

9/15/2003 Moran to Showcase Kansas Conservation Efforts

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Federal Conservation Chief to Join Moran on Northeast Kansas Tour

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that he will hold a conservation tour later this month to view natural resource and conservation efforts in northeast Kansas. This year's tour will feature stops in Nemaha, Marshall, Washington, Clay and Chase counties on Friday and Saturday, September 26 and 27. In addition, the head of the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Bruce Knight, will accompany Moran on the tour.

"The protection and conservation of our natural resources is something every Kansan should care about, and it is important that we support the work that is being done," Moran said. "This tour is a good opportunity for Chief Knight and me to see how private landowners, conservation groups, and government programs can partner together to protect Kansas' natural resources."

Since coming to Congress, Moran has held regular conservation tours to study conservation practices in various parts of the state. This year's tour will focus on a variety of conservation issues important to Kansas including water quality, wildlife habitat protection, grazing lands management, the Conservation Reserve Program and the preservation of wetlands.

On Friday, September 26, tour stops will include the NRCS and Kansas Rural Water offices in Nemaha County and at individual farms in Marshall, Washington and Clay Counties to discuss federal conservation programs, watershed and water quality issues, wildlife habitat protection and no-till farming. Also in Clay County will be a visit to the Steve Lloyd Wetlands area near Milford Lake and to Chase County to the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Headquarters to discuss tallgrass prairie biology and preservation.

The Saturday stops in Chase County include discussions on the noxious weed, sericea lespedeza with farmers from Chase and Lyon Counties and on the Grasslands Reserve Program and preservation issues with representatives from the Tallgrass Legacy Alliance and Kansas Livestock Association.

"This is a great chance for us to show how well these partnerships work in Kansas," Barth Crouch, Executive Director of Kansas Pheasants Forever, said. "It's difficult to pick where to stop with Chief Knight, as there are so many great places that exemplify where active local citizens have partnered with state and federal agencies to make major conservation improvements in our state."

The public is invited to attend.

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