

By ROBERT PIERCE

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The challenges that face farmers today are great, and this Wednesday and Thursday, producers will get some help with those issues at the Grant County Civic Center.

After about a decade in Liberal, the Great Plains Crop Residue Management Alliance's 2010 Farmers, Agriculture, Conservation and Technology Conference will take place in Ulysses.

Seward County Extension agent Mike Hanson said the conference's relocation move was made in order to attract more producers from southeast Colorado and northwest Kansas.

"It is kind of a more centralized location for a lot of the crop consultants in the area," he said. "We came up with the idea of alternating between Liberal and Ulysses."

Hanson said that plan is not set in stone, however.

"I'd say a 99 percent chance," he said.

Hanson said the conference has received attendance from northwest Kansas and southeast Colorado, along with producers from the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles.

“We haven’t been getting the northwest Kansas people like we’d like to have,” he said. “It’s mostly Kansas people putting the conference on. We thought we’d try to move it there to see if we could get more Kansas attendance. We’ll just see if that works. We have Agri-Talk on Wednesday. It’s been advertised pretty well, and I think we’ll see a bump in attendance just for that.”

This year’s conference will cover a wide variety of topics, including: tillage practices, estate planning, weed control, diverse farm operations, agricultural regulation, farm program updates, expiring CRP contracts, financial planning and much more.

Keynote speakers will include Fred Cholick, dean and director of the Kansas State University College of Agriculture and K-State Research and Extension, as well as Josh Svaty, Kansas’ acting Secretary of Agriculture. These men will be talking about issues important to agriculture in the state of Kansas.

Breakout sessions will take place, and many experts will present data on research that is pertinent to the area and that are key to a successful operation in today’s volatile economic climate.

Registration at the door is \$35 per day or \$65 for both.

“That includes lunch both days,” Hanson said. “We offer continuing education units for the certified crop advisors. They can get numerous education units for very little money.”