



2011

# AGRICULTURE WATER MANAGEMENT

## Meeting the Challenge

- Nebraska *ranks first* nationally in the number of irrigated acres. While Nebraska sits on the largest underground aquifer in the world, about 35% of Nebraska’s irrigated acres have a limit of how much irrigation water can be applied.
- Irrigators need to understand the latest irrigation management principles and know how to use current technology for making irrigation scheduling decisions.
- UNL Extension has delivered educational programs ranging from one-on-one in-field instruction to two-day long workshops.



## Extension’s Impact

### Comments from Program Participants:

*“Gave me the confidence to delay the first irrigation and apply less water on each irrigation without hurting yield.”*

*“... improved water quality and less water loss.”*

**This past year over 1,450 producers/consultants (representing 12.3 million acres of cropland) attended an educational program.**

**Over 300 participants responded when surveyed about the impact of attending:**

- Over 870,000 acres impacted.
- 88% of the participants indicated that the information influenced how much water they applied.
- Average reduced water application was 2.1 inches.
- Total reduced pumping of 149,000 acre-feet – 18% of Harlan County Reservoir.
- Saved \$9.80 per acre reduced pumping costs.
- \$8.5 million saved from reduced pumping.

## 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> or Bill Kranz, Extension Irrigation Specialist, <wkranz1@unl.edu>, for this extension initiative.



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.