

KDA-DWR Report

Official Review of a Water Conservation Area (WCA) Midwest Feeders WCA; Gray County, KS January 2018 through December 2020

Review of Total Water Use of Water Rights Enrolled:

During the term of this WCA, the main corrective control, a three-year total of 3,100.56 acre-feet (AF) or an average of 1,033.33 acre-feet per year, to be used total for irrigation use and stockwater use was not exceeded. Additionally, another control was that the stockwater portion was held less than 2,238.30 AF and irrigation portion was held less than 862.26 AF. The total water use reported annually under the enrolled water rights during the term of this WCA are as follows:

Actual Water Use during the WCA

Stockwater use:

2018: 515.351 AF

2019: 677.878 AF

2020: 670.14 AF

Irrigation Use:

*2018: 311.517 AF

2019: 188.389 AF

2020: 202.63 AF

*The WCA plan was not approved until October 2018.

Total unused quantity was approximately 537.7 AF (as of December 15, 2020).

Midwest Feeders did install their proposed reuse system as planned and noted in the WCA Management Plan. The reuse system was completed in calendar year 2019. The “recycle building” recycled a total of 1,562,977 gallons in 2019 and in 2020 recycled a total of 2,169,684 gallons. This is a grand total of 3,732,661 gallons or 11.455 AF. This is 11 AF of groundwater that was not pumped during these years due to water that was recycled and reused.

Review of Corrective Control Provisions:

The Midwest Feeders WCA had 10 wells within its geographical boundaries. The following corrective control provisions pertaining to the Midwest Feeders, Inc. Water Conservation Area were in effect during the term of the WCA Agreement:

- The total quantity of permissible groundwater withdrawal for stockwater use during the term of this WCA was limited to no more than 2,238.30 AF. This quantity is based on continuation of the conservation use previously established by Midwest Feeders, Inc. This corrective control was not exceeded.
- The total quantity of permissible groundwater withdrawal for irrigation use during the term of this WCA was limited to no more than 862.26 AF. This corrective control was not exceeded.
- The north battery of wells associated with File No. 10,999 (ID 8) were permitted to withdrawal up to 267 AF per year as a collective. This corrective control was not exceeded.

- Water rights authorized for stockwater use were considered as a group subject to an overall limitation of 746.10 acre-feet per year. This corrective control was not exceeded.
- Water rights authorized for irrigation use were considered as a group subject to an overall limitation of 287.42 acre-feet per year. This corrective control was not exceeded.

As of the end of the 2020 irrigation season, no adverse impacts to the aquifer or to any existing wells have been noted. Also, there has been no complaint reports received from nearby well/landowners. All corrective controls were met, and additional conservation took place.

Review of Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement:

During the period of this WCA, there were no compliance or enforcement issues relating to the water right and the corrective controls of the management plan.

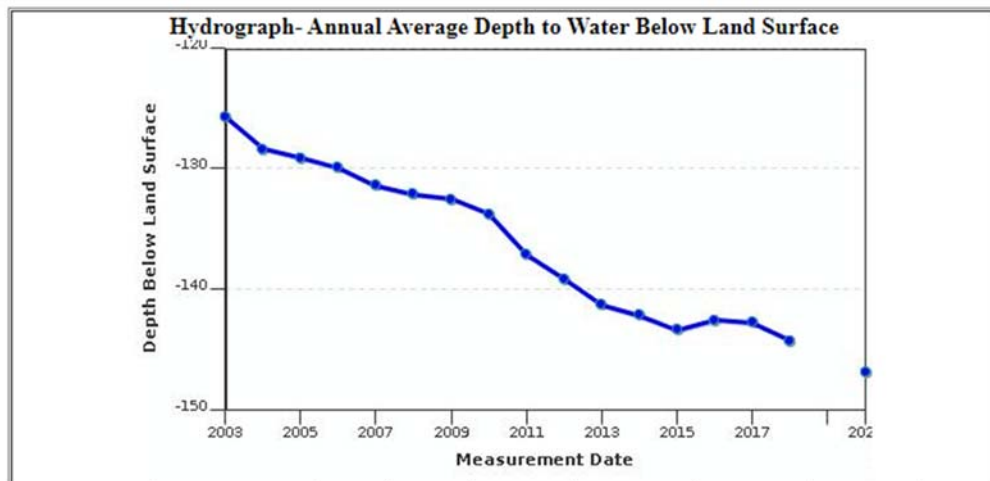
Review of Water Level Changes:

Location: Gray County

Nearby wells measured annually by KS Geology Survey (no increase in average trends of static water levels noted).

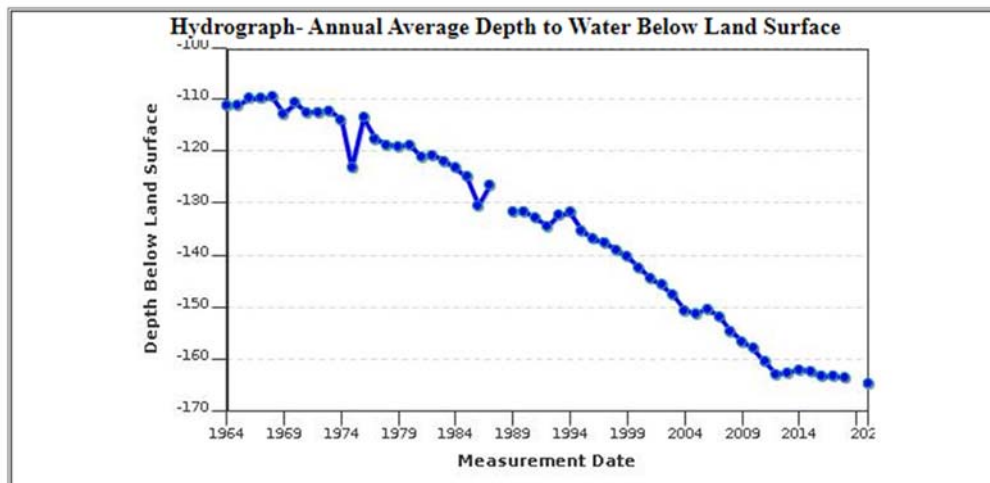
General Well Site Information

USGS ID:	375735100302002	KGS Local Well ID:	24S 29W 16DDB 01
County:	Gray	PLSS Description:	24S 29W 16 NWSESE
HUC 8 Code:	11030005	GMD:	Southwest Kansas GMD #3
Longitude:	-100.505089	Lat/Long Source:	GPS (within 50 feet)
Latitude:	37.961041	Lat/Long Accuracy:	5 seconds
Surface Elevation (ft):	2788	Depth of Well (ft):	245
Geological Unit Codes:	TO	USGS Map Name:	Pierceville NE



General Well Site Information [?](#)

USGS ID:	375736100331301	KGS Local Well ID:	24S 29W 18CCB 01
County:	Gray	PLSS Description:	24S 29W 18 NWSWSW
HUC 8 Code:	11030005	GMD:	Southwest Kansas GMD #3
Longitude:	-100.553128	Lat/Long Source:	GPS (within 50 feet)
Latitude:	37.960701	Lat/Long Accuracy:	5 seconds
Surface Elevation (ft):	2814	Depth of Well (ft):	220
Geological Unit Codes:	QU TO	USGS Map Name:	Pierceville NE



Review of Economic Impacts:

Manager of Midwest Feeders Jeff Sternberger stated, “The WCA has had a positive economic impact for Midwest Feeders. The flexibility that the WCA has provided for us by allowing us to better balance our wells by proximity to the storage facilities or in some cases closer to the cattle has helped both our energy costs and our management costs by allowing us to spend less time monitoring and adjusting well output.”

Review of Public Interest:

The Midwest Feeders WCA has had no appreciable negative impacts on the public interest. Conversely, it can be stated that the conservation of water along with extending the useable life of the Ogallala Aquifer in that regional area, on the ground under the Midwest Feeders WCA has positively impacted the public interest area.

Summary of Review by KDA-DWR:

It is determined that the Midwest Feeders WCA has met its goals throughout the designated term. They also met their goal of implementing recycle system. If their WCA is requested to be renewed, it should be noted that any additional water saved, they requested for consideration to be given credit of that additional conservation in the next WCA if submitted and approved.