

K-State watershed specialists, livestock experts emphasize importance of water sources

by Pat Melgares, K-State Extension news service
Water is likely the most important nutrient in raising livestock, and yet Kansas State University Extension cow-calf specialist Jason Warner says it is often the most overlooked. “A big reason why many of our pastures and rangelands go underutilized is simply due to a lack of access to high-quality, abundant water resources,” Warner said.

Warner said many beef operations in Kansas and similar regions do not have abundant groundwater or access to rural water systems. Instead, they rely heavily on surface water sources to supply their cow-calf herds, stocker cattle and replacement heifers. Springs, ponds and other natural sources such as creeks and streams are a critical part of the ranch’s bottom line and long-term sustainability.

“If we think about a ranch or an operating unit that has underdeveloped water resources versus one that has developed and high quality and abundant watering resources, that can certainly add a tremendous amount of value to that operation just in and of itself,” Warner said.

Among the most cost-effective tools for farmers and ranchers are spring boxes, structures that capture natural spring flow and direct it into a tank, small pond or trough. Warner said spring boxes are relatively easy to develop and can provide dependable water when properly designed and maintained.

At the same time, he urged producers to regularly check existing springs and spring boxes for reduced flow or leaks.

“If you have those types of watering resources on your operation, and you notice that the spring spring box is not holding water – or the spring is not flowing – as much as they should, there can be a number of different reasons,” Warner said. “It’s important to take the time to look at those resources ... and what steps you might need to take in order to be able to appropriately address and correct that issue.”

Stacy Minson, a K-State Extension watershed specialist in the Kanopolis Watershed in west-central Kansas, said the university’s extension network is designed to support ranchers tackling these types of water challenges.

“One of the best things about extension, as a watershed specialist or even extension staff, is having the ability to reach out if a rancher reaches out to one of us or to an office,” said Minson, who is coordinator of the university’s Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) program. “Farmers and ranchers can do a lot of things on their own, (but) sometimes they do need that additional expertise.”

Warner tied water development directly to broader goals of grazing distribution, forage utilization and regenerative agriculture. Underdeveloped water is a key reason why cattle often overgraze near existing tanks or ponds while leaving distant forage largely untouched. Improved water distribution, he said, helps spread grazing across a pasture, improving soil health, reducing erosion, limiting invasive species and supporting the ranch’s regenerative goals.

“When we improve our grazing distribution, not only do we improve our soil health, but we also can help minimize our erosion and losses of our key natural resources,” Warner said.

Warner also emphasized water conservation as a growing priority for agriculture. He pointed to leaky tanks, pipelines and spring boxes as examples of where operations may be losing water they cannot afford to waste.

Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to view an online publication, Waterers and Watering Systems: A Handbook for Livestock Producers and Owners, available from the K-State Extension bookstore. The handbook can be downloaded and covers water and power source options, water transport systems, waterer types, and more.

More information on managing livestock and other agricultural topics is available at local K-State Extension offices in Kansas.

Barbed Wire Beacon

Picture of Baptism

Romans 6:3 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”

These last few weeks I have been trying to show from the scriptures, not my opinion, but what the Bible says about baptism. Last week I started with the fact that when you are in the water it shows a picture of the cross. You and the water make a cross, and I gave this week’s text verse as proof of this, now we also see it in 1 Corinthians 15:29, “Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptized for the dead?” This verse is used by false religions to try to justify being baptized for other people, but when you read it in context, as scripture should be, you see he starts the chapter with the Gospel, and what it is. Then the Apostle Paul moves on to those who witnessed the resurrected Saviour, and the preaching of the resurrection. Paul goes on to teach about the importance of the resurrection and how we would be miserable if this is it in life and nothing after, finally coming to the fact that death was the last enemy destroyed when Jesus came up from the grave. Finally in verse 29 the word else, meaning because of, so because of the Gospel message, those who saw Jesus alive after death, and death has been destroyed, if he did not get up, why are we baptized for His death if there is no resurrection. The next verse Paul asks them, “And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?” Why do we risk our lives if not for the truth in Christ and baptism, it has nothing to do with being

baptized for a dead person, but showing the world you identify with Jesus, that’s what you show and tell others that when you enter that water. You should give a testimony of salvation publicly as we see in God’s Holy Word, Romans 10:11 “For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.” Taking a stand for Christ is more than just saying I believe in Jesus, it is saying I have believed on Him for eternal life and my sin debt. In Romans 6:4-6 we see Paul telling them we are then buried with Him, Christ, in baptism, and raised up to live a new life in Christ. “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” None of this could ever apply to a baby or a very young child, they cannot understand these things. Peter also backs it up that it is a figure, not to wash away the filth of the flesh, but an answer to our conscience, meaning you think about yourself identifying with Christ in baptism. 1 Peter 3:21 “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” He finishes with the resurrection of Christ, that is what we are looking forward to.

Pastor Daniel Lineberry, Independent Baptist, Fundamental, KJV
319 W. 10th St., La Crosse ~ 785-222-0017 ~ dankrys05@hotmail.com

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

2027

The governing body of
City of Otis, Kansas
will meet on September 9, 2026 at 6:15 pm at City Office for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at City Office and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY
Proposed Budget 2027 Expenditures and Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2027 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual for 2025		Current Year Estimate for 2026		Proposed Budget for 2027		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	86,434	6.927	146,748	5.239	138,170	7,899	5.420
Library	4,220	2.589	4,300	2.521	4,700	3,245	2.226
Employee Benefit	23,510	8.118	24,800	8.683	22,130	12,512	8.585
Special Highway	15,280		11,974		49,298		
Water	410,237		441,670		729,716		
Sanitation	37,608						
Non-Budgeted Funds-A	28,044						
Totals	605,333	17.634	629,492	16.443	944,014	23,656	16.231
					Revenue Neutral Rate**		16.231
Less: Transfers	32,800		52,150		48,700		
Net Expenditure	572,533		577,342		895,314		
Total Tax Levied	22,967		23,656		xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
Assessed Valuation	1,302,378		1,438,678		1,457,490		
Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1,	2024		2025		2026		
G.O. Bonds	2,190,994		2,153,724		2,115,429		
Revenue Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	32,000		21,914		11,253		
Total	2,222,994		2,175,638		2,126,682		

*Tax rates are expressed in mills
** Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Lori Firebaugh
Official Title: City Clerk

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NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

2027

The governing body of
City of Rush Center
will meet on September 14, 2026 at 7 PM at 120 West Union Street for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at 120 West Union Street and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY
Proposed Budget 2027 Expenditures and Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2027 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual for 2025		Current Year Estimate for 2026		Proposed Budget for 2027		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	81,482	25.970	105,000	23.820	220,000	37,557	23.573
Special Highway	3,773				7,114		
Water Fund	37,641		17,000		34,439		
Sewer Fund	31,467		45,380		93,869		
Non-Budgeted Funds-A							
Totals	154,363	25.970	167,380	23.820	355,422	37,557	23.573
					Revenue Neutral Rate**		23.573
Less: Transfers	10,000		0		0		
Net Expenditure	144,363		167,380		355,422		
Total Tax Levied	37,557		37,557		xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
Assessed Valuation	1,446,184		1,576,674		1,593,191		
Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1,	2024		2025		2026		
G.O. Bonds	426,736		412,025		396,945		
Revenue Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	426,736		412,025		396,945		

*Tax rates are expressed in mills
** Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Harmony Randa
Official Title: City Treasurer

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AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALBERT
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1243 CR 400
Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

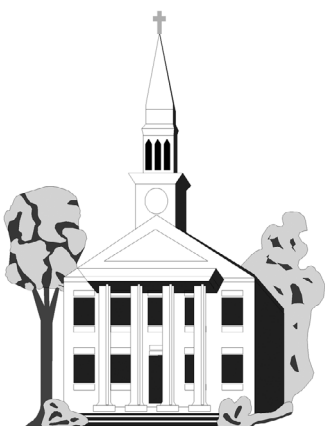
BISON
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PASTOR SCOTT TEMPERO
204 West 1st Street
Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
www.bisonumc.org

LA CROSSE
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
619 Oak Street
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
304 Columbia Street
PASTOR PHYLLIS BURDGE
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
8th & Columbia
PASTOR MIKE BREMER
Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
www.lacrosseks.adventistchurch.org

ST. MICHAEL CHURCH
918 Lincoln Street
FATHER STEPHEN DABANKA
Sunday 10:00 a.m.
rushcountycatholicchurches.com



LA CROSSE
INDEPENDENT BAPTIST
820 Locust Street
PASTOR DANIEL LINEBERRY
Sunday Service 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Bible School 11:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
www.lacrosseibc.com

UNITED METHODIST
220 Washington Street
PASTOR SCOTT TEMPERO
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
www.lacrosseumc.org

LIEBENTHAL
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
FATHER STEPHEN DABANKA
202 Main Street
Saturday 4:30 p.m.
rushcountycatholicchurches.com

McCRACKEN
METHODIST CHURCH
PASTOR NORMA McNAIR
307 1st Street
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
3rd & Ash
OLMITZ
ST. ANN'S CHURCH
FATHER WARREN STECKLEIN
115 Cleveland Ave.
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.

OTIS
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
PASTOR STAN EWY
200 West Ellen Street
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

RUSH CENTER
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
PASTOR WAYNE BALDYGA
308 South Walnut Street
Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

TIMKEN
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
FATHER STEPHEN DABANKA
103 S Main Street
Sunday 8:00 a.m.
rushcountycatholicchurches.com

Rush County Ministerial Alliance • Richard Luft, President
Mission Statement - "To live like Christ, To love like Christ, To give like Christ, To go like Christ, So others may know Him in our community and world."

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