



## GRASSLAND AWARD

The purpose of the Grassland Award is to recognize an individual, organization or business providing exceptional service and support to the conservation, management and/or education of the grasslands of Kansas. To be recognized, the recipient must be working with, managing or supporting grasslands. The service and support to the conservation, management and/or education of Kansas grassland must be above and beyond that normally expected. The contributions of the recipient must have been provided over an extended period of time.

The winner of this year's **Grassland Award is Dale Reifschneider**. Dale's contribution to conserving the grasslands in Lane County includes the management of a 404 pasture that's split into three paddocks. Dale began his rotational grazing practice in roughly 2004, as a way to better utilize the grass that was available. Moving the cattle from one section to another allows the native grasses to re-grow and promotes a better and healthier stand.

The cattle are currently on a 28-30 day rotation and are at a 30 cow/calf pair stocking rate. On years when we actually get a little more moisture and growing conditions are better, the stocking rate can be higher.

One of the biggest challenges Dale has faces has obviously been within the last year and the drought conditions. Keeping the windmill going and getting the grass to recover when there's been little rain is a struggle. The benefits of such an operation revolve around the fact that the idle grass has a chance to re-grow, which cattle tend to eat more of in return. As the cattle eat more of the fresh grasses, the hope is thy gain more as well.