

## **Professional Improvement Tours:**

### **Tour 1 - Pecan Experiment Field**

The KSU Pecan Experiment Field was established in 1962 as a result of an initial land gift to Kansas State University by Baxter Springs businessman and pecan enthusiast, Frank Brewster. As the third head of the Pecan Field, Dr. William (Bill) Reid began his position in 1981.

The Experiment Field jointly serves Kansas and Missouri pecan producers; producers from Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and the northern half of Oklahoma are also beneficiaries of the Field's research. The Pecan Field provides applied research on native pecan management, and field trials of northern pecan cultivars.

Other areas of research include entomological (pecan insect pest) and breeding (new cultivar) studies. In conjunction with the USDA the Pecan Experiment Field has released Konza and Lakota cultivars. In addition, the Pecan Field has also released two cultivars, Chetopa and Oswego. The Pecan Field, two miles east and three-quarters mile south of Chetopa, Kansas, is located on the Neosho River flood plain in the heart of Kansas' pecan nut production.

Bill will give you a historic guided tour of the Pecan Experiment and a hands-on lesson on grafting pecan trees. For further information please visit Dr. Reid's Blog, Northern Pecans: <http://northernpecans.blogspot.com/>

### **Tour 2 - Livestock Production**

SEK Genetics in Galesburg, Kansas is the hub for beef cattle reproductive services. SEK is home of one of the largest and most diverse semen inventories for beef cattle. Besides semen on leading bulls in many breeds, they offer embryo transfer services, artificial insemination training, AI supplies, AI equipment, and fast, accurate service. The tour will be conducted by SEK Genetics President Dr. Don Coover, DVM.

After visiting SEK Genetics, we will tour Keller Ranch in Hepler, Kansas to take a look into the world of stocker cattle production and grazing management. This is one ranch of many across the United States owned by Jim Keller, Oakley, Kansas. This section of the trip will also include visiting a few alternative water source systems with Herschel George, Southeast Kansas Watershed Specialist.

### **Tour 3 - Crop Production and Soils**

This tour will feature visits to the K-State Southeast Agriculture Research Center in Parsons and the Calvin and Brian Flaharty Farm near McCune. We will see the sites and hear from local producers, K-State specialists, researchers, and agents about a variety of issues that make crop production in southeast Kansas unique and challenging. Some topics that we will examine include: clay pan soils – why 45+ inches of annual rainfall might not be as good as it sounds; poultry litter application, nutrient management and water quality; crop calendar, crop mix and crop rotation – three crops in two years; double-crop soybeans; soft wheat production; and more.

### **Tour 4 - Coalmining History**

Come and explore the settling of Cherokee and Crawford Counties around the turn of the Century until the coal mining industry was stopped at Big Brutus in West Mineral, Kansas.

Jim Mengarelli's grandfather, Enrico (Henry), came here to dig coal and send money back to his family in Italy. We will tour the area where the deep mines were, see the modern strip mines, and visit where it all stopped when Big Brutus was left to rust away.

Now Big Brutus is a tourist attraction. In its day Brutus was used to strip away the soil, rock and shale to get to the seams of coal deep below; where men used to go and work on their hands and knees to mine coal.

We will visit a mock deep mine and a couple of mining museums on our way to Big Brutus.

Jim will share the history as a grandson of an immigrant who truly lived in the coal mines of southeast Kansas.