



## **2013 Grassland Award**

Miken Farms is this year's winner of the 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 for the award, 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.

Mike and Ken York's contribution to conserving the grasslands in Lane County include the management of 1, 1915 acre area with 2 herds that are split into 2 pasture rotations per herd, with a total of 120 pair. This portion of their operation is under EQIP and utilizes newly installed tire water tanks and supply lines that help to spread out the grazing which better uses the grass available.

Other parts of their operation include: the “Huck Ranch,” which has 2 pasture rotations on 1325 acres with 92 cow/calf pair normally; the “Loh Hoff & Doll Ranch,” that has 2 pasture rotations of 2783 acres, and 198 pair; and the “Smoky,” in Gove County also has a 2 pasture rotation on 1571 acres with 120 pair. All of these are not under EQIP, but total they are looking at 7594 acres with 530 pair.

Miken Farms began their rotational grazing practices and improving on the grazing land they had in 2011 after they had a water line washed out from flooding in 2010. They also wanted to better utilize parts of their pasture that were under grazed due to water location.

It was mentioned that one of the biggest challenges they have faced is the same all producers have been up against and that is the ongoing drought, which limits what you can do with grasslands.

Some of the benefits they have seen from the change in management practices have been the fact they wouldn’t have to cull in 2013 because they always had fresh grass to go to. Ken mentioned that with proper stocking rates and enhanced water systems you can better utilize the grass we have.

At this time, will you please welcome Mike, Jan, Kenneth, and Janette York, to accept the grassland award.