



2012

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln

EXTENSION

Know how. Know **now.**

AGRICULTURE WATER MANAGEMENT

Meeting the Challenge

- Nebraska *ranks first* nationally in the number of irrigated acres. While Nebraska sits on one of the largest aquifers in the world, about 35% of Nebraska's irrigated acres have a limit of how much irrigation water can be pumped.
- Irrigators need to understand the latest irrigation management principles and know how to use current technology for making better irrigation scheduling decisions.
- In 2012, Nebraska irrigators have experienced one of the worst droughts in US history.



Extension's Impact

In 2012, over 2,840 producers/consultants (representing 27.9 million acres of cropland) attended an educational program.

Previous follow up surveys have indicated that attendees have:

- Reduced water application by 2.1 inches per growing season. This reduced water application would save producers about \$20 per acre in reduced pumping costs.

As a result of this past year's drought, an educational emphasis has included: Sprinkler Packages and Uniformity, Soil Moisture Monitoring and Deficit Irrigation. Additional Extension drought related programs are planned for this next year.

A new Crop Water App provides an easy way to estimate soil water status based on Watermark sensors installed at depths of 1, 2 and 3 feet. Download at: [HTTP://WATER.UNL.EDU/NAWMN](http://water.unl.edu/NAWMN)

The Irrigation Management Home Study Course is available on-line at: [HTTP://MARKETPLACE.UNL.EDU/EXTENSION/PROGRAMS](http://marketplace.unl.edu/extension/programs)

Public Value

In areas of Nebraska where irrigators are under allocations, reduced pumping will:

- Result in more water available for future years which will lead to continued productivity, stronger local economies and growing real estate values.

In areas of Nebraska where irrigators are not currently limited, reduced pumping will:

- Reduce deep percolation of rain water and nitrates.
- Preserve our aquifer for future generations.
- Contribute to the sustainable use of groundwater.

For More Information

Contact your local UNL Extension office, <http://www.extension.unl.edu>, Chuck Burr, Extension Educator cburr1@unl.edu; Bill Kranz, Extension Irrigation Specialist, wkranz1@unl.edu; Gary Zoubek, Extension Educator, gary.zoubek@unl.edu; or Suat Irmak, Professor and Extension Soil and Water Resources Engineer,



Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.