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KANSAS GRAZIERS WINTER CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 23

Whiting, Ks.- The Kansas Graziers Association (KGA) will host its Annual Winter Grazing Conference on Saturday January 23, 2010, at the Best Western Convention Center in McPherson, Kansas. Kit Pharo, Cheyenne Wells, Colorado rancher, is the featured speaker for the day. Registration will start at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting will run until 4:00 p.m. Kit Pharo's two-part presentation is titled "Moving from Production to Profit in Ranching."

Additional presentations during the day include: Tim Christian, Kansas Grazing Land Coalition (KGLC) presenting "Educational Activities and Grazing Opportunities with KGLC"; and two watershed specialists will discuss "Developing Water and Innovative Ideas for Resource Protection".

"This year we've moved our meeting to the McPherson Best Western Convention Center as we've outgrown our old location!" said Mary Howell, conference organizer and field staff for the Kansas Rural Center's Clean Water Farm Project. "Kit Pharo has generated a lot of interest and we expect a good crowd."

Kit Pharo grew up on a ranch in eastern Colorado, and he and his wife Deanna own and operate a ranch there in shortgrass country where annual rainfall is 12 inches. They have spent the past twenty-five years devoted to creating an efficient and profitable cow/calf operation. They have sought out and learned from some of the most profitable ranches in North America.

Kit has some very unique and innovative management ideas and philosophies that differ substantially from traditional ways of thinking. He shares these in a newsletter he mails out to over 25,000 cow/calf producers and in workshops and presentations like the KGA conference. Kit's website is www.pharocattle.com.

Kit claims it's not hard to make the right kind of cattle work in a variety of environments. The cow must produce and wean a live well calf every year to stay in the herd. She also must be able to do well with the forage and inputs she has available. Pharo Cattle has been working with other cattlemen since 1990 when they sold their first five bulls. Today they sell around 300 bulls annually. To make it to the sale the bulls must meet a very strict set of criteria. Bulls and replacement females have been sold all over the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

Kit will spend the day sharing his philosophies and ideas with the Kansas Graziers. Some of Kit's philosophies include:

*Optimum production is always much more profitable than maximum production. Bigger is not always better.

*To achieve optimum production ranchers must produce cows that fit their environment, instead of artificially changing the environment to fit their cows.

*We want a cow that can survive strictly on what the ranch produces with little, or no, inputs. A cow ought to be supporting the ranch, instead of being supported by the ranch!

Co-sponsors for the conference include the Kansas Rural Center, Kansas Farmers Union, Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops, and Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition.

Registration is \$35 for the day and includes lunch. A mail-in registration form you can download and print is available online at www.kansasruralcenter.org or contact Mary Howell at 785 292-4955 or (cell) 785-562-8726. The KRC office at 785-873-3431 can also help with registration.