

## **Resources for Planning your Pasture Burn**

Winter sure has been interesting and precipitation for many has not been a shortage. As I slop through the mud and have my 4-wheel drive locked in to take care of livestock chores, I remind myself that this moisture will be much appreciated this spring! Spring is just around the corner and pasture burning season will be starting soon.

There are many pieces of the spring burning planning puzzle to evaluate prior to burning. These include:

- Do I have an adequate water supply?
- Is my equipment in good working condition?
- Do I have enough personnel resources to help conduct the burn?
- Am I knowledgeable in basic grassfire behavior?
- What, when and why am I going to burn?
- What potential hazards due I need to plan for? (roads, highways, power lines, structures)
- Do I need to get permission to burn and who do I call?
- What are the weather conditions and what will they be for the duration of the burn and 24 hours following the burn?



Above are just a few of the items to take into consideration. Additional information can be found on our website at: [https://www.butler.k-state.edu/agriculture/ag\\_info.html](https://www.butler.k-state.edu/agriculture/ag_info.html).

Fires are required to be called in prior to burning and permission obtained. You can call the Butler County Dispatch center at (316) 320-1294. To request a controlled burn in the Andover area, call their non-emergency number at 316-733-5177.



Augusta's non-emergency number is 316-775-4500. When you call in, a permit number will be issued. Fire departments are then notified of the location of controlled burns in their area.

Winds play a critical role in grassland fire control and special planning and consideration should be taken. Winds can and do change directions and can also be variable or not out of just one direction. Think about and research these questions prior to burning: What direction is the wind out of, what are the forecast wind speeds, is a wind shift forecast and when?

There are several resources available to help you determine the winds and predict your burning conditions.

- <https://mesonet.k-state.edu> provides current and historical weather conditions.
- US National Weather Service, Wichita Office fire weather – [www.weather.gov/ict/fire](http://www.weather.gov/ict/fire) - they have a plethora of information here where you can get a wealth of information to help you plan your fire.

This spring season, don't go into your spring burning unplanned.

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