

Tri-Basin Irrigator

Volume 11, Issue 11

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PROGRAM INFORMATION

EQIP, AWEP, CSP, WHIP, WRP, & MANY MORE:

APPLICATIONS FOR 2012 FUNDS CAN BE TAKEN ANYTIME AT YOUR LOCAL NRCS OFFICE. NO CUTOFF DATE FOR 2012 FUNDS HAS BEEN SET YET. HOWEVER, GET YOUR APPLICATION IN BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE. APPLICATIONS MUST BE APPROVED PRIOR TO STARTING ANY INSTALLATION WORK.

EQIP/AWEP: FUNDS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR NEW PIVOTS, UNDERGROUND PIPE TO SUPPLY A PIVOT, SUBSURFACE DRIP SYSTEMS, FLOW METERS, PAYMENTS FOR CONVERTING IRRIGATED LAND TO DRYLAND, PAYMENTS FOR NO-TILL, ETC.

WHIP PITFILL: SIGN-UP ANY TIME TO HAVE A PIT FILLED IN. FUNDS ARE SUBJECT TO SPECIFIC AREAS SO STOP BY YOUR LOCAL NRCS TO SEE IF ELIGIBLE.

REMINDERS:

- **EQIP/CNPPID AWEP CONTRACT HOLDERS - TURN IN YOUR IRRIGATION RECORDS FOR 2011.**
- **CSP CONTRACT HOLDERS - TURN IN THE REST OF YOUR ENHANCEMENT RECORDS BY DECEMBER 31, 2011.**

NSWCP: APPLICATIONS FOR COST-SHARE CAN BE TAKEN AT YOUR LOCAL NRCS OFFICE. IRRIGATION PRACTICES AVAILABLE FOR COST-SHARE INCLUDE UNDERGROUND IRRIGATION PIPE TO SUPPLY A PIVOT OR SURGE VALVE, NOZZLE CONVERSIONS FROM HIGH PRESSURE NOZZLES TO LOW PRESSURE NOZZLES, FLOW METERS, AND SOIL MOISTURE SENSORS. **IRRIGATION APPLICATIONS NEED TO BE COMPLETED BY NOVEMBER 30TH IN ORDER TO BE REVIEWED FOR APPROVAL AT THE DECEMBER BOARD MEETING.** IRRIGATION APPLICATIONS NOT APPROVED IN DECEMBER WILL BE REVIEWED AGAIN FOR APPROVAL AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING ALONG WITH ANY NEW APPLICATIONS AT THE TIME. APPLICATIONS MUST BE APPROVED PRIOR TO STARTING ANY INSTALLATION WORK. APPLICATIONS MUST BE SIGNED BY THE OWNER.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT: APPLICATIONS FOR 2012 CAN BE TAKEN AT ANY TIME FOR PIVOTS, SUBSURFACE DRIP SYSTEMS, WELL UPGRADES, PIVOT BRIDGES, ETC. CONTACT KELLEY MESSENGER WITH RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN KEARNEY AT 308-237-3118, EXT. 4.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- OCT 3:** CNPPID BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - 9 AM
- OCT 10:** COLUMBUS DAY - GOV'T OFFICES CLOSED
- OCT 18:** TBNRD BOARD MEETING - 7:30 PM (NOTE DATE CHANGE - 3RD TUESDAY INSTEAD OF USUAL 2ND TUESDAY)

ACROSS THE TRI-BASIN NRD

FINAL Tri-Basin Irrigator for 2011!!!

The seventh year of the Tri-Basin Irrigator has come to a close. I hope that you received helpful information during this past irrigation season. The year again started with a full soil moisture profile or at least darn close to it. There were good timely rains during the season. Some areas had some bad luck with hail and wind. The summer was hot and humid. The humidity kept the crop water use down. There has been a lot of talk about the hot and humid nights that could affect corn yields.

It was another good year for monitoring soil moisture levels and irrigating accordingly especially early and late in the season. Early rains helped delay that first irrigation. During the peak use rains stopped and irrigation was needed. Late, the rains quit allowing utilization of subsoil moisture to end the year.

Again, I hope you enjoyed another year of the Tri-Basin Irrigator. If you wish to provide feedback, comments, or suggestions for next year, contact Curtis Scheele at 308-995-6121, Ext. 3 or at email address curtis.scheele@ne.usda.gov.

Stage of Growth:

Corn (R5.9-Just short of Black Layer to R6-Full Maturity stage): Corn at Full Maturity is when all husks and leaves are no longer green. Black Layer which occurs prior to this is when 0.0 inches of water is needed for yield. The plant still takes up water since it is still living at Black Layer.

Average daily water use from Sept 19-Sept 25 was 0.01"-0.14".

Soybeans (R8-Full Maturity to Mature stage): The Mature stage is the harvestable stage. Because the plant is still alive, minimal moisture is still taken up but none needed for yield.

Average daily water use from Sept 19-Sept 25 was 0.02"-0.04".

Irrigation:

Soybeans are being harvested. There are some with a few leaves on yet. There is some wet corn being picked.

This has been a wonderful year in allowing the crops to utilize soil moisture and make room for off season moisture since we haven't had much rain for the last month or so. What if we do get those rains late? How can one manage for that? One needs to start utilizing that subsoil moisture earlier and irrigate later if the rains do not come. If the rains do come, then you saved that irrigation. Just as pivots allow one to irrigate earlier in the year, they also allow one to irrigate later in the year.

September 19-September 25 (12 of 12 NAWMN sites reporting): average weekly rainfall = 0.00" (range 0.00" to 0.00"); average weekly ET for corn = 0.67" - for beans = 0.17".

Lake McConaughy is at 89.0% capacity versus 90.6% a year ago. Inflows to Lake McConaughy are NA cfs versus 1423 cfs a year ago. Flows on the South Platte River @ North Platte are NA cfs versus 195 cfs a year ago.

Rainfall:

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

Location:	Sept 15 - Sept 28	May 1 - Sept 28
Arapahoe 9.8 mi. NNE:	0.30	16.74
Bertrand 6.1 mi. SE:	0.27	23.43
Funk 6.7 mi. NNW:	0.43	17.91
Minden 0.855 mi. W:	0.40	14.90
Minden 8.8 mi. ESE:	0.37	16.88

NAWMN CROP ET INFORMATION

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

7 Days = Sept 12-Sept 18 7 days = Sept 19-Sept 25

- Atmometer Station: Arapahoe 7 Northwest (#1)
Evaporation: Week #1 = **0.60 inches** Week #2 = **1.35 inches**
- Atmometer Station: Elwood 1 North (#2)
Evaporation: Week #1 = **0.90 inches** Week #2 = **1.20 inches**
- Atmometer Station: Bertrand 4 Southwest (#4)
Evaporation: Week #1 = **0.50 inches** Week #2 = **0.90 inches**
- Atmometer Station: Bertrand 6 Northeast (#5)
Evaporation: Week #1 = **0.50 inches** Week #2 = **0.90 inches**
- Atmometer Station: Holdrege 5 Southeast (#8)
Evaporation: Week #1 = **0.50 inches** Week #2 = **1.20 inches**
- Atmometer Station: Funk 7 Northeast (#10)
Evaporation: Week #1 = **0.50 inches** Week #2 = **1.10 inches**
- Atmometer Station: Minden 5 North (#12)
Evaporation: Week #1 = **0.50 inches** Week #2 = **NA inches**
- Atmometer Station: Minden 11 Southeast (#13)
Evaporation: Week #1 = **0.53 inches** Week #2 = **1.10 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



Happy or not, another crop and Tri-Basin Irrigator season has come to an end.

Wishing you a safe harvest and many blessings during the off-season!!!

We tend to forget that happiness doesn't come as a result of getting something we don't have, but rather of recognizing and appreciating what we do have.

- Frederick Koenig

*** 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. ***

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