

PROGRAM INFORMATION

EQIP: SIGN-UP NOW FOR 2026 FUNDS.

CSP: SIGN-UP NOW FOR 2026 FUNDS.

NSWCP: GET YOUR IRRIGATION APPLICATIONS IN BY AUGUST 31ST FOR FIRST CHANCE AT THE IRRIGATION FUNDS. FLOW METERS AND NON-IRRIGATION APPLICATIONS ARE APPROVED MONTHLY.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT: RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANTICIPATES ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS STARTING ON OCTOBER 1, 2025. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS FOR CONVERTING GRAVITY SYSTEMS TO PIVOTS OR SDI, AND NATURAL GAS/PROPANE/DIESEL ENGINES TO ELECTRIC MOTORS, WELL REBOWLS, ETC. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JOLENE AT RURAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE KEARNEY USDA SERVICE CENTER AT 308-455-9840 OR AT JOLENE.JONES@USDA.GOV.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 24-27: GOSPER COUNTY FAIR

AUG 4: CNPPID BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

AUG 7: SOUTH CENTRAL AG LAB FIELD DAY NEAR CLAY CENTER.

GOTO [HTTPS://ENREEC.UNL.EDU/SOUTH-CENTRAL-AGRICULTURAL-LABORATORY-FIELD-DAY/](https://enreec.unl.edu/south-central-agricultural-laboratory-field-day/)

AUG 12 AND 15: GREEN COVER SUMMER FIELD DAY NEAR BLADEN. GOTO [HTTPS://GREENCOVER.COM/EVENT/GREEN-COVER-SUMMER-FIELD-DAY-3/](https://greencover.com/event/green-cover-summer-field-day-3/)

AUG 20: TBNRD BOARD MEETING

Dryland – Soil Moisture Sensor – 2025

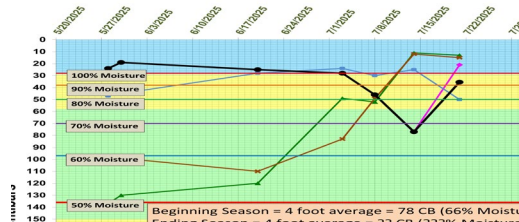
Who was with me 2-3 months ago thinking 2025 was headed for a long hot and dry crop season.

Below is a soil moisture sensor chart for soybeans no-tilled into corn residue on a dryland corner about 4-5 miles northwest of Holdrege. Notice how dry the 3rd (green) and 4th (brown) feet are at the end of May / beginning of June (left side of chart). These two depths averaged approximately 55% moisture – not good. The 1st (red) and 2nd (blue) foot averaged approximately 92% moisture. This shows how dry the soil got at the end of the corn season last year on this field and how much moisture replenished it in the off-season.

Since May 19th, this field received 9.1 inches of rain. Some of you have gotten more and some less. Notice how the lines gained (increased on chart) moisture during this time. To date, the 3rd and 4th feet average 100% moisture and the top 2 feet average 92% moisture. The tide has turned to a full profile and roots showing a 2-2.5 foot depth.

This chart does not reflect an irrigation scenario. Soil moisture sensors can tell us a lot if we utilize them.

Note: Black line is average moisture based on root depth.



CURTIS'S COLUMN

Complete Your CSP / EQIP To-Do List by Deadlines!!!

If you are in a CSP or EQIP contract with management enhancements or practices, before you can get your payments, documentation must be submitted to your local NRCS office. Below are a few reminders to help you get started while things are currently fresh in your mind. **NOTE: This is not a complete thorough list as contracts can vary from one to the next. Contact your local NRCS for specific documents and details in your own contract.**

- **Pesticide Management:** With herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides completed for the year or getting close, now is a good time to get these records and forms filled out. Items needed include the product, the rate per acre applied, applied dates, EPA Registration #'s for each product, etc.
- **Nutrient Management:** Fertilizer is either done or getting close to completion for the year. Put together your soil tests, fertilizer applied, the rate per acre applied, date each fertilizer product was applied, tissue samples, enhanced efficiency fertilizers applied, etc.
- **Irrigation Water Management:** Submit 2 charts; your soil moisture sensor summary chart and individual sensor chart showing all the sensor depths. Do now while the sensor is still in the field. Continue to record rainfall, flow meter readings, and crop water use. Submit your **weather station documentation (make sure it has solar radiation included)**.
- **Cover Crops:** Some of you may have a cover crop mix sheet provided in your contract packet. Use that mix if you can. If you want to make changes or you never received a sheet with a mix, contact your local NRCS office to make sure the change/mix you want meets NRCS specifications.
- **Other Enhancements or Practices:** There may be other items in your contract that needs documentation submitted to the NRCS for payment. Review your contract packet. If questions, contact your local NRCS office.

Start by reviewing your contract packet provided to you when the contract began. You can also review anything you received from winter/spring reminder meetings or reminder letters.

- **CSP Payments:** To receive your payment, documentation needs to be submitted to your local NRCS office prior to September 1st. This allows time to review and gather any missing documentation before the certification deadline. - Also, a letter is being sent to all CSP contract holders reminding you of this in further detail. Within that letter is a sheet asking which calendar year you want paid, certification of benchmark and completed scheduled activities, along with direct deposit verification.
- **Other CSP Items:** If you anticipate loss of land, changes in your operation, bank information changes, payment share changes, etc., you need to notify your local NRCS office promptly. **This can jeopardize one, your payment or two, your contract meaning paybacks with penalties.**
- **EQIP Payments:** The sooner your local NRCS office gets the proper documentation, the sooner you get paid. This is pretty straight forward.

Perkins County Canal Project

This spring, boards from Central (CNPPID), Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) and Central Platte NRD signed a memorandum of understanding with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to lay the foundation for utilizing and conserving water secured by the Perkins County Canal Project.

The memorandum outlines how Central experiences limited irrigation supplies because the demand exceeds the supply available from the Platte River basin. It also confirms that Central's facilities and infrastructure could be used to distribute the South Platte River water deriving from the construction of the Perkins Canal project. Both Central and NeDNR agree to work together to ensure irrigation needs of the Platte River basin are better met using the Perkins Canal project.

Seasonal flows of the South Platte River into Nebraska have been declining in recent years. Increased water development in Colorado has diverted tens of thousands of acre-feet annually that would otherwise reach Nebraska.

Since the Perkins County Canal remains unfinished, Colorado continues to increase its diversions and water use during the non-irrigation season without restriction. Completion of the canal authorizes Nebraska to divert 500 cfs during the non-irrigation season.

The Perkins County Canal and associated water storage reservoirs are expected to cost approximately \$628 million and fortunately Nebraska's legislature authorized the funding. Estimated benefits range from \$1.4 to \$2 billion statewide and will help secure Nebraska's water future. The project is expected to be completed around 2032 with design, permitting and land acquisition efforts already underway.

Visit www.cnppid.com or follow @CNPPID on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for updates throughout the year.

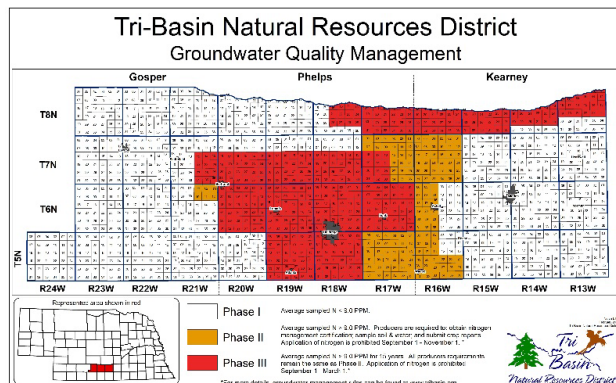
TRI-BASIN NRD NEWS



It's Water Sample Time

If your irrigation well is in a **Phase II or Phase III Groundwater Quality Management Area**, you must get an **annual nitrogen water test**. Collect the water sample during the **irrigation season**, after the well has been running for at least **15 minutes** to ensure accurate results.

Your **2025 irrigation season nitrogen test results** should be used for your **2026 crop's nitrogen planning** and reported on your **2026 Nitrogen Management Crop Report**. You can pick up sample bottles at the Tri-Basin NRD and NRCS offices.



Tassel Wrapping

Pollination is occurring and with the news on social media, received a number of calls regarding corn tassels this week. Last year, I had seen some "tassel wrapping" in a few hybrids but hadn't said anything as I didn't receive calls on it. This year it's far more widespread throughout the country. What is meant by tassel wrapping is the last few leaves are tightly wrapped around the emerging tassel so that only a small portion of the top is pollinating and showing. As I've watched these tassels the past two years, they try hard to emerge from the leaves. Some hybrids are able to push out of the leaves better. Some will push out through the side of the leaves. The tassels then look strange with what parts are able to shed pollen once they emerge from the wrapped leaves.

In some of the hybrids, there's enough pollen being shed from refuge



plants and the tassel tops, that they should still pollinate ok. There's a few with less pollen shed, yet there's also corn pollinating in nearby fields. Hopefully there won't be pollination issues. It will be important to watch your specific fields for pollination.

No one likes to see these things happen. There's been a number of things shared as to what's going on. Some are calling this environmental. I've heard a number of people talking about either generic dicamba or status applications to corn. I've been in the fields looking at this for 10 days and would encourage you to walk into the signed plots of the different



companies and local County Corn Grower plots. If this was an environment or dicamba issue alone, entire counties of acres would be impacted because of being in a similar environment and because of how much dicamba is used in post-herbicide applications. This unfortunately appears to be genetic as I'm only seeing it in specific genetics. When across companies, they're genetically related.

Southern rust was also found in Nebraska last week and in our area, it was found in Butler and Polk counties even though Butler isn't lit up on the map. It's at low incidence and not a level to spray yet. I'm still saying to wait till at least milk if you're still planning on a fungicide app to reduce potential pathogen resistance and for best economic thresholds:

<https://corn.ipmPIPE.org/southerncomrust/>.



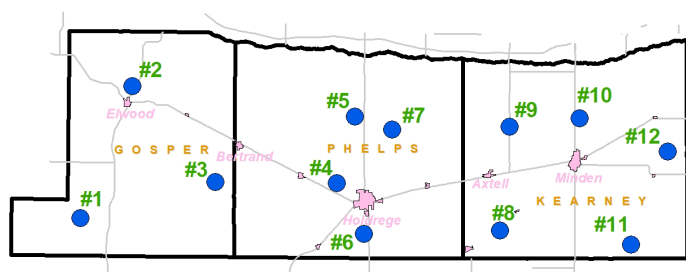
By Jenny Brhel: Nebraska Extension Educator from York

NAWMN CROP ET INFORMATION

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

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

	July 7 – July 13		July 14 – July 20	
Site	Reference ET	Rain	Reference ET	Rain
1	1.90	0.68	1.60	0.70
2	1.90	0.60	1.50	1.78
3	1.80	0.50	1.50	1.25
4	1.80	0.37	1.40	0.82
5	1.30	0.43	1.70	0.62
6	1.90	1.15	1.50	1.60
7	1.80	0.30	1.50	0.67
8	1.70	2.20	1.50	0.53
9	1.60	1.54	1.40	0.99
10	1.80	1.36	1.30	1.19
11	1.80	1.40	1.50	0.30
12	1.70	1.44	1.50	0.44



2025 Map of TBAWMN Sites across the Tri-Basin NRD.

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 (V14-14 Leaf to R1-Silking stage): Silking is the peak water use period for corn. Moisture stress at this time causes poor pollination and seed set. The result will usually be a nubbin. Nitrogen and Phosphorus uptake is rapid.

Avg. daily water use from July 13 – July 20 was 0.20"-0.27".

Soybeans (R1-Beg Bloom to R3-Beg Pod): Environmental stress from R3-Beginning Pod through R6-Full Seed will reduce yield more than any other time. R4-Full Pod is the most crucial period.

Avg. daily water use from July 13 – July 20 was 0.17"-0.27".

July 13-July 20 (12 of 12 TBAWMN sites reporting): Avg. weekly rainfall was 0.91 (range 0.30 to 1.78). Avg. weekly ET for corn was 1.67 and for soybeans was 1.53.

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
R1	Silking	Begins when any silks are visible outside the husks.
R2	Blister	The kernels are white on the outside and resemble a blister. The cob should be at or near full size by R2. The silks are beginning to dry out and darken in color.
R3	Milk	The kernels display a yellow color on the outside. Inner fluid is milky white. Silks are brown and dry or becoming dry.
SOYBEAN STAGE		DESCRIPTION
R2	Full Bloom	At least one open flower is present at any one of the two uppermost main stem nodes that have fully developed leaves.
R3	Beg Pod	At least one pod of 3/16" length is present at one of the four uppermost main stem nodes that have fully developed leaves. It's not uncommon to see pods of greater length at lower nodes.
R4	Full Pod	At least one pod of 3/4" length is present at one of the four uppermost main stem nodes that have fully developed leaves.

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>.

	July 24, 2025, 8:00 AM	1 Year Ago
El. & Cap. – Lake McConaughy	3228.0 ft - 48%	3234.4 ft - NA%
Inflows to Lake McConaughy	323 cfs	883 cfs
Flows on the North Platte at North Platte	322 cfs	411 cfs
Flows on the South Platte at North Platte	199 cfs	127 cfs
Flows on the Platte at Kearney	815 cfs	324 cfs

What would be the feeling of this Nation should a foreign nation suddenly enter the U.S. and destroy 90,000 acres of land, as erosion has been allowed to do in a single county?

– Father of Soil Conservation, Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

NRCS Nebraska www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov
 Farm Service Agency www.fsa.usda.gov
 TBNRD Home Page www.tribasinrrd.org/
 Central Irrigation District www.cnppid.com/
 UNL Cropwatch cropwatch.unl.edu
 UNL Extension extensionpubs.unl.edu/
 Drought Monitor <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/nadm/Home.aspx>
 No-till On The Plains www.notill.org
 Soil Health: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/health/
 NE State Irrig Assoc 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:	July 10 – July 23	May 1 – July 23
Elwood 1.81 mi. NW:	2.34	11.25
Loomis 0.2 mi. SW:	2.70	14.63
Holdrege 1.7 mi. W:	1.90	8.92
Minden 7.2 mi. W:	1.70	9.50
Minden 5.8 mi. E:	2.54	14.63

Average Rain for May-July in Holdrege = 11.32 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. ***

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
 308-995-6688



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
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