

PROGRAM INFORMATION

EQIP: SIGN-UP NOW FOR 2027 FUNDS TO ENSURE NOT MISSING THE CUTOFF DATE.

CSP: CONTRACTS ARE BEING PREPPED FOR RANKING FOR 2026 FUNDS. SIGN-UP NOW FOR 2027 FUNDS TO ENSURE NOT MISSING THE CUTOFF DATE.

NSWCP: APPLICATIONS CAN BE TAKEN ANY TIME.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SIGNED BY THE OWNER. INSTALLATION WORK CANNOT BE STARTED UNTIL APPROVED.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT: AS OF NOW, USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT IS NOT ACCEPTING NEW APPLICATIONS DUE TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 14315. 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUG 11: SOUTH CENTRAL Ag LAB FIELD DAY @ CLAY CENTER
SEE MORE INFO ON PAGE 2 OF THIS NEWSLETTER OR
GOTO [HTTPS://SCAL.UNL.EDU/SOUTH-CENTRAL-AG-LAB-FIELD-DAY/](https://SCAL.UNL.EDU/SOUTH-CENTRAL-AG-LAB-FIELD-DAY/)

AUG 11-14: 4 - SOYBEAN MGT FIELD DAYS

SEE MORE INFO ON PAGE 2 OF THIS NEWSLETTER OR
GOTO [HTTPS://ENREEC.UNL.EDU/SOYDAYS/](https://ENREEC.UNL.EDU/SOYDAYS/)

AUG 19: TBNRD BOARD MEETING

AUG 28 - SEPT 7: NEBRASKA STATE FAIR

GOTO [HTTPS://WWW.STATEFAIR.ORG](https://WWW.STATEFAIR.ORG)

SEPT 8: CNPPID BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

SEPT 15 - 17: HUSKER HARVEST DAYS

GOTO [HTTPS://WWW.HUSKERHARVESTDAYS.COM/EN/HOME.HTML](https://WWW.HUSKERHARVESTDAYS.COM/EN/HOME.HTML)

CSP and EQIP REMINDERS!!!

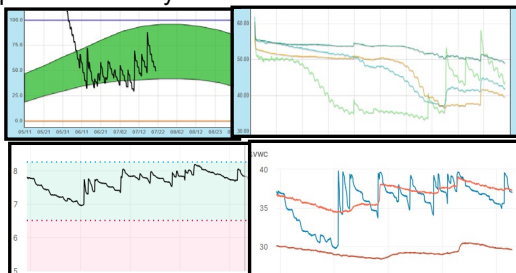
Submit your pesticide, nutrient, irrigation, and other records your contract requires by September 1st. This gives us time to review, gather missing info, complete contract modifications, etc. so we can certify them by Sept. 30th. For CSP, having this done ensures your payment not to be held up come October when payments open up. For EQIP, the sooner you submit your records, the sooner you can be paid.

Those with irrigation sensors, NOW is the time to be taking screen shots or printing your 2 charts, a summary chart and an individual sensor chart, for each sensor BEFORE they're removed from the field.

Here are examples of summary and individual charts.

Also, don't forget to submit your flow

meter readings and rainfall.



CURTIS'S COLUMN

Probing Our Country's Soil Health (SHAPE Project)

Photo courtesy Newell Kitchen



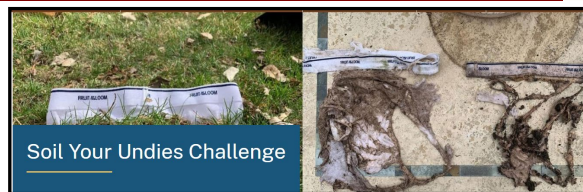
This is a new national USDA NRCS-sponsored project, with contributions from various other public and private partners. It uses the Soil Health Assessment Protocol and Evaluation (SHAPE) to benchmark soil health across U.S. soils and management systems.

Nebraska farmers who are interested in enrolling in the project are encouraged to watch the video below for more information. Participating farmers complete a Zoom survey (less than one hour long) on field history and allow hand-probe soil samples from two to three locations in two to three fields (fields must be greater than 10 acres). In return, you receive a detailed soil health report and SHAPE-based interpretation for each field at no cost; the lab work is valued at about \$1,200 per field at no cost to you. Project Management by AGES LLC (Agronomic, Geologic and Environmental Services).

- **What it offers:** Research-grade soil health testing and interpretation, payment for your time, plus a summary book of soils and stories from across the country with final project results.
- **Good fit if:** You want an in-depth soil health snapshot on a few fields and are willing to contribute to a national dataset.
- [Video for more about SHAPE.](#)
- [Enroll in the project.](#)
- Farmers will be notified prior to soil samples being taken — usually three to six months after completing surveys.
- Soil tests are complex, requiring ample time for analysis, with reports of results sent nine to 12 months after soil samples are taken.
- For questions, [contact SHAPE.](#)
- Or you can reach out to: [Carolina Cordova](mailto:ccordova4@unl.edu), UNL State Soil Health Specialist @ ccordova4@unl.edu or [Katja Koehler-Cole](mailto:kkoehlercole2@unl.edu), Nebraska Extension Soil Health Educator @ kkoehlercole2@unl.edu.

This article is copied out of a UNL Cropwatch article titled "Nebraska Soil Health Testing: Opportunities, Programs, and Field Learning" by Carolina Cordova, Dept. of Agronomy and Horticulture Asst. Professor and State Soil Health Specialist. This entire article dated March 25, 2026 can be found at <https://cropwatch.unl.edu/nebraska-soil-health-testing-opportunities-programs-and-field-learning/>.

Soil Your Undies "Challenge" for Soil Health!!!



This information ran across me the other day. Could still do this year but start right away. Or wait til next year. Can compare a couple of fields. Looks like a good old fashion soil health test. For more information, goto <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/montana/soil-your-undies-challenge>. Can just do it for fun and see the results.

CNPPID NOTES

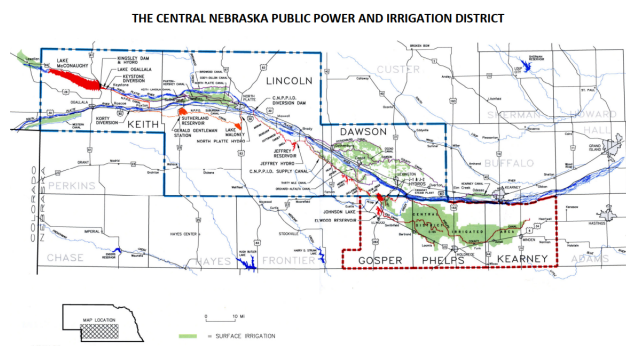


CNPPID Irrigation

Central's 84-day scheduled irrigation season began June 8th and will end August 30th with the head gates closing on September 4th for the 2026 irrigation season.

The Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District serves nearly 108,000 irrigated acres with surface water for irrigation. This surface water is sourced from either water that is stored in Lake McConaughy and released downstream for irrigation or is natural flow out of the Platte River.

Water is conveyed and delivered through four canal systems (Supply, E65, E67 & Phelps Canals), which consist of a combination of hydroelectric power facilities, lakes, open ditches, pipelines, and siphons. The four canal systems provide surface water irrigation for Centrals customers in Lincoln, Dawson, Gosper, Phelps, and Kearney counties.



Find us at www.cnppid.com or @CNPPID on Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn.

Visit Colors of Water Tool <https://cnppid-cow.vercel.app>

TRI-BASIN NRD NEWS



Irrigation Season Reminders

Chemigation: Staff at the Tri-Basin are busy wrapping up chemigation inspections. New permit inspections must be conducted prior to use. But routine inspections, due this year, must be completed by the end of this irrigation season. If your system is due for a routine inspection, we have tried to contact you to schedule. Please call us to schedule your inspections.

Water Samples: Annual crop reports need water samples from your irrigation wells. The time to take them is now while you are irrigating. These samples are for your **2027** reports.

NRD staff are also taking samples from irrigation wells for our Water Quality testing program.

Irrigation Meters: Periodically check your irrigation flowmeters to make sure they are working correctly. If you do not think your meter is working correctly, our staff or Curtis Scheele at NRCS office can check flow rates using an ultrasonic flowmeter.

If you have a meter repaired during the irrigation season, please contact the NRD and note the meter reading before removing. Doing so will make it easier to reconcile any movement of the propeller while the meter is repaired. If you have questions about reinstalling your flowmeter or about your meter readings, contact our office at 308-995-6688.



NEBRASKA EXTENSION EXTRAS



Field Day Season is Here

August starts with a good selection of field days and end of summer activities. Field days are always great events. There is plenty of good information and lunch is pretty good. What I like best about field days is visiting with farmers and industry people. What do they think about the new technology or research? Is it useful to them? What would they like to see for research? Often, the best Extension programs and research ideas come from the public. We need your help to deliver what you need. If you don't communicate with us, we can't know what you are dealing with on the farm or ranch. These field days are worth your investment in time and conversation.

SCAL Field Day – August 11, 2026

Next week is the SCAL Field Day near Clay Center, NE. The event starts at 8:30 AM, ending at 1:45 PM. We will be talking about several topics including:

- Corn and soybean disease updates
- Irrigation and water management
- Insect pest updates
- Weed management



During lunch there will be a keynote speaker. Dr. Salvador Ramirez II from USDA-ARS in Lincoln works as a research associate in agroecosystems and will be talking about "Soil Organic Carbon Dynamics Under Stacked Management Practices in Irrigated, Continuous Corn".

You can register at the above QR code or at the link on page 1 of this newsletter. Registration is open until August 9th.

Soybean Management Field Days

There are several dates and locations for the Soybean Management Field Days starting next week. Each location will have a variety of speakers, all concentrating on growing the best soybean crop possible and marketing the crop using 25 years of research and experience. Discussions will also be had about what is being done in TAPS competition plots. The dates and locations for the Soybean Management Field Days are:

- **August 11th 5:30-8 p.m.**
 - North Platte, NE (West Central Research, Extension and Education Center)
 - Topics – Soybean TAPS competition, soybean management, and crush facility
- **August 12th 5:30-8 p.m.**
 - Central City, NE (Herbig Brothers farm)
 - Topics – Soybean TAPS competition, managing iron chlorosis, and soybean irrigation
- **August 13th 5:30-8 p.m.**
 - Crete, NE (Mike Gropp farm)
 - Topics – Soybean TAPS competition and soybean gall midge research plot tour
- **August 14th 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.**
 - Mead, NE (UNL Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension & Education Center)
 - Topics – Soybean TAPS competition and plot tour

If interested, you can register at the QR link below or at the link on page 1 of this newsletter. Registration must be two days before the field day you wish to attend. For directions to each location visit the site:

<https://enreec.unl.edu/2026-soybean-management-field-days/>

For good conversations, networking, and learning, these are excellent opportunities.

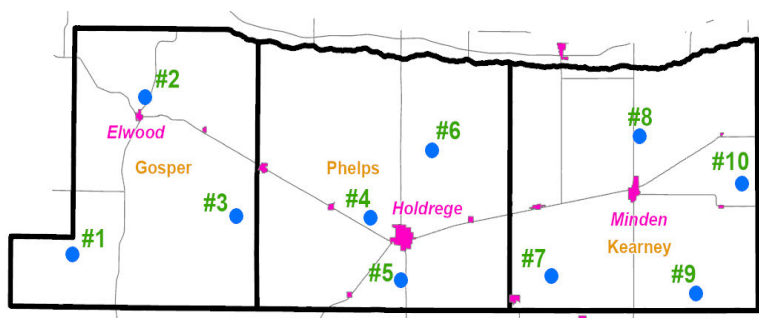


NAWMN CROP ET INFORMATION

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 20 – July 26		July 27 – Aug 2	
Site	Reference ET	Rain	Reference ET	Rain
1	1.80	0.45	2.00	0.00
2	1.50	0.92	1.60	0.38
3	1.60	1.40	1.60	1.48
4	1.50	0.92	1.50	1.29
5	1.40	1.00	1.60	1.15
6	1.40	0.40	1.40	2.00
7	1.30	0.77	1.50	1.30
8	1.30	0.49	1.40	2.61
9	1.60	0.53	1.40	2.60
10	1.50	0.43	1.60	0.96



2026 Map of TBAWMN Sites across the Tri-Basin NRD

Crop Coefficients (K_c)

Corn		Soybeans	
Stage	K _c	Stage	K _c
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

CROP STAGE INFORMATION

Corn (R1-Silking to R4-Dough stage): Though not as severe as R1-Silking, stress at R2 through R4 can still have a profound effect on yield. As the kernels mature, the potential yield loss becomes less.

Avg. daily water use from July 27 – Aug 2 was 0.22"-0.31".

Soybeans (R3-Beginning Pod to R5-Beginning Seed stage): 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 27 – Aug 2 was 0.22"-0.31".

July 27-August 2 (10 of 10 TBAWMN sites reporting): Avg. weekly rainfall was 1.37 (range 0.00 to 2.61). Avg. weekly ET for corn was 1.71 and for soybeans was 1.76.

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
R3	Milk	The kernels display a yellow color on the outside. Inner fluid is milky white. Silks are brown and dry or becoming dry.
R4	Dough	Most kernels contain semi-solid, pasty material.
R4.7	Beg Dent	Kernels at the base of the ear are beginning to dent.

SOYBEAN STAGE		DESCRIPTION
R3	Beg Pod	At least one pod of 3/16" length is present at one of the four uppermost main stem nodes with a fully developed leaf. 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 with fully developed leaves.
R5	Beg Seed	At least one pod containing small seeds is present at one of the four uppermost main stem nodes with fully developed leaves. You can hold a pod up to the bright sky to see the small developing seeds in the pod cavities.

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>.

	August 6, 2026, 8:00 AM	1 Year Ago
El. & Cap. – Lake McConaughy	3206.9 ft - 30.8%	3226.2 ft - NA%
Inflows to Lake McConaughy	145 cfs	896 cfs
Flows on the North Platte at North Platte	558 cfs	390 cfs
Flows on the South Platte at North Platte	145 cfs	896 cfs
Flows on the Platte at Kearney	40 cfs	164 cfs

August 6th

**Thank You to those
who work in Acres and
not in Hours!**



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 23 – Aug 5	May 1 – Aug 5
Elwood 1.81 mi. NW:	1.26	11.39
Loomis 0.2 mi. SW:	2.68	11.20
Holdrege 0.49 mi. WNW:	1.94	10.08
Minden 7.2 mi. W:	3.12	9.31
Minden 8.8 mi. ESE:	4.27	12.68

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
 308-832-2280, 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 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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