MANAGEMENT PLAN
For the Designation of a Water Conservation Area (WCA)
McCarty-Rexford WCA; Thomas County, KS
January 2018 through December 2022

In order to conserve and extend the productive life of the aquifer in our region and increase the value and viability of our water rights and water resources for future generations we, the undersigned water right owners propose the following management plan, pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-745 (WCA Law), to form the basis of a Consent Agreement and Order Designating a Water Conservation Area (WCA).

Expression of Conservation Goals
We, the water right owners desire to conserve and extend the productive life of the Ogallala Aquifer within Thomas and Sheridan Counties. The purpose of the McCarty-Rexford WCA is to maximize high quality milk production while reducing water use over the term of the WCA from long term averages. We will facilitate the execution of the goals through more flexible and efficient use of the water resources, continued adoption of economically viable water conservation and efficiency technologies, and continued analysis of crop/feed selection to reduce water use while increasing or maintaining the nutritional value of the dairy cattle feed.

We recognize the need to conserve the Ogallala Aquifer within Thomas and Sheridan Counties as water table declines continue at an unsustainable rate. We are committed to a reduction in water use from a long term average of 16.10 inches per acre to 15.00 inches per acre on the current irrigated 1161 acres while maintaining the stock water right at 250 acre-feet per year. We propose a WCA term of 5-years commencing on January 1st, 2018 and ending on December 31st, 2022. The proposed reduction in water use equates to maximum 8510 acre-feet over the term of the WCA.

Based on the currently authorized Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) Plan all of the irrigation water rights are located in townships with 0.5-2% decline and would receive 18 inches per irrigated acre on 919 acres and 15.4 inches per irrigated acre on 242 acres. The LEMA plan would allocate a total of 7701 acre-feet on the irrigation rights. We recognize that this quantity is not sustainable long term and desire to reduce water below long term averages and below the current LEMA allocation. We also recognize the proposed WCA plan is the first step in reducing water usage and additional reductions may be necessary in future WCA plans to extend the productive life on the Ogallala Aquifer within Thomas and Sheridan Counties.

Water Rights Enrolled and Geographic Boundaries
This WCA shall include the water rights listed in the attached document. This list includes details of all points of diversion associated with those water rights; as well as legal descriptions of the locations of the points of diversion and/or identification numbers.

The current total appropriations authorized for all water rights included in this WCA are 2558 acre-feet (AF) per year, with an average annual irrigation use during the period 2003-2016 of 1560AF. With an
approximate 7% reduction from the historical annual average use, the 5-year WCA irrigation allocation is 7260 AF and the 5-year WCA stock allocation is 1250 AF. The total WCA allocation is 8510 AF.

The geographic boundary for this WCA is shown on the attached map(s) and attached table defined by legal locations. This table includes total acres and legal definitions by section, township, and range of the WCA boundary.

Findings Regarding Groundwater Conditions
We understand that the WCA Law requires a finding that one of the following circumstances be present within the area geographic boundaries of this WCA; specified in K.S.A. 82a-1036 (a) through (d):

a) Groundwater levels in the area in question are declining or have declined excessively;
b) The rate of withdrawal of groundwater in the area equals or exceeds the rate of recharge within such area;
c) Preventable waste of water is occurring or may occur within the area in question;
d) Unreasonable deterioration of the quality of water is occurring or may occur within the area in question.

and amendments thereto, exist, or include a finding or findings that the area within the geographic boundaries described in paragraph (1) has been closed to new appropriations by rule, regulation or order of the Chief Engineer.

We have been informed that the following conditions exist:

a) Groundwater levels in the area in question are declining or have declined excessively;
b) The rate of withdrawal of groundwater in the area equals or exceeds the rate of recharge within such area; and
c) The area has been closed to new appropriations by rule, regulation or order of the Chief Engineer.

These conditions suggest the advisability of implementing this WCA.

See the attached maps and figures supporting these findings and observations. Such attached documents may include:

- Detailed table with description of WCA geographic boundaries and legal descriptions of water rights - Attachment A
- Maps with WCA geographic boundaries defined- Attachment B
- Estimated useable life maps (if available) - Attachment C
- Changes in water levels (if available) - Attachment D & E
- Summary of water use history - Attachment F
- KGS Observation well(s) data (if applicable) - Attachment G
- KDA-DWR Thesis analysis report(s) (if applicable) - Attachment H

Per the Corrective Controls Provisions and Plan for Conservation Section under this WCA management plan it has been determined that the proposed provisions listed will not significantly affect nearby points
of diversion. This has been determined by a Theis analysis conducted by the Kansas Department of Agriculture. The Theis report(s) for the water rights in question are included in the attached documents.

Due Consideration for Past Conservation
We acknowledge that as described in the law, a water conservation area (WCA) management plan shall give due consideration to water users who have previously implemented reductions in water use resulting from voluntary conservation measures. We, the water right owners, we request the Chief Engineers consideration of the following conservation measures be considered and enumerated under this plan. The measures include the following:

a) Installation of an evaporative condensing milk processing plant in April of 2012. The installation allows us to reclaim 45,000 gallons of water per day or approximately 50 AF per year. We also included waterless urinals in this facility to further reduce our water consumption.

b) Installation of Smart Cow Cooling Systems.
   a. These systems are regulated to increase or decrease sprinkling frequency based on ambient temperature. The system allows us to optimize cow comfort while reducing water use.
   b. The systems also included timer interrupters to shut of sprinkler systems when cows are away from the pen. We estimate water savings to be 50,000 to 100,000 gallons per year depending on climatic conditions.

c) On top of the Smart Cow Cooling systems, we have installed additional cooling measures to decrease water use within the dairy barns including:
   a. Temperature regulated fans allow for increased start time for water sprinklers by three degrees Fahrenheit;
   b. Installation of tunnel ventilation in the milk parlor allows for reduced sprinkler usage by reducing ambient temperature by as much as 15 degrees Fahrenheit compared to external temperature.

d) Modification of the water trough cleaning schedule from 3 days per week to 2 days has not impacted cow herd health, productivity, or audit scores while saving an estimated 435,000 gallons per year.

e) Installation of soil moisture probes on all McCarty Family owned property.

f) Increase in load sizes of milk trailers to reduce the frequency of on farm tank washes and washes of trailers used to haul milk.

g) Installed a tank to reclaim water from our calf milk pasteurizer to be reused as drinking water for our calves.

h) From 2008-2017, we have averaged the reapplication of 222 AF of effluent to irrigated and non-irrigated agricultural fields.

Although our water conservation measures have allowed us to increase our head count at the Dairy to current operating capacity of 4800 head, we believe the measures we have taken have allowed us to conserve considerable amounts of water when considering the dairy and farming operation as a whole. Additionally, we are committed to continually assessing our operation in terms of water use to find water conservation measures that make economic sense for our operation while benefiting the Ogallala Aquifer in Thomas County.
Corrective Control Provisions and Plan for Conservation

We acknowledge that the following corrective controls will be in effect within this WCA during the term of the WCA period listed:

1. Water rights, at the discretion of the owners, may be pumped as directed by the owner, provided that:
   a. All points of diversion are limited to their annual authorized quantity unless explicitly authorized under this plan.
   b. All points of diversions are limited to their current authorized pumping rates.
   c. The combined of water use under all water rights combined shall be limited to no more than 8510 acre-feet for the 5-year duration of this plan.

2. The corrective control provisions of this WCA cannot conflict with the rules and regulations of the local GMD that result in greater overall conservation of water resources. If a Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) plan or an Intensive Groundwater Use Control Area (IGUCA) is formed after the initiation of this WCA, and the WCA is partially or wholly within the LEMA or IGUCA, the corrective control provisions that result in the greater overall conservation of water resources based on inches per acre and not based on percent reduction of average historical use shall prevail. However, any LEMA or IGUCA must give due consideration to the conservation achieved by WCA participants pursuant to 82a-745(a)(6). The Chief Engineer is authorized to amend the provision of the WCA to conform to any rules, regulations, or requirements that result in greater conservation of the water resource subject to the foregoing due consideration for past and current conservation.

We, the water right owners enrolling in this WCA understand we may gain the following additional incentive(s) in consideration for our WCA participation.

3. Water Right # 19489-IRR (PDIV# 40566) maybe over-pumped by up to an additional 67 AF/YR for a total of 180 AF/YR.
4. Water Right #19489-STK (PDIV# 64553/79958) may be over-pumped by up to an additional 50 AF/YR for a total of 300 AF/YR.
5. Additional dry acres as identified in the grey highlighted portion of Attachment A – WCA Authorized Place of Use may be irrigated.
6. Up to the annual WCA allocation (1702 AF) may be carried over if unused during the duration of this WCA period. In order to for the carryover quantity to be included, all owners must enter into agreement to participate into a subsequent WCA by December 31st of the last year of this WCA period.

Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement

We, the owners, understand that the following compliance monitoring and enforcement provisions are proposed. This section also includes any specific provisions regarding measuring or reporting water usage.
There is one recognized observation well(s) within one (1) mile of this WCA boundary that has for many years been measured annually by the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS). See attached maps for locations. The well(s) will continue to be measured annually and the data collected will help in evaluating the effectiveness of the WCA. An onsite observation well may be necessary to monitor the local water level more accurately.

We will submit an annual report no later than March 1st and maintain a spreadsheet detailing the following information for each well and all wells combined: beginning and ending meter readings, quantity of water diverted, acres irrigated, the inches per acre, and the quantity of water remaining for the WCA period listed. These records will be available to KDA-DWR upon request.

We will ensure backup measurements will be supported or an alternate measurement device will be available to be put into service in case the water flowmeter record for any given well is questionable or not reliable.

We acknowledge that water flowmeters within the WCA may be sealed to the measurement chamber by KDA-DWR during the duration of this management plan to ensure an accurate water use record.

We, water right owners within this WCA shall be responsible for ensuring the water flowmeters comply with state and local law(s). Any water right owner or authorized designee who finds a flow meter that is inoperable or inaccurate shall within 48 hours contact the KDA-DWR concerning the matter. Whenever an inoperable or inaccurate meter is repaired or replaced, the owner or authorized designee shall notify the KDA-DWR within seven (7) days on a form prescribed by the Chief Engineer of the water flowmeter installation and any water flowmeter repair or replacement event.

We acknowledge that failure to abide by the terms of this agreement may result in the termination of the WCA. Failure to abide by the terms, conditions, and limitations of the individual water rights will be subject to the civil penalties outlined in K.A.R. 5-14-10 and K.A.R. 5-14-12.

Review of Effectiveness
We acknowledge that a review of this WCA shall be completed prior to November 1st of the final year of the WCA period listed to ensure the above terms remain appropriate and are achieving the stated goals of this WCA. Should the Chief Engineer find that the terms are no longer appropriate or that no progress has been made towards the stated goal, the Chief Engineer may refuse to renew a WCA and may suggest new terms and goals. We understand that upon review, and a finding by the Chief Engineer that the WCA has achieved or made progress towards its goals and that the same terms will be included in a subsequent WCA for another designated period. The terms of the WCA may be continued as long as this WCA is in good standing with its most recent WCA period and upon formal approval by the Chief Engineer. The Chief Engineer shall issue findings addressing the terms and goals of the existing management plan prior to any renewal of a subsequent WCA.

We acknowledge that unless terminated under the provisions below (e.g. due to the development of a LEMA), the WCA will be in effect for the listed period with an evaluation at the end of every WCA
period. We understand that KDA-DWR will conduct this evaluation to ensure compliance and conservation. The evaluation will determine total water use during the WCA period.

We acknowledge that should an order of designation for a LEMA be implemented prior to end of this WCA period, an evaluation of this WCA will be conducted the year prior to the start of a LEMA. This evaluation may be used to determine an additional allocation amount of water to be carried over into a LEMA; should this be the case.

Member addition, withdrawal, and removal
We acknowledge that the water right owners and their associated water right(s) and geographic boundaries may be added to the WCA upon written notification to the Chief Engineer by the owners of each enrolling water right with legal descriptions of the areas to be added. A member may withdraw from the WCA through written notification to the Chief Engineer signed by the owners of the participating water right or rights to be withdrawn from the WCA.

If the addition or withdrawal of water rights requires modification to the water allocation quantities, geographic boundaries, places of use, terms, or conditions of the original WCA, the management plan shall be revised to incorporate such changes and the associated consent agreement shall be reaffirmed by all parties, after opportunity for comment on the proposed revisions by the applicable GMD.

Termination
We acknowledge this WCA agreement may be terminated by written notification, signed by all then-existing members of the WCA, to the Chief Engineer of the intent to terminate.

We also acknowledge that the Chief Engineer may terminate this WCA upon findings that it is not being upheld to its terms. Such termination shall give notice and require a full evaluation of the WCA and water rights associated to ensure follow up actions.

State Law
We acknowledge that this WCA is subject to compliance with all other applicable state laws.

Notification to Nearby Owners
We acknowledge that, by statute, the Chief Engineer is required to provide written notification to all water right owners with a point of diversion within 1/2 of a mile, or farther if deemed necessary, by a rule and regulation of the Chief Engineer, of the geographic boundaries of this WCA.

Assurances
We acknowledge this WCA will not alter the terms, conditions, and limitations of the base water rights.

Review of Other Applicable Requirements
We acknowledge that upon review, this WCA management plan was found to effect equal or greater overall conservation than applicable GMD regulations, LEMA, and IGUCA requirements.
Participant’s Agreement
By signing below, we, the water right owners, agree that this management plan is fair and equitable. This management plan, provided to the Chief Engineer and water right owners, is the expressed written intent of the parties and the whole agreement between the parties. We, the water right owners agree to be bound by all the terms contained in this management plan and understand that the provisions of this agreement shall be construed to give effect to the provisions listed. We, the water right owners also agree that this management plan is the basis for a consent agreement among the Chief Engineer and the undersigned water right owners, and therefore any order and consent agreement issued by the Chief Engineer, designating this WCA, shall be binding upon all parties as the necessary formal implementation of this management plan.
FOR THE PARTICIPANTS: All participating water right owner(s) signing below, affirm their approval of this WCA management plan and if approved by the Chief Engineer allow consent to the Chief Engineer to formally approve the designation of this Water Conservation Area, described herein, by means of a Consent Agreement and Order.

Ken McCombs - McCarty Bros Partnership - Partner (Signature)  
Date: 6/19/18
Water Right No(s). 22087, 18838, 18839

Mike McCarty - McCarty Bros Partnership - Partner (Signature)  
Date: 6/19/18
Water Right No(s). 6178, 41788, 6572, 14882, 19489, 47297, 19546

David McCarty - McCarty Bros Partnership - Partner (Signature)  
Date: 6/19/18
Water Right No(s). 22087, 18838, 18839

Clay McCarty - McCarty Bros Partnership - Partner (Signature)  
Date: 6/19/18
Water Right No(s). 22087, 18838, 18839

455 N. Franklin, Colby, KS 67701
Full Mailing Address

Ownership@mccartyfamilyfarms.com (785) 460-0596
Email Address Phone Number

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NOTARY

State of Kansas )
) SS
County of THOMAS )
Acknowledged before me on JUNE 22, 2018
by Dennis R Tubbs
Signature: DENNIS R. TUBBS
Notary Public

My commission expires: ______________________
(Notary Seal)
FOR THE PARTICIPANTS: All participating water right owner(s) signing below, affirm their approval of this WCA management plan and if approved by the Chief Engineer allow consent to the Chief Engineer to formally approve the designation of this Water Conservation Area, described herein, by means of a Consent Agreement and Order.

Ken McCarty - McCarty Dairy LLC - Owner (Signature)  
Water Right No(s). 6178, 41788, 6572, 14882, 19489, 47297, 19546  
Date: 6/19/18

Mike McCarty - McCarty Dairy LLC - Owner (Signature)  
Water Right No(s). 6178, 41788, 6572, 14882, 19489, 47297, 19546  
Date: 6/19/18

David McCarty - McCarty Dairy LLC - Owner (Signature)  
Water Right No(s). 6178, 41788, 6572, 14882, 19489, 47297, 19546  
Date: 6/19/18

Clay McCarty - McCarty Dairy LLC - Owner (Signature)  
Water Right No(s). 6178, 41788, 6572, 14882, 19489, 47297, 19546  
Date: 6/19/18

455 N. Franklin, Colby, KS 67701  
Full Mailing Address

Ownership@mccartyfamilyfarms.com (785) 460-0596  
Email Address Phone Number

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NOTARY

State of Kansas  )
County of THOMAS  ) SS
Acknowledged before me on JUNE 22, 2018
by DENNIS R. TUBBS
Signature: [Signature]
Notary Public

My commission expires: 

(Notary Seal)
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this _____ day of ______________, ____ copies of the foregoing were sent via first class, U.S. mail, to the following:

McCarty Dairy LLC/McCarty Bros Partnership
455 N. Franklin
Colby, KS 67701

Groundwater Management District No. 4

DWR-KDA Water Commissioner, Stockton Field Office

______________________________
Kansas Department of Agriculture
Staff Person
### Attachment A

**Water Right #’s and Points of Diversion**

**WCA Place of Use**

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### WCA Authorized Place of Use - Irrigation

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Total Authorized Acres: **1417**
Attachment C

Estimated Usable Life to Support 400 GPM

[Map of Thomas County with a legend showing different colors and symbols for estimated years remaining and other data.
Attachment D
Changes in Water Level (ft) from 2003 to 2015

Thomas County

Legend
- Authorized Points of Diversion
- McCarty Price of Use
% Change in Saturated Thickness 2003-2015
chag_pct
- Greater than 50% Decline
-9.9% to -10%
-9.9% to -5%
-4.9% to -2%
-1.9% to 0%
0.1% to 5%
Greater than 5% Gain

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 Miles
Attachment E

Percent Change in Saturated Thickness from 2003 to 2015
Attachment G

KGS Observation Well Data

USGS ID: 392631100501201  KGS Local Well ID: 07S 32W 13DBD 01
County: Thomas  PLSS Description: 7S 32W 13 SENWSE
HUC 8 Code: 10260011  GMD: Northwest Kansas GMD #4
Longitude: -100.838228  Lat/Long Source: GPS (within 50 feet)
Latitude: 39.442954  Lat/Long Accuracy: 5 seconds
Surface Elevation (ft): 3028  Depth of Well (ft): 223
Geological Unit Codes: TO  USGS Map Name: GEM NE
Use of Site: Withdrawal of Water  Use of Water: Irrigation
WWC5 Links: None  WIMAS Link: 40566
Theis analysis of proposed McCarty WCA

A Theis analysis was performed to evaluate the effects of the proposed McCarty WCA flexibilities. Under the proposal Water Right File 19,489, which authorizes both irrigation and stockwater use, would be allowed to exceed its authorized quantity. The annual quantity would be limited to 180 acre-feet for irrigation and 300 acre-feet for stockwater. The impacts were evaluated at a nearby well authorized by Water Right File 32,765.

The drawdown under the proposed conditions was compared to a baseline condition. Average water use from 2006-2015, excluding 2009, was used for the baseline scenario. Transmissivity is estimated from nearby well logs (Figures 1 and 2, Tables 2 and 3). Saturated thickness is interpolated from 2015-2017 monitoring well measurements. Storage coefficients were assumed to be the saturated thickness multiplied by $10^5$. The irrigation well was assumed to pump at its authorized rate. The stockwater well was assumed to pump continuously at a constant rate. The net change in drawdown at nearby File 32,765 is an increase of 2.16 feet or 3.08% of the current saturated thickness (Table 1).

Table 1: Theis analysis of drawdown at File 32,765. $T = 50,000$ gpd/ft; $S = 0.0007$

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<th>WCA Well</th>
<th>Rate (gpm)</th>
<th>Volume Pumped (AF)</th>
<th>Distance (ft)</th>
<th>Drawdown (ft)</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Figure 1: WWC5 log 88266 near File 32,765
Table 2: Lithological log and transmissivity estimate for log 88266

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Depth (feet)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>$K_x$ (ft/day)</th>
<th>$T$ (ft$^2$/d)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 48</td>
<td>Clay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 - 78</td>
<td>Sand and gravel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78 - 89</td>
<td>Coarse sand and gravel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89 - 107</td>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>Above estimated water level</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107 - 117</td>
<td>Coarse sand and gravel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117 - 131</td>
<td>Clay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>131 - 137</td>
<td>Coarse sand and gravel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>137 - 138</td>
<td>Cemented sand and caliche</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>138 - 171</td>
<td>Cemented sand and caliche</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>171 - 180</td>
<td>Coarse sand and gravel with cement streak</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>1,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180 - 215</td>
<td>Coarse sand and gravel</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>5,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>215 - 240</td>
<td>Ochre and shale</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transmissivity (ft$^2$/day) 7,445

Transmissivity (gpd/ft) 55,689
Figure 2: WWCS log 470585 near stockwater well
### Table 3: Lithological log and transmissivity estimate for log 470585

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Depth (feet)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Kx (ft/day)</th>
<th>T (ft²/d)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 2</td>
<td>surface</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - 25</td>
<td>loess</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 - 60</td>
<td>clay with caliche streaks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 - 78</td>
<td>fine and med sand with clay and caliche streaks</td>
<td>Above estimated water level</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78 - 138</td>
<td>clay and caliche with sand streaks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>138 - 160</td>
<td>clay and caliche with sand streaks</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160 - 180</td>
<td>fine and med sand with clay and caliche streaks</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180 - 192</td>
<td>clay and caliche with sand streaks</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>192 - 233</td>
<td>fine and med sand and small gravel with clay lenses</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>5,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>233 - 240</td>
<td>yellow ochre</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Transmissivity (ft²/day)** 6,630

**Transmissivity (gpd/ft)** 49,592