

Tri-Basin Irrigator

Volume 06, Issue 1

June 1, 2006

PROGRAM INFO

EQIP-GSWC (2006): THE FUNDS RECEIVED SO FAR HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED. SHOULD ADDITIONAL FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE, WE WILL CONTINUE TO MOVE DOWN THE APPLICATION LIST.

NSWCP: APPLICATIONS CAN NOW BE TAKEN AT YOUR LOCAL NRCS OFFICE FOR NEW COST-SHARE MONEY. FIRST APPROVALS FOR IRRIGATION PRACTICES WILL BE SEPTEMBER 12, 2006.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 30 – CNPPID HEADGATES OPENED

JUNE 5 – CNPPID BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 9 AM

JUNE 13 – TBNRD BOARD MEETING 7:30 PM*

JUNE 20 – CNPPID 5-WEEK SCHEDULE STARTS

JULY 4 – CNPPID 4-WEEK SCHEDULE STARTS

JULY 4 – INDEPENDENCE DAY (GOV'T OFFICES CLOSED)

* Times are tentative

2006 Irrigation Records Reminder!!!

I would like to remind everyone of Irrigation Water Management (IWM) recordkeeping for crop year 2006. This applies to everyone who has received EQIP and NSWCP cost-share assistance for installing irrigation practices over the last three years. These records are to be kept on the NE-ENG-80 form on the field where the irrigation practices were installed. Records to be kept are Soil Moisture Deficit, ET, Application Amounts, Flow Meter Readings, and Rainfall. Crop Consultant forms or any other forms are acceptable provided the same information is recorded.

For NSWCP cost-share, the NE-ENG-80 forms were previously sent in a packet to producers with their cost-share approval letters.

For EQIP cost-share, the NE-ENG-80 forms have just been mailed. An Irrigation Scheduling Calendar that I created was also mailed as an option for keeping IWM records on.

Irrigation Water Management can help you manage your irrigation application during the summer. The way this summer is starting, hot, dry, and high fuel prices, IWM may play a large factor by years end.

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

ACROSS THE TRI-BASIN NRD

Tri-Basin Irrigator Underway in 2006:

Hello everyone! My name is Curtis Scheele, Water Management Specialist covering Gosper, Phelps, and Kearney counties. I am with the NRCS located in the Holdrege office (see address and phone on backside).

For the second year, I will be providing you this short newsletter with irrigation information across the Tri-Basin NRD. Hopefully, it will help you with your own irrigation management. It will be sent bi-weekly during the irrigation season. I know pivots have already run 2-3 times this year and I'm just now getting the newsletter out. It's supposed to rain in May, isn't it? This newsletter and archived copies will also be available on Central Irrigations website, www.cnppid.com, and Tri-Basin NRD's website, www.tribasinncrd.org.

Feel free to contact your local NRCS office or myself with comments and feedback. Are there other items you would like to see in the newsletter? Do you know somebody else who would like to receive the newsletter? The addresses and phone numbers of your local NRCS offices will be listed on the backside of each issue. Also, if you wish to receive this newsletter via e-mail, contact your local NRCS office or myself.

Stage of Growth:

Corn (4-leaf to 6-leaf stage): At 4 & 5-leaf, all leaves and ear shoots are being formed. At about 5-leaf, a microscopically small tassel is formed in the stem apex tip. At 6-leaf, the growing point and tassel are above the soil surface and the stalk is beginning a period of elongation.

Soybeans (Cotyledon to V1 stage): From emergence to about the V1 stage, loss of one cotyledon has little affect on growth, but loss of both will reduce yields by 8-9%. After V1, photosynthesis is adequate for the plant to sustain itself.

Irrigation:

Summer has arrived early and pivot irrigation has started. Lake McConaughy is at 40.4% capacity versus 36.9% a year ago. Flows on the North Platte River @ Lewellen are at 299 cfs versus 374 cfs a year ago. The South Platte at Roscoe is flowing at 25 cfs versus 70 cfs one year ago.

Rainfall:

At the TBNRD office in Holdrege, precipitation for May 2006 = 1.15" (Normal = 3.98"). Precipitation for year 2006 = 5.15" (Normal = 8.96") The following rainfall amounts (inches) come from NeRAIN which can be found on Tri-Basin NRD's website www.tribasinncrd.org. Rainfall totals - **May 1 thru May 31:**

Arapahoe 9.8 mi. NNE	1.27
Bertrand 9.2 mi. SSW	1.17
Funk 12.5 mi. N	0.88
Wilcox 0.3 mi. SW	1.92
Heartwell 3.7 mi. S	1.83

EVAPOTRANSPIRATION (ET) INFO - MAY 18 THRU MAY 31

The following information is provided for **Corn (emergence dates listed):**

Weather Station: Holdrege 4 North (Corn emergence date: May 10th)

Total Water Use (ET) during the last 2 weeks **0.96 inches**
Average Daily Water Use (ET) during the last 2 weeks **0.07 inches**

Weather Station: Minden (Corn emergence date: May 10th)

Total Water Use (ET) during the last 2 weeks **0.93 inches**
Average Daily Water Use (ET) during the last 2 weeks **0.07 inches**

Weather Station: Smithfield (Corn emergence during: May 10th)

Total Water Use (ET) during the last 2 weeks **1.03 inches**
Average Daily Water Use (ET) during the last 2 weeks **0.07 inches**

The following information is provided for **Soybean emergence dates listed:**

Weather Station: Holdrege 4 North (Soybean emergence date: May 20th)

Total Water Use (ET) during the last 2 weeks **0.60 inches**
Average Daily Water Use (ET) during the last 2 weeks **0.05 inches**

Weather Station: Minden (Soybean emergence date: May 20th)

Total Water Use (ET) during the last 2 weeks **0.60 inches**
Average Daily Water Use (ET) during the last 2 weeks **0.05 inches**

Weather Station: Smithfield (Soybean emergence date: May 20th)

Total Water Use (ET) during the last 2 weeks **0.60 inches**
Average Daily Water Use (ET) during the last 2 weeks **0.05 inches**

ET Information Sites:

KRVN radio broadcasts, <http://krvn.com/>, Water Use Hotline – dial 1-800-993-2507
Central Irrigation District Home page: www.cnppid.com/ (Under News & Info, click on Weather/ET Data)

Check out these web sites:

NRCS Nebraska	www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov/	Tri-Basin NRD Home Page	www.tribasinrd.com
Central Irrigation District	www.cnppid.com/	High Plains Regional Climate Center	www.hprcc.unl.edu
UNL Cropwatch	cropwatch.unl.edu/	UNL – Water	extension-water.unl.edu/
Farmers Almanac	www.farmersalmanac.com		

It's easy to make a buck, It's tougher to make a difference.

- Tom Brokaw

*** If you would like 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 your local NRCS office at the addresses or phone numbers listed below. ***

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