

Tri-Basin Irrigator

Volume 15, Issue 10

September 24, 2015

PROGRAM INFORMATION

EQIP: SIGN-UP FOR NEW CENTER PIVOTS, SDI SYSTEMS, SOIL MOISTURE SENSORS, ETC. INSTALLATION CANNOT BE STARTED UNTIL A CONTRACT IS OBLIGATED. EARLIEST OBLIGATIONS COULD BE THE FIRST OF MARCH 2016 MEANING A PIVOT COULD BE INSTALLED PRIOR TO 2016 CROP IF A NRCS DESIGN IS DONE AS WELL. IF NOT, THEN A FALL 2016 INSTALLATION. AN APPLICATION AFTER THIS DEADLINE PUSHES EVERYTHING BACK A YEAR.

EQIP

CUTOFF DEADLINE TO BE SIGNED UP FOR 2016 FUNDS
OCTOBER 16, 2015.
STOP BY YOUR LOCAL NRCS OFFICE.

CSP: CONTRACT PARTICIPANTS NEED TO SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS WITH THEIR LOCAL NRCS OFFICE TO REVIEW CONTRACTS, TURN IN 2015 ENHANCEMENT JOB SHEETS, AND SIGN A FORM INDICATING IF YOU WISH TO BE PAID IN 2015 OR 2016.

CSP

SIGN-UP FOR 2016 FUNDS CAN BE TAKEN ANYTIME.
NO CUTOFF DEADLINE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED YET.
STOP BY YOUR LOCAL NRCS OFFICE.

NSWCP: SIGN UP FOR FLOW METERS, SOIL MOISTURE SENSORS, SURGE VALVES, UNDERGROUND PIPE, ETC. APPLICATIONS MUST BE APPROVED PRIOR TO STARTING ANY INSTALLATION WORK. THE EXCEPTION IS FLOW METERS AND SOIL MOISTURE SENSORS WHICH ARE APPROVED MONTHLY.

NSWCP

IRRIGATION APPLICATIONS NEED TO BE SIGNED BY OWNER AND INTO THE NRCS OFFICE PRIOR TO THANKSGIVING IN ORDER TO BE REVIEWED FOR APPROVAL AT THE DECEMBER TBNRD BOARD MEETING.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT:

ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT

SIGNUP FOR 2016 FUNDS CAN BE TAKEN ANYTIME AT YOUR LOCAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE. NO CUTOFF DEADLINE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED AT THIS TIME.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT RURAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE KEARNEY USDA SERVICE CENTER OR AT 308-237-3118, EXT. 4.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCT 5: CNPPID BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 9 AM

OCT 12: COLUMBUS DAY – GOV'T OFFICES CLOSED

OCT 13: TBNRD BOARD MEETING 7:30 PM

JAN 26-27 (CONFERENCE) & JAN 28 (AIM SYMPOSIUM): NO-TILL ON THE PLAINS WINTER CONFERENCE IN SALINA, KS: EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DUE SEPT. 30TH. FOR MORE INFO, GO TO [HTTP://WWW.NOTILL.ORG/](http://www.notill.org/).

CURTIS'S COLUMN



FINAL Tri-Basin Irrigator for 2015!!!

Another Tri-Basin Irrigator season has come to a close. I hope that you received helpful information during this past irrigation season. 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.

For 2016, if you would like to receive this newsletter via email, call me or send me an email. See contact information above.

*** CRITICAL Information for Entities Applying for Government Programs ***

If you have an entity applying for financial assistance from EQIP, CSP, etc., that entity needs to get a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and be registered with the System Award Management (SAM). This is for entities with a tax ID number other than an individual social security number. Applications without a DUNS and SAM will not be eligible for funding.

Gathering a DUNS number and registering for SAM could take a week, a month, or more depending upon the situation. If you already have an application or are applying for 2016 funds, I highly suggest you get this done this fall prior to the end of the calendar year. Waiting for the last minute could cause you to not be eligible for 2016 funds.

The 2016 EQIP rankings must be completed by January 29, 2016. Your entity MUST have an assigned DUNS number and be registered in SAM in time to be ranked by this January 29th deadline. There has not been a deadline set for 2016 CSP at this time, however, I still highly suggest that these entity applicants get their DUNS and SAM done this fall.

An entity must be assigned a DUNS number prior to registering your entity with SAM.

For DUNS, goto <http://www.dnb.com/get-a-duns-number.html>.



For SAM, goto <https://www.sam.gov/index.html/#1#1>.



Or stop by your local NRCS office for information.

NOTE: You do not need to pay for DUNS or SAM. If typing the above addresses, hit enter and you will go directly to the site. Searching can provide you with sites that want paid.

See attached/enclosed sheets to help you get a DUNS number and to get registered with SAM.

NOTE: The Energy Efficiency Grant requires ALL applicants to have a DUNS & SAM.



2016 Water Leasing Pilot Program

New to Central operations for 2016 is a temporary, one-year lease program on a maximum of 2,000 acres that will be converted to dryland for a year. Sign-up for the 2016 Water Leasing Pilot Program begins on November 15, 2015 and ends December 15, 2015. Program notices will be sent out to customers in early October. General terms of the program follow but please call (308) 995-8601 or stop into the Holdrege Irrigation office if you have more specific questions.

- The lease period for these acres expires at the end of the 2016 irrigation season
- If sign-up exceeds the maximum 2000-acre ceiling, a randomized drawing will take place after December 15th to determine a final list of enrolled acres; the successful applicants will be notified
- Accounts in the termination process are not eligible
- Acres leased will be dryland in 2016; they cannot be irrigated by either surface water or groundwater; field inspections will be made for dryland status
- All previous water service charges must be paid
- Acres enrolled must have been irrigated with surface water for the past 5 years. Surface water acres coming out of Federal conservation programs within the last 5 years will be considered irrigated. Acres receiving 2016 dryland payments under a Federal Conservation Program are not eligible
- Participants will receive a payment of \$220 per acre leased and will still be responsible for the annual water service charges on the leased acres
- Partial accounts are eligible; i.e., a pivot corner can be signed in and contract acres reduced accordingly.

Please call (308) 995-3572 to schedule a time slot for sign-up.



Irrigation Water Management Forms are Available Now!

We have Irrigation Water Management (Water Use) Forms printed and ready to be filled out! You can stop in our office to pick them up or call us at 1-877-995-6688 to have them mailed to you. As you are finishing up irrigation, remember to note the ending readings on your meters to fill in on your reports.

Drain Your Chemigation Check Valve:

When you are preparing your irrigation systems for colder weather, remember to drain your main line check valve to prevent freezing. This will extend the life of the check valve and may help prevent check valve failure.

Consider Planting Conservation Trees:

It's not too early to think about planting conservation trees next spring! Windbreaks and shelterbelts provide many benefits, including reducing soil erosion along field boundaries. We can provide tree planting services for your windbreak, as well as bundles of trees that you can plant yourself. You can contact us or your local NRCS office to determine the type and number of trees and shrubs you will need. The form for ordering hand plant trees will be available later this fall on our website, www.tribasinrrd.org.



Climate Outlook:

The recent weather has been abnormally warm and dry for mid-September. We have experienced above normal temperatures for three weeks and that has sped up the maturity of crops. This has allowed harvest to rapidly commence, which is a much different scenario than was predicted a month ago. Rainfall has been small, which may hinder or benefit some. We are quite dry and need rainfall, but it may be a few weeks too late in order to provide a benefit to this year's crops.

The warm conditions we are currently experiencing are expected to continue for the next week or so. The ridge of high pressure that is bringing us the warm temperatures will stay in place over the central and southern plains and will keep the cool temperatures far to our north. Eventually, this ridge will erode and allow the cool air to invade Nebraska; however, we don't know when this is coming.

Table: Precipitation and Temperature from 9/9 – 9/22.

Station	8/25-9/7 Precip		8/25-9/7 Temp				
	Total (in)	% of normal	Avg. Max Temp	Avg. Min Temp	Avg. Temp (°F)	Depart. (°F)	Range (Hi:Lo) (°F)
Holdrege	0.44	48%	84.0	53.4	68.7	+5.4	100 : 45
Holdrege 4N	0.59	63%	83.0	55.0	69.0	+5.8	99 : 48
Minden	0.55	61%	83.4	54.9	69.2	+5.6	99 : 45
Smithfield	0.60	66%	83.7	53.2	68.4	+5.3	97 : 44

We are about two weeks away from the average frost date, but it looks like the chance for an earlier-than-average frost is small. The main question is: when will that first frost be here? The models are showing the freezing temperatures to reach into South Dakota next week, with the potential for freezing temperatures to reach into northern Nebraska. I have little faith in the models this far out, but they are suggesting that the ridge will give way to cool, near freezing air. A pool of cold air is expected to continue to build in southern Canada, but when this air moves south is unknown. It is difficult to tell how cold it will get next week, but I do think a cool down is on the way; however, the models do suggest that the cool down may be short-lived.

The El Niño continues to be present in the Pacific Ocean. It is still on track to peak later this winter and decline next spring. The projections for this winter are warmer than normal temperatures, but the area of focus is on precipitation. My concern is if the above normal moisture typically seen in the southern part of the U.S. during an El Niño event will make its way into the Central Plains. This would give way to some heavy, wet snowstorms this winter.

New Phelps-Gosper Extension Educator

This week, Phelps and Gosper Counties welcomed a new Extension Educator in Cropping Systems. Todd Whitney came from Hamilton County, Nebraska, where he worked in a similar position. Todd comes with a wealth of experience in cropping systems and is a great resource for your crop and irrigation needs and questions. Todd can be found at twhitney3@unl.edu or by calling the Phelps or Gosper County Extension Offices.

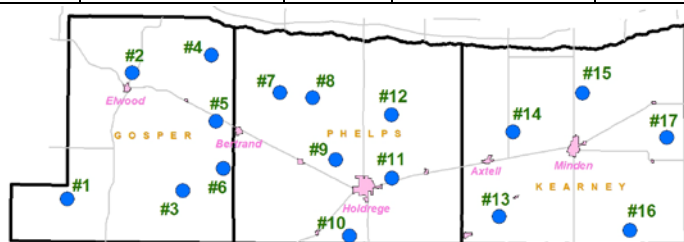
-Tyler Williams, Extension Educator

NAWMN CROP ET INFORMATION

Additional Information and other ET resources can be found at websites listed under "ET Information Sites" below.

$$\text{Inches of Crop Water Use (ET)} = \text{Evaporation} \times K_c$$

Site	Sept 7 – Sept 13		Sept 14 – Sept 20	
	Evaporation	Rain	Evaporation	Rain
1	1.30	0.05	1.80	0.18
2	0.90	0.08	1.40	0.43
3	1.10	0.00	1.60	0.10
4	0.80	0.28	1.50	0.03
5	0.90	0.00	1.50	0.00
6	0.70	0.00	NA	NA
7	1.00	0.30	NA	NA
8	1.00	0.30	1.50	0.20
9	1.00	0.55	NA	NA
10	1.00	0.02	NA	NA
11	1.00	0.20	NA	NA
12	NA	NA	NA	NA
13	1.20	0.31	NA	NA
14	1.00	0.20	1.60	0.48
15	1.20	0.07	NA	NA
16	1.00	0.37	1.50	0.00
17	1.00	0.25	1.50	0.50



2015 Map of NAWMN Sites Across the Tri-Basin NRD.

Corn Stage		DESCRIPTION
R5.8	3/4 Milk Line	The starch line is 3/4 way down the kernel.
R-6	Black Layer	The starch line has advanced to the cob. Physiological Maturity. Black layer formed, kernel moisture is between 25%-35% moisture. 0.0 inches needed for yield.
R-6	Full Maturity	Husks and leaves are no longer green.
Soybean Stage		DESCRIPTION
R6.5	Full seed - yellow leaf	Leaves begin to yellow, beginning in the lower canopy and progressing upwards.
R7	Beginning Maturity	At least one (normal) pod that has attained its final mature color (tan or brown, depending on variety) is present on any main stem node. 0.0 inches needed for yield.
R8	Full Maturity	95% of the pods have reached their mature pod color.

Crop Coefficients (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

CROP STAGE INFORMATION

Corn (R5.5-Full Dent ½ Milk Line to Harvest stage): At R5.5, ½ Milk Line, you need 2.25 inches to maturity.

Avg. daily water use from Sept 14 – Sept 20 was 0.02"-0.25".

Soybeans (R6.5-Full Seed/yellow leaf to Harvest stage): At R6.5, Full Seed/yellow leaf, you need 1.9 inches to maturity.

Avg. daily water use from Sept 14 – Sept 20 was 0.02"-0.25".

Sept. 14-Sept. 20 (9 of 17 NAWMN sites reporting): Average weekly rainfall was 0.21 (range 0.00 to 0.50). Average weekly ET for corn was 1.00 and for soybeans was 0.15.

ET INFORMATION SITES

NAWMN Sites:

- * <http://www.cnppid.com/news-info/weatheret-data/nebraska-agricultural-water-management-network/>
- * <https://nawmn.unl.edu/>

CropWatch: <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/gdd-etdata>

CNPPID: <http://www.cnppid.com/news-info/weatheret-data/>

Water Use Hotline: 1-800-993-2507

LAKE AND RIVER LEVELS

CNPPID Reservoir Elevation and Platte River Flow data listed below and other locations can be found on CNPPID's website at <http://www.cnppid.com/news-info/reservoirriver-data/>.

	Sept. 24, 2015, 8:00 AM	1 Year Ago
Capacity of Lake McConaughy	86.4%	60.8%
Inflows to Lake McConaughy	1,963 cfs	2,460 cfs
Flows on the North Platte River at North Platte	1,014 cfs	400 cfs
Flows on the South Platte River at North Platte	N/A cfs	354 cfs

If you can't feed one hundred people, then just feed one.

- Mother Teresa

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

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

RAINFALL

Rainfall amounts listed below and other locations come from NeRAIN which can be found at website <http://nerain.dnr.ne.gov/NeRAIN/docs/report.asp>.

Location:	Sept 9 – Sept 23	May 1 – Sept 23
Arapahoe 6.9 NW:	1.20	14.89
Bertrand 6.1 mi. SE:	0.94	18.67
Funk 4.1 mi. NNE:	N/A	NA
Minden 0.855 mi. W:	0.51	13.34
Minden 8.8 mi. ESE:	0.71	14.05

Average Rain for May-Sept. in Holdrege = 16.38 Inches

*** **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 - Natural Resources Conservation Service



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

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

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

Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District



415 Lincoln Street
 PO Box 740
 Holdrege, NE 68949
 308-995-8601

Tri-Basin Natural Resources District



1723 Burlington Street
 Holdrege, NE 68949
 308-955-6688

Nebraska Extension



1308 2nd Street
 Holdrege, NE 68949
 308-995-4222

PO Box 146
 Elwood, NE 68937
 308-785-2390

424 North Colorado
 PO Box 31
 Minden, NE 68959
 308-832-0645

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