo.org/WaterPhotoContest)