

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

**EQIP:** CONTRACTS ARE BEING OBLIGATED FOR 2026 FUNDS. MORE CONTRACTS WILL BE OBLIGATED AS FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE. **SIGN-UP NOW FOR 2027 FUNDS TO ENSURE NOT MISSING THE CUTOFF DATE.**

**CSP:** CONTRACTS ARE BEING PREPPED FOR RANKING FOR 2026 FUNDS. THE RANKING DEADLINE GOT MOVED FROM JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> TO JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup>. PRE-APPROVALS AND OBLIGATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THE 26TH. **SIGN-UP NOW FOR 2027 FUNDS TO ENSURE NOT MISSING THE CUTOFF DATE.**

**NSWCP:** NEW NSWCP FUNDS COME JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>. NSWCP FUNDS ARE APPROVED MONTHLY FOR FLOW METER ONLY AND SOIL MOISTURE SENSOR APPLICATIONS. ALL OTHER IRRIGATION APPLICATIONS FOR UNDERGROUND PIPE, SURGE VALVES, ETC. ARE REVIEWED FOR FUNDING 4 TIMES A YEAR, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER, FEBRUARY, AND MAY (FOR SLIPPAGE). APPLICATIONS MUST BE SIGNED BY THE OWNER. INSTALLATION WORK CANNOT BE STARTED UNTIL APPROVED. - AS A SIDE NOTE, ALL NON-IRRIGATION APPLICATIONS ARE APPROVED MONTHLY.

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT:** As of now, USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT IS NOT ACCEPTING NEW APPLICATIONS DUE TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 14315. NO NEW GRANT AWARDS WILL BE MADE UNTIL USDA FINALIZES AND ISSUES NEW REAP REGULATIONS. THERE IS NO TIMELINE SET FOR WHEN THE NEW REGULATIONS WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JOLENE JONES AT RURAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE KEARNEY USDA SERVICE CENTER AT 308-455-9840 OR AT [JOLENE.JONES@USDA.GOV](mailto:JOLENE.JONES@USDA.GOV).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JULY 6:** CNPPID BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
- JUNE 14:** FLAG DAY
- JUNE 21:** FATHER'S DAY
- JUNE 19:** JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY – GOV'T OFFICES CLOSED
- JUNE 25:** TBNRD BOARD MEETING – RESCHEDULED FROM THE NORMAL 3<sup>RD</sup> WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH.
- JULY 3:** INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVED – GOV'T OFFICES CLOSED
- JULY 4:** INDEPENDENCE DAY

**Receive FREE Crop ET Data via a daily texting service.**

Daily (D) and Future 3 Days (F3d) estimated water use will be given for Corn and Soybeans (Beans) at three locations across the district: Holdrege 5N (Hld), Axtell 5NE (Axt) and Smithfield 2E (Smfld).

There are 3 ways you can subscribe:

1. Text START to 855-743-2457
2. Call the Tri-Basin NRD (308-995-6688) with your cell #.
3. Scan the QR code on the attached flyer to enter your name and cell #. You can also click the QR Code.

## CURTIS'S COLUMN

### Soil Moisture Sensor Thoughts and Tips

As we head towards irrigation season, I want to share some thoughts and tips for you about soil moisture sensors.

- When investing in sensors, consider convenience of installation and use, cost, remote capability, availability, consulting support, maintenance, repair, leasing, purchase, calibration factors, and the number and depth of sensors.
- Consulting support. Will the dealer provide guidance in how to read and understand the technology? Hold the dealer to it. Ask questions. Dig in and learn. If no support, find a new dealer. Don't waste your money on a tombstone in the middle of your field.
- Leasing versus purchase. If you purchase, who repairs if lightning affects the technology. If you lease, ensure the agreement includes maintenance, repair, etc.
- Sensors provide us with trends, moisture levels, root depths, daily water use, etc. They are a very good tool for irrigation water management.
- You will have to develop a trust with sensors. Be patient. Invest in them with an open mind and a willingness to dig in and learn. If you say they don't work, why don't they work? Could it be that they actually don't, or do they not match your irrigation habits? Maybe you are irrigating too much.
- It is correct, they are only one spot in the field. One spot is better than nothing. You can probe and feel the soil near the sensor, read the sensor to see what it says, then go probe other areas to compare. The bulk of the irrigated soil in the Tri-Basin NRD is Holdrege Silt Loam. If you have differences, install them in the best representative spot. Or you can invest in three sensors if they wish.
- Sensors will be conservative. Dealers don't want to ruin your crop or they will ruin their business. They will make sure you don't under irrigate. Push the limits. Learn.

**An attachment to this newsletter show a couple of sensor charts from a pivot in 2022. The attachment is to help you understand some things about sensor charts.**

### Soil Moisture Conditions – Update From Last Issue

In the last issue (May 28<sup>th</sup>), I talked about soil moisture levels northwest of Holdrege. Here is the dry corner update as of June 9<sup>th</sup>. Since the last issue, there was 1.92 inches of rain. The corn used 0.66 inches of moisture for a net gain of 1.26 inches. Corn is currently at the 5 leaf stage. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> feet increased to 100% plus. The 4<sup>th</sup> foot increased from 60% moisture to 73%. Average increased 4% from 89% to 93%.

**As of 11 AM on Tuesday, June 9, 2026**

**May 28 - June 8 Rain = 1.92 inches**

**Pivot irrigation to date = ???**

**Pivot - No-till Corn planted into Soybean Holdrege Silt Loam soil (2.25 inches per foot)**

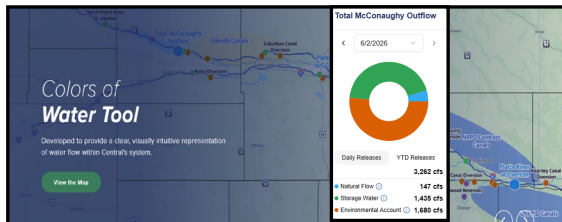
Soil Depth	Dry Corner	Avg 2 Pivots
1 foot	100%	100%
2 foot	100%	100%
3 foot	100%	100%
4 foot	73%	100%
4 ft. avg.	93%	100%

## Environmental Account Releases

The Environmental Account (sometimes simply called EA water) is a specific allocation of storage water that is held in Lake McConaughy and is dedicated for environmental and wildlife purposes. It is managed and released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to help meet the critical habitat needs for the threatened and endangered species in the Central Platte River.

This year the USFWS goal is to maintain a flow of 1,500 cubic feet per second at the Platte River gage near Grand Island, through June 30<sup>th</sup>. The USFWS works and cooperates with the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP) to achieve this goal. Releases from Lake McConaughy began on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The intended purpose of the release is to enhance the wide, open, unvegetated and braided channel of the Central Platte River by inundating sandbars to prevent or suppress vegetation from becoming established, which helps create the critical habitat needed for the threatened and endangered species.

To see a visual map of current water flow out of Lake McConaughy check out the Colors of Water Tool on Central's website - <https://cnppid-cow.vercel.app>.



Visit [www.cnppid.com](http://www.cnppid.com) or follow @CNPPID on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for updates throughout the year.

# TRI-BASIN NRD NEWS



## Chemigation Reminder

Do you plan to apply fertilizer or ag chemicals to your fields through your center pivot or drip irrigation system? If so, you must have a chemigation permit from Tri-Basin NRD for each injection point. Call TBNRD, 308-995-6688, for more information about the permitting process.

**If you already have chemigation permits, it is a good idea to check over your safety equipment at least once a year to make sure all the equipment is in working order.**

In the TBNRD chemigation safety equipment inspections are required every three years. At the inspection, the well and irrigation system need to start and run at normal pressure for at least one minute. Then the following will be checked:



- water discharges from low pressure drain & stops as system's pressure increases,
- 20 ft of hose attached to low-pressure drain to carry contaminated water away from well, and
- chemical injection line check valve is free of leaks.

During shutdown of the system:

- injection pump shuts off when system shuts off,
- air is drawn into pipeline through vacuum relief valve,
- irrigation pipeline check valve is watertight, and
- water discharges from low pressure drain & then stops (if pipeline check valve is not leaking).

## When Bad Weather Strikes

Well, what can I say, so far this year's weather has not been kind. Just a month ago we had drought worries, and while those worries still exist, we have now had, as of this writing, two bad storms hit the local area. While the severe hail damage seems to have been south of us, some within the Tri-Basin NRD area have had some bad wind damage. Remember, that first call should be to your insurance company, but also remember you may not be able to replant for the year do to prevent plant dates. If this happens, planting cover crops can be an excellent idea. The USDA has some guidance on cover crops and how those fields can be used in this situation. Cover crops are good for soil health and if you have cattle, those fields can be used to graze once the cover has been established. Visit the link below to read the USDA guidance.



## Diseases and Weather

As a Pathologist, severe weather and disease are closely related. Hail damage can lead to bacterial diseases of corn such as Goss's wilt, bacterial stalk rot, bacterial leaf streak, and at later stages, can lead to the fungal disease of common smut. The unfortunate thing about bacterial disease is it cannot be treated with common fungicides and has to be thought about when looking for hybrid traits that give resistance to these diseases. Crop Watch has many articles on disease and severe weather that can help you identify if the diseases are in the field and best management practices.



## Town Hall

I am thinking about holding an Extension Water and Crops town hall to hear from you in person. I want to hear your concerns and what you would like to see me doing in the area from programming to field visits. Nothing will be off the table. Below is a QR code to a survey. It just asks if this is something you would be interested in and when would be the best time to hold the meeting. Even if you are not interested please fill it out so I know what your interests are.



## NAWMN CROP ET INFORMATION

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

**Inches of Crop Water Use (ET) =**  
**Reference ET x Kc**

Crop Coefficients (Kc)			
Corn		Soybeans	
Stage	Kc	Stage	Kc
2 leaf	0.10	Cotyledon	0.10
4 leaf	0.18	1st Node	0.20
6 leaf	0.35	2nd Node	0.40
8 leaf	0.51	3rd Node	0.60
10 leaf	0.69	Beg. Bloom	0.90
12 leaf	0.88	Full Bloom	1.00
14 leaf	1.01	Beg. Pod	1.10
16 leaf	1.10	Full Pod	1.10
Silk – Beg. Dent	1.10	Beg. Seed	1.10
¼ Milk Line	1.04	Full Seed	1.10
Full Dent (½ Milk)	0.98	Yellow Leaf	1.00
¾ Milk Line	0.79	Beg. Mat.	0.90
Black Layer	0.60	Full Mat.	0.20
Full Maturity	0.10	Mature	0.10

Site	May 25 – May 31		June 1 – June 7	
	Reference ET	Rain	Reference ET	Rain
<b>1</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>0.97</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>0.32</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>1.43</b>	<b>1.60</b>	<b>0.20</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>0.40</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>0.49</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>1.40</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>1.13</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>0.12</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>0.66</b>	<b>1.10</b>	<b>0.67</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>2.68</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>3.70</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>1.04</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>1.00</b>

### CROP STAGE INFORMATION

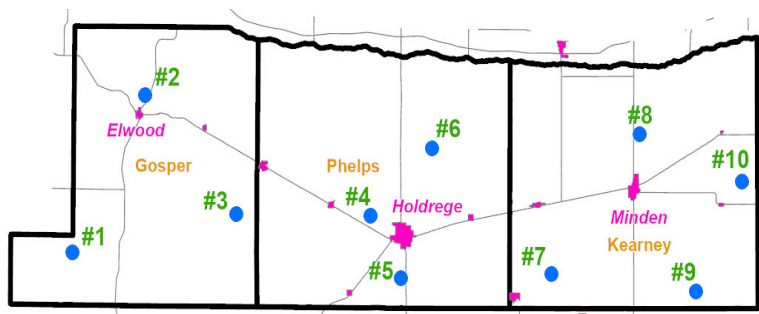
**Corn (V2-2 Leaf to V12-12-Leaf stage):** At V6, the determination of kernel rows per ear begins which is strongly influenced by hybrids, the growing point and tassel are above ground, and the stalk is beginning to elongate. Nutrients and water are in greater demand starting at 10-leaf.

Avg. daily water use from June 1 – June 7 was 0.02"-0.0.23".

**Soybeans (VC-Cotyledon to V4-4<sup>th</sup> Node stage):** Nitrogen-fixation begins at V2-V3. By V5, the lateral roots will completely reach across 30 inch rows.

Avg. daily water use from June 1 – June 7 was 0.02"-0.0.17".

June 1-June 7 (10 of 10 TBAWMN sites reporting): Average weekly rainfall was 1.09 (range 0.12 to 3.70). Average weekly ET for corn was 0.53 and for soybeans was 0.33.



2026 Map of TBAWMN Sites across the Tri-Basin NRD

### CROP ET INFORMATION

**TBAWMN Sites:** <https://www.tribasinrrd.org/tbawmn>

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

**Texting:** Sasha Hahn at TBNRD: 308-995-6688

CORN STAGE		DESCRIPTION
V4	4 Leaves	Leaf stage is defined by number of leaves with visible collars. The collar is a discolored line where the leaf meets the stalk. This line circles the stalk. <b>TIP: Mark the 6th leaf or a higher leaf by cutting a notch in it or some other way so as to know that leaf number. Reason is the lower leaves will be lost as the plant develops. Flag or somehow mark the plant in the field as a reference plant when determining later leaf (vegetative) stages.</b>
V8	8 Leaves	
V12	12 Leaves	
SOYBEAN STAGE		DESCRIPTION
VC	Cotyledon	Shortly after emergence. Cotyledons and unifoliate leaves are unfolded. (1 node)
V2	Second Node	V2 has 2 nodes on main stem, each with a trifoliate leaf with unfolded leaflets. Plant has 3 nodes total: 1 unifoliate + 2 trifoliate
V4	Fourth Node	V4 has 4 nodes on main stem, each with a trifoliate leaf with unfolded leaflets. Plant has 5 nodes total: 1 unifoliate + 4 trifoliate

## LAKE AND RIVER LEVELS

CNPPID Reservoir Elevation and Capacity as well as Platte River Flow data listed below and other locations can be found on CNPPID's website at <http://cnppid.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/lakeRiverData.html>.

	June 11, 2026, 8:00 AM	1 Year Ago
<b>El. &amp; Cap. – Lake McConaughy</b>	3222.0 ft - 41.4%	3234.4 ft - NA%
<b>Inflows to Lake McConaughy</b>	160 cfs	685 cfs
<b>Flows on the North Platte at North Platte</b>	1390 cfs	1090 cfs
<b>Flows on the South Platte at North Platte</b>	153 cfs	227 cfs
<b>Flows on the Platte at Kearney</b>	1670 cfs	1600 cfs



**Long  
May  
She  
Wave!**

## WEBSITES OF INTEREST

NRCS Nebraska [www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov)  
 Farm Service Agency [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
 TBNRD Home Page [www.tribasinrrd.org/](http://www.tribasinrrd.org/)  
 Central Irrigation District [www.cnppid.com/cropwatch.unl.edu](http://www.cnppid.com/cropwatch.unl.edu)  
 UNL Cropwatch [cropwatch.unl.edu](http://cropwatch.unl.edu)  
 UNL Extension [extensionpubs.unl.edu/](http://extensionpubs.unl.edu/)  
 Drought Monitor <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/nadm/Home.aspx>  
 No-till On The Plains [www.notill.org](http://www.notill.org)  
 Soil Health: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/health/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/health/)  
 NE State Irrig Assoc [www.nebraskastateirrigationassociation.org/](http://www.nebraskastateirrigationassociation.org/)

## RAINFALL

Rainfall amounts listed below and other locations come from NeRAIN which can be found at website <https://nednr.nebraska.gov/NeRain/Maps/maps>.

Location:	May 28 – June 10	May 1 – June 10
Elwood 1.81 mi. NW:	1.84	4.81
Loomis 0.2 mi. SW:	1.91	4.48
Holdrege 0.49 mi. WNW:	3.34	5.26
Minden 7.2 mi. W:	1.47	3.59
Minden 8.8 mi. ESE:	2.95	5.71

**Average Rain for May-June in Holdrege = 8.04 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@usda.gov](mailto:curtis.scheele@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  
 308-832-2280, 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  
 308-995-6688



### Nebraska Extension



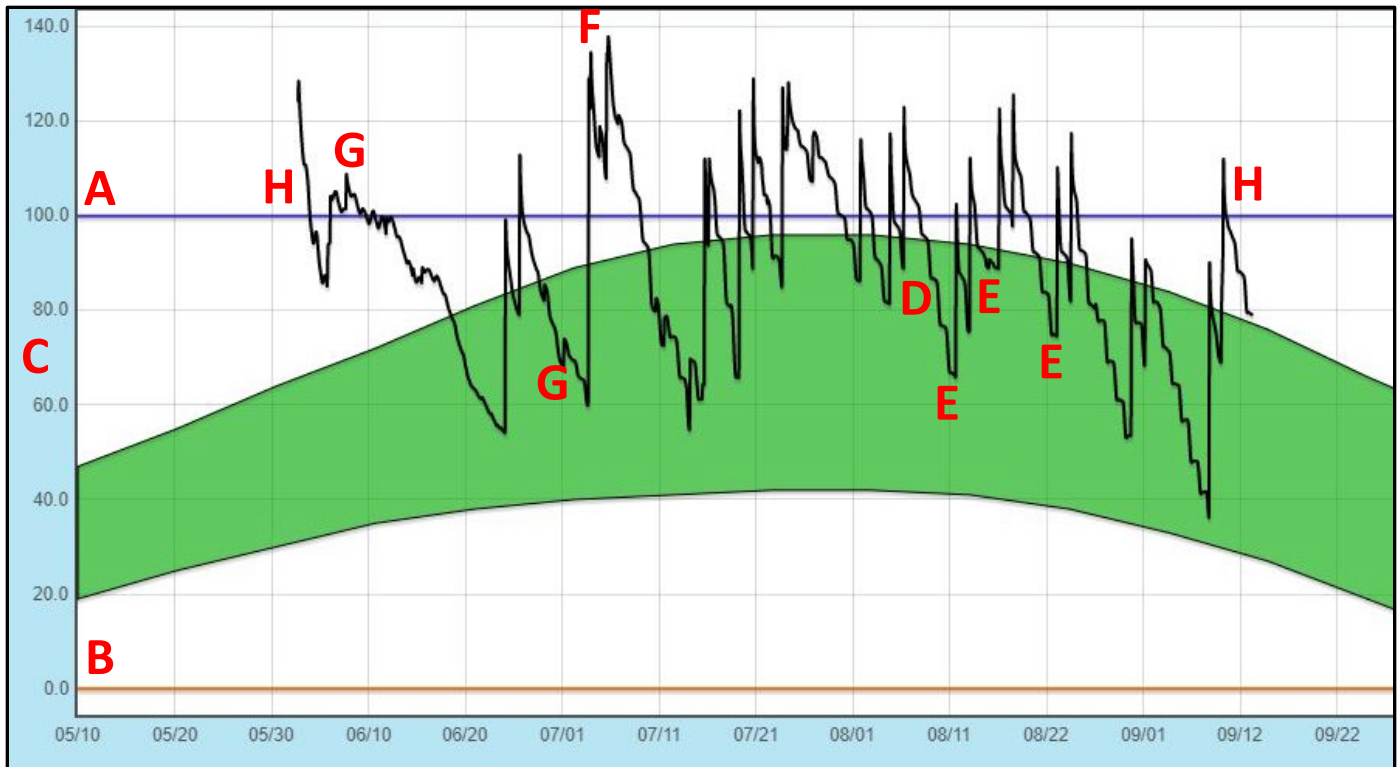
1308 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
 Holdrege, NE 68949  
 308-995-4222

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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## Sensor Chart Thoughts and Tips



- A. Sensor charts have a 100% Full Capacity Line. 100% moisture.
- B. Sensor charts have a Refill Line. Depending on your sensor, you and/or your dealer can set this wherever you want. This particular one is set at 70% moisture. Visit with your dealer to know what moisture level your refill line is set at. Ask and know what this line represents. Have them change it to where you want it if that will help you out with scheduling irrigations. Make it work for you. Change this line to be your target for irrigating.
- C. Sensor charts may have numbers like this on the side. Usually, they are a reference number; they don't really pertain to an actual irrigation number you would be familiar with. They simply relate to themselves on the chart for a lack of better terms. For this sensor where the number 0 = 70% moisture and the number 100 = 100% moisture, that means incrementally, each line represents 6% moisture. So, the 40-line on this chart equates to 82% moisture (70 + 12). This all changes based on what the Refill Line and the Full Capacity Line are set at. This can be completely different for different sensors. Discuss with your dealer. If they can't explain it, then it's time to change dealers.
- D. Stair stepping downward is daily water use. Each stair step is one day of water use. It levels off or slows down at night and drops the most during the day. In knowing how much water is used from the soil each day, one can project how many days it will take to reach a target on your chart for turning on the irrigation system. The hotter, drier, windier days will drop more than cooler, cloudy, or humid days. - When irrigating or it rains, the lines will spike up. When you irrigate or it rains, you can see how many days you just filled the soil with moisture by comparing to the stair stepping prior to the irrigation. Letter "D" indicates 5 days of water use prior to irrigation. - The left "E" would be the start of an irrigation on this chart. Watching where that irrigation ends, look at "D" stair stepping and see how many days you just filled the profile. At "D" and "E", this would be two days. You have to let that peak settle back down. - A side note: When on the computer looking at this chart, you can run the cursor along the line; you can watch the days and times at the locations of your cursor along the line. This is a handy tool.
- E. These two irrigations (upper and right two "E's" of the 3 "E's") were started before the moisture level reached an equal point prior to the irrigation event after the letter "D" stair stepping phase (left "E's" irrigation event). Question is, if the first "E" irrigation (left "E") was at that moisture level, why didn't we wait to irrigate the next two irrigations when the moisture level was at that same level? Why irrigate when it was wetter? My only thought is one did not utilize the sensor chart to aide scheduling those irrigations. Went off emotions or the neighbor. A hot dry year like 2022, one tends to listen to the hype of "gotta keep'em runnin" instead of reviewing the investment made to help make the irrigation decision. This year was dry. In a normal year, if one would have waited and caught a rain, one could have saved an irrigation or two.

- F. These double irrigation spikes you see throughout the year are from the reversable pivot. First spike, the pivot coming in, the second spike, the pivot going out.
- G. The little spikes can happen when the roots reach the next depth of sensor. Example is roots are at the 24 inch sensor and have now reached the 28 inch sensor. This now gives extra water to the root depth summary.
- H. The black summary line rarely got below 88% moisture (Line 60). For the year in general, this sensor hung around full capacity on average. Could have had the same look but lower since the green is optimum moisture. Kept soil moisture on the high end. Again, Line 60 is a reference line and its value is based on what the Full Capacity Line and Refill Line are set up for. On this chart it equals 88% moisture.



- I. On the 12-inch depth sensor, note on the left side near the letter “I”, a small level area (Are spikes, but trend is level). That level area indicates full capacity, 100% moisture. When this sensor line stair steps it is using moisture from the soil. Stair stepping will start once the roots have reached that depth in the profile. - A side note: Most of these types of sensors have moisture sensors every 4-6 inches down to a depth of 48 inches. The blue level line is not a chart line, it is simply a line added to this page to show where 100% full capacity is; at the 12-inch depth. In analyzing the year, the 12-inch depth hovered around 100% full capacity. This does not leave room for rain when the top 12 inches is hanging around 100% moisture.
- J. On the 44-inch depth sensor, note on the left side near the letter “J”, that level area is there but it’s lower than where the blue line is located. Again, the blue line here is not a chart line, it’s a line added to this page representing 100% moisture profile. This profile is based on the level area of the sensor as shown for most of the year. That’s the level it settles to after irrigation and rains. The reason it is lower in the beginning is probably due to soil moisture utilization at the end of last year. The dry winter never provided enough moisture to replenish the soil at this 44-inch level. Irrigations and any rains this year eventually filled the profile back to 100% full capacity as indicated by the level area or the blue line. Once you see the stair stepping later in the year, towards the right side, that means the roots reached the 44” depth and started utilizing soil moisture.
- K. On the left side, again these numbers are only reference numbers. They only reference what they relate to. 100% full moisture profile is different at each depth so you need to treat each depth individually in using these numbers. 100% on the 12-inch depth is around 73 and the 100% on the 44-inch depth is 50. So, if you wanted to estimate the current percent moisture level of each sensor, simply take the number at the right end of the line and divide by the 100% full profile line. For example, on the 12-inch, divide 67 by 73. That equates to 92% moisture. On the 44-inch, divide 46 by 50. That equates to 92% moisture.

A level line means moisture is not being added or removed from the profile. This can mean it’s too dry to allow any more removal of moisture from the profile. It can also be an equilibrium point of moisture-in matches moisture-out. Or it can be a full profile that the roots have not gotten to yet.

# Free ET Data Texting Service

A texting service for ET Data replaced the Water Use Hotline.

ET Data (Evapotranspiration Data) can be useful in making decisions about your irrigation, fertilizer and chemical application schedule. Texts are sent Monday through Friday from June 1st to August 31st. The texts contain:

Daily (D) and Future 3 Days (F3d) estimated water use for both Corn and Soybeans (Beans) at three locations across the district: Holdrege 5N (Hld), Axtell 5NE (Axt) and Smithfield 2E (Smfld).

Additional Weekly Text for all three locations includes: Weekly Precipitation (Wk Precip), Corn Growing Degree Days (Corn GDD), and Beans Growing Degree Days (Beans GDD)

## To Subscribe:

- **Scan the QR Code** and enter your information,
- Text **START** to (308) 216-8188, or
- Call Tri-Basin NRD at 308-995-6688 and request to receive ET Data texting.



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