

Applications are online

TOPEKA – The Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Water Resources is accepting applications for the revised program that allows groundwater right holders to manage their water right over a 5-year period.

The Legislature made significant changes to the state's Multi-Year Flex Account (flex account) program as part of a series of water law changes designed to conserve the state's water supply and extend the life of the Ogallala Aquifer. Senate Bill 272, signed by Gov. Brownback in Garden City last month, provides for this expanded flexibility in managing water use.

The new Multi-Year Flex Account application form is available on the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Water Resource's web site, at its field offices and at the office of the state's five Groundwater Management Districts. Assistance with completing the application will also be available at each of these locations.

"We are pleased to get started with implementation of this significantly improved program for multi-year management of water rights," said Chief Engineer David Barfield. "We believe it will be useful for many producers, allowing them to defer on less-efficient water use in some years, preserving the water for later, more beneficial use in the five-year period."

A Multi-Year Flex Account allows water right holders to obtain a 5-year term permit that temporarily replaces their water right. This term permit allows the water right holder to exceed their annual authorized quantity in any year but restricts total pumping over the 5-year period. Pumping for the five-year period is limited to a maximum of five times the larger of the water right's average water use or the water right's maximum reported acres times the county's net irrigation requirement for corn.

This program is voluntary and does not permanently change the underlying water right. At the end of the 5-year period, if not extended

by filing a new Multi-Year Flex Account application, the operation of the water right returns back to the original water right conditions.

"Implementation of the Multi-Year Flex Account is an important step towards creating water policy that both benefits agriculture today and sustains the valuable water resources for future generations," Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Dale Rodman said. "It is through the engagement of our farmer and rancher stakeholders from an early stage, and the hard work of the Brownback administration and the legislators, that this change was possible."

Senate Bill 272 also included specific provisions related to the overuse of authorized quantities due to the extraordinary drought of 2011.

For those who received 2011 drought emergency term permits and enroll in a flex account:

- The flex account allocation will not be affected by their 2011 overuse.
- The application fee will be \$200, if received by July 15, 2012.
- After July 15, 2012, the fee will be \$400.

For those who overused in 2011 but did not receive a 2011 drought emergency term permit:

- Sanction for the overuse may be avoided by enrolling in a flex account.
- The application must be received by July 15, 2012.
- The filing fee is \$600.
- The flex account allocation will be reduced by the amount of the 2011 overuse.

These deadlines are set in statute and cannot be waived. Additionally, separate applications must be received for each point of diversion authorized by the water right before the deadline.

Water right holders should contact their DWR field office or local Groundwater Management District office for more details and assistance in evaluating their options and completing the application.

Threatening skies



Thursday afternoon was filled with threatening skies and storm warnings. There were several storm chasers in the area. Most of the severe activity took place in Nebraska from the fast moving storm system. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

May concert set for orchestra

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will present "Science and Nature" conducted by Andrew Salvador. The concert will be Sunday, May 6, at 2:30 pm (Mountain Time) in the Frahm Theatre/Cultural Arts Center

on the Colby Community College Campus. Admission costs are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$3 for students. For information call (785) 462-5102.

Scholarship winner announced

The Board of Directors of the Sherman County Community Foundation announces the recipient for the Eugene and Donna Hall Memorial Scholarship is Garrett Geist.

Geist will graduate in May from Goodland High School and plans to attend Salina Area Technical College in Salina.

He is the son of Gene and Paula Geist of Goodland. An annual award of \$500 from

the Hall Memorial Scholarship is presented to a Goodland High School graduate, past or present, attending or planning to attend a college or university in general studies.

There was no applicant for the Derrick Joseph Lutters Memorial Scholarship this year.

For information about the foundation write Box 888, Goodland, Kan. 67735.

Clean up scheduled

The students and staff of Grant Junior High will be cleaning yards in community for senior citizens. They will do it on Friday, April 27. They

will not be mowing or doing large limbs. To get your name on the list call the junior high at 890-7561.

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story.

Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors.

We believe that news should be fair and factual.

We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

Films of Faith Film Series-Apr. 22

TONIGHT 7 PM
Dr. Seuss' The Lorax 3D (PG)
Starts Friday 7 PM
Act of Valor (R)

Classifieds work!
899-2338

Household Hazardous Waste Collection
SHERMAN COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY!!
Saturday, April 21, 2012
7-11 a.m. MT at HHW Facility
(17th & Broadway, west side of building)
Goodland, KS
For more information, please contact Kenny Griffith at (785) 821-1024. No early drop-offs or no drop-offs without personnel present. There will be no USED OIL collected at this time.

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Patient Support Programs at Goodland Regional Medical Center

Wednesday, April 18:
Emotional Intelligence—2-3 p.m. MST
EQ (Emotional Intelligence) is the potential that we all have to feel, communicate, recognize, remember, learn, manage and understand our emotions. Learn the five skills that make up EQ and discover ways to use them to strengthen your relationships with others.
Presented by Turning Points.

All programs are free
Meet in the Large Boardroom
220 W. 2nd
Goodland KS 67735
See more information on our website:
www.goodlandregional.com

