



NCRPC NEWS

North Central Regional
Planning Commission

www.ncrpc.org
October 2005

Executive Board

Kaye Crawford, City of Salina
Debbie Divine, City of Salina
Steve Errebo, Lincoln Co.
Mark Freel, City of Minneapolis
Dwight Frost, Jewell Co.
Marcia Funke, Washington Co.
Bill Garrison, Cloud Co.
Chuck Heidrick, City of Beloit
Vicki Koepsel, Saline Co.
Joe Nold, Dickinson Co.
Larry Paine, City of Concordia
Virgil Palen, Mitchell Co.
Kermit Rush, Ellsworth Co.
David Thurlow, Clay Co.
Harold Wilber, Republic Co.

NCRPC Staff

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Carol Torkelson
Connie Cyr
Doug McKinney
Margaret Cathey
Deb Ohlde
Debra Peters
Todd Tuttle
Sherry Angell
Pepper Roberg
Lori Thielen
Jeff Maska
Jeff Gansel
Dell Gier
Rod Thompson

Upcoming Events

Friday, October 28

Board/Staff Retreat,
8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
BoardSource will facilitate the
retreat at Cloud County Commu-
nity College in Concordia.

Wednesday, November 30

Board Study Session, 2 p.m.

Thursday, December 22

Executive Board Meeting, 2 p.m.

Our offices will be closed for the following holidays:

Friday, November 11
Thursday, November 24
Friday, November 25
Christmas Break,
December 26-30

KANSAS AGRITOURISM EFFORTS STRONG

Agritourism has increased in popularity as rural areas seek to encourage tourism and increase revenues.

The Agritourism Promotion Act, Senate Bill 334, passed by the Kansas Legislature also boosted efforts.

According to Department of Commerce Agritourism Program Manager Janna Dunbar, the act provides several advantages to agritourism operators that register.

Benefits of registering include limited liability through specific signage, a 20 percent tax credit on agritourism limited liability insurance, and promotion through the state tourism website (www.travelks.com).

Currently 173 operations are registered with the Department of Commerce.

"The number grows each week," Dunbar says.

While Kansas agritourism operations offer diverse specialties such as hunting, lodging, wineries, and pumpkin patches, all seek to provide a unique experience for their customers.

Ringneck Ranch Inc., Tipton, is one example of an agritourism operation that has evolved with time.

"When my husband and I returned to the family farm in 1989 to operate the business full time we had 200 hunter days per year and we now have 2,000 hunter days per year. That equates to approximately 800 visitors every year," Debra Houghton, co-owner, says.

For more information, see www.kansasagritourism.org.

REGISTERED AGRITOURISM OPERATORS IN THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Clay County

Brown Dale Farms
McNeil's Game Farm
North Central KS Guide Service
Republic Valley Whitetails

Cloud County

Grassland Gardens Nursery &
Flower Farm
Kansas Creek Gamebirds
Lazy S Farm/Rustic
Remembrance
Rainbow Honey Farms
River Bluff Hunting Co.

Dickinson County

Brehmer Homestead
Carry Creek Outfitters
Cedar Vale Farms, Inc.
Glatt Farms
Harvest Lark Company
Kanza Vineyards
Prairie Harbor Alpacas
R & P Hunting Haven
Windmill Inn

Ellsworth County

Elkhorn Creek Outfitters
Goverland Stage Stop
Ira E. Lloyde House Bed and
Breakfast
JL Canyon Ranch
Oak Creek Game Ranch
Rancho Milagro Dude Ranch
Sportsmens Lodge
Svaty's Produce

Jewell County

Hancock Farms
Olde Homestead Hunting
Lodge
Prairie Wings Gamebirds
Southwind Outfitters
Switzer's Gap Gamebirds

Lincoln County

Big Valley Birds and Shooting
Gary and Ruth Sorenson
Kubicks Camping and Hunting
Lodge

Lincoln County (cont.)

Prairie Man's Guide Service
Spearpoint Ranch
Spillman Creek Lodge
Vonada Farm & Stone
Company

Mitchell County

A.E. Smith
Blue Hill Gamebirds
Don's Guide Service
Hunter's Field of Dreams
Lone Pine Farm
Rader Lodge
Ringneck Ranch Inc.
Special "T" Hunting
The Cottage on the River
The North 40
Virgil Jeardoe
Wirehair Guide Service

Ottawa County

Pipe Creek Guide Service
Trader's Lodge

Republic County

Kasl Christmas Tree Farm
Wheatland Hunting Lodge

Saline County

Bel Tree Farm
C and W Ranch Resort
Dehaven Vineyards
Dye's Quail Farm
Granite Creek Guide Service
Hauptli Christmas Tree Farm
JT Marsh Ranch, Inc.
Post Rock Guide Service
Rolling Hills Ranch
Vinecrest
Smoky Hill Vineyard &
Winery

Washington County

AA-Uhlik Hunting
Bird's Nest Tree Farm
Blue River Whitetails
Brown Honey Farm
Kansas Trophy Whitetails
Midwest Outfitters



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Know others who would like to receive this newsletter? Prefer e-mail format? Send contact information to lthielen@nckcn.com. Feedback is always welcome.

MEET THE BOARD

Kermit Rush is no stranger to leadership positions. In addition to currently serving as the NCRPC Executive Board Chair, Kermit is also Chair of the Ellsworth County Board of Commissioners. He has served on both boards since 2000.

Rush says the biggest challenge he faces as a commissioner is finding enough money to provide the services that citizens want. He says there has to be a balance without requiring large tax increases.

People are what make both roles very enjoyable for Rush.

"I enjoy working with the people so much," Rush says. "I also feel fortunate to be a part of the NCRPC because it provides so many services to such a large area."

Kermit and his wife now live in town after many years on their Ellsworth County farm. He stays active helping his son with the family farm and loves to golf. Rush also has three daughters.

GREYHOUND BUSINESS ATTRACTS COUPLE

Greyhounds are big business, and Brian and Becky Krenzin are happy to serve that market.

The couple purchased Greyhound Supply, Inc., a 15-year old retail business established by Gene and Marilyn Whittle. The business, which was renamed Midwest Greyhound Supply, Inc., includes three buildings containing 9,000 square feet of office and warehouse space. Part of the building is rented to a veterinarian and the Kansas Greyhound Association.

After developing a business relationship with the previous owner while working on a private label dog food project, Brian says the rest is history.

"I recognized that Greyhound Supply was a unique business with a great deal of future opportunity," Brian says.

The business, which is a professional kennel supply company, has product lines including dry dog food, raw meat, vitamins, and vet supplies. The business services professional kennels throughout Kansas, Ne-



Brian and Becky Krenzin operate Midwest Greyhound Supply, Inc., located one mile west of Abilene on Old Highway 40.

braska, Iowa, Missouri and Oklahoma and recently expanded distribution to include the front range of Colorado.

"Our focus has always been the racing greyhound industry. However, we do a significant amount of business with professional pet breeders, sporting dog kennels, small retail accounts, as well as individual pet owners," Brian says.

The couple has plenty of experience to operate the business. Brian, who manages day-to-day operations, has a bachelor's degree in feed science and management from K-State. He has

10 years management experience including: manufacturing supervisor for Carrolls Foods, Inc., Warsaw, NC; plant manager and superintendent of production for Cargill, Inc., Ozark, AR; and most recently plant manager of feed operations and feed division manager at Farmway Co-op, Inc., Beloit, KS. Becky

manages the retail store located within the business.

While there are challenges to overcome, such as rising energy costs, the couple says owning the business has been rewarding so far.

"We enjoy every minute of managing our business and molding our future," Brian says.

The business purchase was funded with loans from the Dickinson County Bank of Enterprise, the North Central Regional Planning Commission Revolving Loan Fund Program, the sellers, and investment by the owners. The business retained 9.5 full-time equivalent positions.