

By EARL WATT • Daily Leader Tracey Mann knows what it's like to make the move from the country to the city and to make a difference.



Mann grew up in the tiny town of Quinter and went on to Manhattan as a student at K-State where he became the student body president. Mann interned for then first-term Congressman Jerry Moran.

“That was a life changing summer,” Mann said of his time with Moran. “He instilled in me a love for Kansas that has never left.”

After his internship with Moran, Mann spent two years in Washington working for faith-based leadership programs.

Mann said that Washington needs a common sense approach .

“I believe a little common sense in Washington would go a long way,” he said. “When you shine a little bit of candlelight, you can illuminate a good bit of room.”

Mann has a background in business as a commercial real estate agent in Salina, but he believes that experience will serve the Big First District well in Washington.

“I have been putting deals together my entire career,” he said. “I will not compromise my values or principles, but I can work with those that see the world differently. I’m also not afraid to be loud for Kansas, and I will do that.”

Mann is currently on a 22-county tour introducing his “Mann Plan.” It includes the expected language of repealing ObamaCare and reducing government spending, reducing regulations and cutting red tape on agriculture.

But Mann said his plan comes with plans for action rather than just identifying the problems.

And he wants to make sure that Kansans tell their own story and are not defined by others.

“I want to bring a group from Washington out here to visit the feedlots, to really get to know agriculture,” he said. “Most of them don’t have a clue. Urbanization means there are fewer votes in Congress by people who understand the rural and agricultural way of life. We have to tell our story.”