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NEWS RELEASE –

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STRICKLER TO HOST TWO-DAY GRAZING EVENT IN NORTH-CENTRAL KANSAS

Courtland, Kansas—Dale Strickler, a grazier from Jamestown, will conduct a two day grazing event on Thursday, September 3 and Friday, September 4.

The forage conference is from 8 am to 6:30 pm on Thursday, September 3 at the Cook Theatre, Cloud County Community College, 2221 Campus Drive, Concordia, Kansas.

“While we’ve seen tremendous strides in grain crop production, productivity on the pasture acre has not progressed at the same rate,” he said. Strickler attributes the gain in productivity in cropping to the dissemination of information to farmers and he’d like to provide the same opportunity to graziers. “This event is an attempt to help farmers and ranchers gain productivity on their pasture acre by providing them information to do so,” he said.

Along with Strickler, specialists will present on various forage topics at the day-long conference. Topics include forage related issues such as selecting the best cool-season grass; alfalfa; developing a yearlong pasture program; improving late summer forage; legumes, and controlling pasture weeds and brush. Other topics of interest include how dung beetles contribute to the ranch, and reducing nutrient losses between harvest and feeding. In addition, other topics include health issues in cattle such as understanding rumen microbes; managing nitrate toxicity, and diagnosing and controlling internal parasites.

While the conference is free, registration is required for a lunch count and materials. To register for the forage conference by September 1, please contact Sheila Caspers at Cloud County Community College at 785-243-1435 ext. 351.

A field tour is from 8 am to noon on Friday, September 4 at Strickler’s farm, two miles south of Courtland on the blacktop road (just north of intersection with Shady Road). Courtland is located one mile south of Highway 36, midway between Belleville and Mankato.

“I want farmers and ranchers to realize there are a lot of options for improving productivity on the pasture. The main thing is—while there is no “silver bullet”—there are a lot of options for making changes in forages and management practices. Once a farmer puts those together it can create a synergy for overall productivity,” Strickler said.

The tour features cool-season grass demo blocks with 30 different varieties; annual grass demo blocks (including forage sorghums, sudans, millet, teff, and crabgrass); annual legume blocks (including cowpeas,

lablab, forage soybeans, lespedeza), and forage soybeans. Another highlight is Strickler's pastures of mixed forages including one with eastern gamagrass, recessed crown alfalfa, birdsfoot trefoil and chicory. Another pasture includes a mixture of reed canary grass, alfalfa, cicer milkvetch and sainfoin while a third pasture is a mix of novel-endophyte fescue and cicer milkvetch.

Strickler said many changes are simply related to management issues and are not expensive to implement. "There are a lot of things you can do to increase productivity that don't cost a dime," he said.

The two-day event is sponsored by Forage First and the Kansas Rural Center.

For a complete agenda of the two-day event, see KRC's website at www.kansasruralcenter.org For more information on the forage conference and tour, please contact Dale Stickler at 785-374-4293 or 785-614-2031 or email him at dlstrickler@landolakes.com