

Conservation buffer meeting to address base encroachment planned

An informational meeting to help landowners understand conservation easements and the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 16 at the Riley County High School Cafeteria.

The meeting will be hosted by K-State Research & Extension-Riley County and will feature experts from Fort Riley, the Kansas Land Trust, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

The Kansas Land Trust (KLT) has placed a special emphasis on preserving na-

tive grasslands and high quality cropland in the Flint Hills, and is currently accepting applications from landowners for conservation easement purchases. KLT recently announced a new partnership with Fort Riley to offer landowners conservation easement purchase opportunities for areas surrounding Fort Riley.

Post officials estimate that the Fort Riley area will increase its military population, including soldiers and family members, by 25,000 over the next few years. With the increase in

population comes an increase in construction, and Fort Riley officials would prefer that construction not be too close to their boundaries.

Fort Riley would like to establish buffer areas around its training lands to help limit community conflicts over military activities and training that may

cause noise and smoke complaints. The buffer area is also expected to help conserve habitat for various grassland dependent species, as well as achieve other conservation purposes.

Information at the February 16 meeting will be presented by RoxAnne Miller of the Kansas Land

Trust, Jeff Keating and Craig Phillips from Fort Riley, and Lynn Thurlow of the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

For more information about the meeting, contact Greg McClure or Jennifer Wilson at the Riley County Extension Office. Reservations to attend may be made by calling (785) 537-6350.