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**Nebraska Agricultural Water Management Demonstration Network Update
and Interactive Website**

Gary L. Zoubek*, Daryl Anderson, Rod DeBuhr, Suat Irmak, Dan Leininger, Pam Peters, Randy Pryor, Jenny Rees, Anita Schaepe, Jim Schnieder, Brian Schupbach, Brandy VanDeWalle

University of Nebraska – Lincoln
* gzoubek1@unl.edu

Abstract:

Irrigation is vital to Nebraska's economy. Nebraska ranks second nationally with over 90,000 irrigation wells and 7.5+ million irrigated acres. Concern for declining water levels and the availability of irrigation water resulted in the formation of the Nebraska Agricultural Water Management Demonstration Network (NAWMDN) in 2005. The NAWMDN was formed by the University of Nebraska Lincoln Extension in partnership with the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District (NRD). Since its beginning, this interdisciplinary group has grown from 18 to over 300 active participants from 25 counties in 9 of Nebraska's 23 NRD's. The goal of the NAWMDN has been to actively enable producers to utilize newer tools and technologies to enhance crop water use efficiency and the resulting energy savings. In the NAWMDN, participants have utilized two tools to monitor crop water use (ETgages) and soil moisture status (Watermark granular matrix sensors). An interactive web site was created this past year to inform growers and other clients about the network and to educate producers and industry professionals about using these two tools along with crop stage of growth information to make irrigation management decisions. This interactive web site has engaged the cooperating producers and enhanced learning. The site consists of a map of Nebraska's 93 counties on which producers can select specific counties to find a Google gps map with ETgauge locations marked. Producers can click on specific sites to see the weekly reference evapotranspiration (ET) reported by producers. The site also includes information about the NAWMDN and how to use the various tools. This poster will share information about the NAWMDN interactive web site.

Impact Statement:

The NAWMDN has grown from 18 participants in 2005 to over 300 in 2008. ET information from over 150 producers' sites were updated weekly by producers, Extension Staff and NRD personnel. NAWMDN participant surveys showed an average water savings of 2.6% and 2.1% for corn and soybeans in 2007. Using 2007 diesel prices, this resulted in total energy savings of \$2,808,000 and \$2,269,800 for corn or soybeans over 117,000 acres.

Category: Agricultural BMPs

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