

PROGRAM INFORMATION

EQIP, AWEP, CSP, WHIP, WRP, & MANY MORE:
 APPLICATIONS FOR 2012 FUNDS CAN BE TAKEN ANYTIME AT YOUR LOCAL NRCS OFFICE. APPLICATIONS MUST BE APPROVED PRIOR TO STARTING ANY INSTALLATION WORK. – EQIP: **ADDITIONAL DOLLARS TO FUND MORE PIVOTS OR SDI SYSTEMS HAVE ARRIVED. WE ARE CURRENTLY APPROVING MORE APPLICANTS.**

NSWCP: THE NRD HAS THEIR NEW MONEY. **FIRST APPROVALS FOR IRRIGATION RELATED APPLICATIONS WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2011. APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF AUGUST IN ORDER TO BE REVIEWED FOR APPROVAL AT THE SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING.** IRRIGATION RELATED APPLICATIONS INCLUDE UNDERGROUND PIPE TO PIVOTS OR SURGE VALVES, SURGE VALVES, AND NOZZLE CONVERSIONS FROM HIGH PRESSURE TO LOW PRESSURE. THE EXCEPTION TO THIS IS FLOW METERS AND SOIL MOISTURE SENSORS WHICH ARE APPROVED MONTHLY. APPLICATIONS FOR COST-SHARE CAN BE TAKEN AT YOUR LOCAL NRCS OFFICE. APPLICATIONS MUST BE APPROVED PRIOR TO STARTING ANY INSTALLATION WORK. THE NEXT TIME IRRIGATION APPLICATIONS WILL BE APPROVED FOR FUNDING WILL BE AT THE DECEMBER BOARD MEETING.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JULY 12: TBNRD BOARD MEETING 1:30 PM
- JULY 16-21: KEARNEY COUNTY FAIR
- JULY 24-28: PHELPS COUNTY FAIR
- JULY 28-30: GOSPER COUNTY FAIR
- AUG. 1: CNPPID BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 9 AM

Another Tool to Schedule Irrigations!!!

What is happening with soil moisture levels in the 3 and 4 foot depths during the irrigation season? Knowing this answer can serve as a tool in scheduling your irrigations.

Corn roots will reach 3 feet at silking and soybeans at beginning pod. During the irrigation season we want to schedule irrigations using the top 3 foot depths. Once the roots have reached 3 feet, we can monitor that 3rd foot zone to see how irrigation is going. We want the 3rd foot to slowly dry over the course of the season. This means we are using moisture at that level. If the 3rd foot moisture levels are staying status quo, then we are replacing moisture that is being used and not utilizing free available moisture. If the 3rd foot zone is getting wetter, then we are obviously adding more water to the soil than the crop is able to use. This also means we might not be getting roots down to the 4th foot in order to utilize free available moisture in that zone. With this in mind, we need to manage our irrigations in the top 2 feet in order to lower moisture levels in the 3 and 4 foot zones. In doing so, we are using free available moisture and providing room for off-season moisture.

In closing, knowing what is going on at the 3 and 4 foot depths can aide you in your irrigation scheduling. To know this, soil moisture sensors are a very helpful tool. See charts on page 2 for additional information.

If you have any questions or need assistance getting started, call Curtis Scheele at 308-995-6121, Ext. 3.

ACROSS THE TRI-BASIN NRD

EQIP Dryland, No-till, & Grass Field Checks!!!

We will be starting the annual field checks for dryland, no-till, and grass contract obligations for EQIP contract holders. These checks will take place over the next month or so. This past spring, EQIP contract holders received a reminder letter with a map indicating which areas needed to be dryland, no-tilled, or have grass maintained. Failure to comply with your EQIP contract could result in termination, repayment of funds, and/or penalties. Staff will be completing these field checks on EQIP contracts not yet expired from 2007 through 2011.

If you have any questions, contact your local NRCS office at the address or phone numbers listed on page 2.

Stage of Growth:

Corn (V6-6 leaf to V14-14 leaf stage): Corn at the 12-leaf stage should be drawing moisture from 2 feet. The 15-leaf stage is the beginning of the most crucial period of plant development in terms of seed yield. This crucial period continues until blister stage.

Average daily water use from June 27-July 3 was 0.11"-0.28".

Soybeans (V3-3rd Node to R1-Beginning Bloom stage):

Soybeans at Beginning Bloom should be drawing moisture from 2 feet. Vertical root growth increases sharply at R1. Secondary roots and root hairs proliferate after R1 in the top 9 inches.

Average daily water use from June 27-July 3 was 0.15"-0.23".

Irrigation:

Producers have been busy laying gated pipe. Gravity irrigation started last week. Pivots started running last week as well. Those who held off caught rains last week and haven't needed to start. A part of these rains included hail which has really taken a toll north of Bertrand.

From Wednesday, June 29th at 5:00 PM til Thursday, the 30th at 5:00 PM, I checked the Reference ET from an atmometer outside of Holdrege. It used 0.40 inches. Multiply that by your crop stage coefficient (see page 2) to get your ET or crop water use for that 24 hour period. 10-leaf corn used 0.276 inches of moisture during that 24 hour stretch. Temps were 100+.

For those who get this via email, attached to the email is a video of the Morning Glory at work. It's the largest outlet structure at Lake McConaughy and has never been used till this year. This was taken on June 21st by CNPPID. 7000 cfs was flowing through the gates. Clarity is better if kept smaller.

June 27-July 3 (14 of 14 NAWMN sites reporting): average weekly rainfall = 0.59" (range 0.28" to 1.32") and average weekly ET for corn = 1.46" and for soybeans = 1.50".

Lake McConaughy is at 99.3% capacity versus 88.8% a year ago. Inflows to Lake McConaughy are 7313 cfs versus 5134 cfs a year ago. Flows on the South Platte River @ North Platte are 881 cfs versus 1086 cfs a year ago.

Rainfall:

Rainfall amounts come from NeRAIN which can be found at website <http://dnrdata.dnr.ne.gov/NeRAIN/index.asp?&>.

<u>Location:</u>	<u>June 23 – July 6</u>	<u>May 1 – July 6</u>
Arapahoe 6.9 mi. NW:	1.55	10.22
Loomis 0.2 mi. SW:	1.44	13.37
Funk 6.7 mi. NNW:	2.17	12.27
Minden 0.855 mi. W:	2.08	10.03
Minden 8.8 mi. ESE:	1.35	9.11

NAWMN CROP ET INFORMATION

Additional Atmometer sites and Weather Station Data can be found at websites listed under "ET Information Sites" below.

7 Days = June 20-June 26 7 days = June 27-July 3

- Atmometer Station: Arapahoe 7 Northwest (#1)
Evaporation: Week #1 = 1.40 inches Week #2 = 2.20 inches
- Atmometer Station: Elwood 1 North (#2)
Evaporation: Week #1 = 1.70 inches Week #2 = 2.00 inches
- Atmometer Station: Bertrand 4 Southwest (#4)
Evaporation: Week #1 = 0.80 inches Week #2 = 1.20 inches
- Atmometer Station: Bertrand 6 Northeast (#5)
Evaporation: Week #1 = 1.30 inches Week #2 = 1.50 inches
- Atmometer Station: Holdrege 5 Southeast (#8)
Evaporation: Week #1 = 1.20 inches Week #2 = 2.20 inches
- Atmometer Station: Funk 7 Northeast (#10)
Evaporation: Week #1 = 1.20 inches Week #2 = 1.80 inches
- Atmometer Station: Minden 5 North (#12)
Evaporation: Week #1 = 0.90 inches Week #2 = 2.00 inches
- Atmometer Station: Minden 11 Southeast (#13)
Evaporation: Week #1 = 1.40 inches Week #2 = 2.10 inches

Inches of Crop Water Use (ET) = Evaporation x Kc

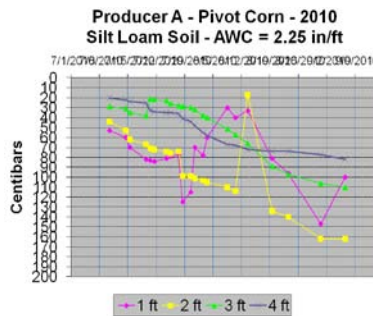
Corn		Soybeans	
Stage	Kc	Stage	Kc
2 leaf	0.10	Cotyledon (VC)	0.10
4 leaf	0.18	1st Node (V1)	0.20
6 leaf	0.35	2nd Node (V2)	0.40
8 leaf	0.51	3rd Node (V3)	0.60
10 leaf	0.69	Beg. Bloom (R1)	0.90
12 leaf	0.88	Full Bloom (R2)	1.00
14 leaf	1.01	Beg. Pod (R3)	1.10
16 leaf	1.10	Full Pod (R4)	1.10
Silk - Beg. Dent	1.10	Beg. Seed (R5)	1.10
¼ Milk Line	1.04	Full Seed (R6)	1.10
Full Dent (½ Milk)	0.98	Yellow Leaf (R6.5)	1.00
¾ Milk Line	0.79	Beg. Mat. (R7)	0.90
Black Layer	0.60	Full Mat. (R8)	0.20
Full Maturity	0.10	Mature	0.10

ET Information Sites

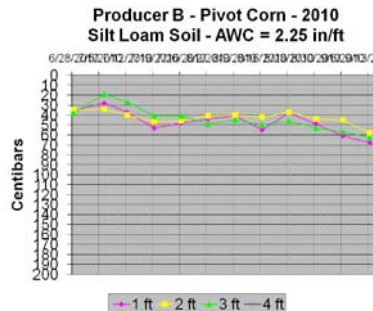
- NAWMN Sites:
 - www.cnppid.com/ET_Map_location_page2011.htm
 - elkhorn.unl.edu/ETGage/
- Water Use Hotline: dial 1-800-993-2507
- CropWatch: cropwatch.unl.edu
- Central Irrigation District: www.cnppid.com

Websites of Interest

- NRCS Nebraska www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov
- Central Irrigation District www.cnppid.com
- TBNRD Home Page tribasinprd.org
- Farm Service Agency www.fsa.usda.gov
- UNL Cropwatch cropwatch.unl.edu
- UNL Extension www.extension.unl.edu/home
- UNL Water extension-water.unl.edu
- K-State SDI Website www.ksre.ksu.edu/sdi
- No-till On The Plains www.notill.org
- No-till Notes www.npnrd.org/notill.htm



Producer A managed irrigations to better utilize free available moisture in the 3rd and 4th feet without compromising yield. Notice how the 3 and 4 foot lines slowly get drier (dropping) during July and August. At Black Layer, average moisture level thru 4 feet was 57%. The 3rd foot ended at 57% moisture.



Producer B did not utilize as much free available moisture in the 3rd and 4th feet. The 3rd foot did drop some during July and August. It ended at 73% moisture. Because of no sensors in the 4th foot, in looking at the data, one can say that not as much moisture was utilized from the 4th foot as was utilized by Producer A.

It's amazing how much can be accomplished if no one cares who gets the credit.

- Blanton Collier

*** If you wish to receive this newsletter via e-mail, or have any questions, comments or ideas, feel free to contact Curtis Scheele at the NRCS office in Holdrege or you can email him at curtis.scheele@ne.usda.gov. ***

USDA-NRCS
1609 Burlington Street
PO Box 798
Holdrege, NE 68949-0798
308-995-6121, Ext. 3

USDA-NRCS
309 Smith Street
PO Box 41
Elwood, NE 68937-0041
308-785-3307, Ext. 3

USDA-NRCS
1005 South Brown Street
Minden, NE 68959-2601
308-832-1895, Ext. 3

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