

Source water protection is paramount for any system

It's a pleasure for me to introduce myself as the new USDA Ag Source Water Protection Specialist. This is a new program that is being funded through USDA and National Rural Water Association. The program will provide assistance to public water systems in implementing their wellhead and source water protection plans.

I am a 2003 graduate of Kansas State University. My home was near Scott City, KS. I earned a B.S. in Biological and Agricultural Engineering (BAE) and a secondary major in Natural Resources and

Matt Steele
Source Water Tech



Environmental Science. I am presently completing a M.S. in Biological Agricultural Engineering at Kansas State. The BAE environmental curriculum emphasizes soil and water

conservation in agricultural and natural systems.

While attending KSU, I worked as a Student Hazardous Waste Technician and Pollution Prevention Intern with the KSU Department of Environmental Health and Safety. My technician duties included pickup and bulking of hazardous waste, laboratory safety inspections and on-campus hazardous materials spill response. As the 2001 Pollution Prevention Intern, I researched and compiled a complete

inventory of waste streams for the KSU's Manhattan Campus. I am knowledgeable in CERCLA (Comprehension Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act), RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act), Clean Water Act, Pollution Prevention Act, Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Policy and OSHA Safe Laboratory Procedures.

I also served as the Environmental Concerns Coordinator for the KSU Student Government Association for the 2002 and 2003 school years. As the Environmental Concerns Coordinator, I worked to address the environmental concerns of the student body by assisting the

feedyard. Growing up and working in agriculture has given me a strong work ethic and a deep appreciation for the agricultural community. I do enjoy hunting, fishing and any activities that can keep me outdoors.

I look forward to working with public water systems. I have an appreciation of the challenges that the small and medium-sized systems particularly face. And yes, while we all deal with regulations and the daily routine of operating a water system, the challenge of safeguarding a public water supply from contamination is paramount for any system. I have the training, I have the

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Student Senate and university administration concerning these issues. Part of my responsibilities was to sit as the student representative on the University Environmental Health and Safety Committee. This committee writes and reviews environmental and safety policies and serves as the oversight committee for environmental and safety issues at KSU.

As I mentioned, I am a native of Scott City. I grew up on a family farm and beef cattle

desire and I have the genuine interest to provide assistance to help in that regard. Give KRWA a call if I can be of assistance. I look forward to meeting and working with people across the great state of Kansas.