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Mom, Apple Pie and Conservation:

A Women's Only conservation tour, "Mom, Apple Pie and Conservation", will be held Wednesday, May 15, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. covering conservation practices on farms in southwest Brown, southeast Nemaha and northern Jackson counties. The bus tour will include morning and afternoon stops to view conservation practices at several farms plus lunch and a short program at the Red Rock Guest Ranch near Soldier, Ks.

The bus tour and free lunch are sponsored by the Brown, Nemaha and Jackson County Conservation Districts and the Delaware WRAPS, and the Kansas Rural Center (KRC) for women in the area. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. on May 15 at the Glacial Hills Enterprise Center at the corner of Kansas and Second Street in Wetmore, Ks. The bus will return to Wetmore by 3:30 p.m.

"We are doing a series of these tours/learning circle workshops to reach women who might be landowners, or maybe even are farm wives and daughters, but who have not had as much direct involvement in the farm management as they would like," stated Mary Fund, KRC project coordinator. "Statistics show that women often end up the landowners or heirs to farmland, but lack the knowledge of farming practices and conservation programs to make good management decisions or work with tenants and other heirs. Research has also shown that women feel more comfortable asking questions around other women. We hope this tour and others like it will provide a comfortable setting for women to share information, ask questions and pick up practical pointers for managing their farms."

Women conservation professionals from the Brown, Jackson, and Nemaha Conservation Districts, along with staff from the Kansas Rural Center and Delaware WRAPS, will be on hand to provide information and answer questions on conservation programs and management practices. Presenters on hand will include Marlene Bosworth, Delaware WRAPS; Roberta Spencer, Jackson County Conservation District; Holly Wilkens, Pheasants Forever; Anna Fredericks, Nemaha County Conservation District, Lisa French, Cheney Lake Watershed; and Mary Fund, KRC. There will also be a roundtable discussion about conservation and management challenges and questions, and to identify other information and resource needs.

Conservation practices on the tour include a riparian forest buffer, alternative livestock watering system, an intensive grazing system, grassland management, cover crops in cropland, a solar powered livestock watering system, and a stream bank stabilization project. Restroom stops will be

available along the way. Lunch and a brief program will be held at the Red Rock Guest Ranch near Soldier, KS.

The bus tour and lunch are free to participants who pre-register by May 9, 2013. For more information, and to pre-register, contact Mary Fund or Diane Dysart at the Kansas Rural Center at 785-873-3431, or ksrc@rainbowtel.net or ddysart@rainbowtel.net.