

## PROGRAM INFO

### **EQIP, WHIP, WRP, CREP, & CONTINUOUS CRP:**

APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE AND ANNUAL PAYMENTS CAN BE TAKEN ANYTIME AT YOUR LOCAL USDA SERVICE CENTER. DISCUSSIONS ARE TAKING PLACE TO MOVE THE EQIP RANKING DATES UP A MONTH OR TWO. MAKE SURE YOU GET YOUR APPLICATIONS IN.

**NSWCP:** NEW MONEY HAS ARRIVED!!! APPLICATIONS FOR COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE CAN BE TAKEN AT YOUR LOCAL NRCS OFFICE. THE FIRST APPROVAL DATE FOR IRRIGATION PRACTICE APPLICATIONS WILL BE SEPTEMBER 11, 2007.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 22-26: PHELPS COUNTY FAIR

AUG. 2-4: GOSPER COUNTY FAIR

AUG. 6: CNPPID BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 9 AM

AUG. 14: TBNRD BOARD MEETING AND TOUR

AUG. 22: WHIRLWIND NO-TILL EXPO NEAR BLADEN, NE

GOTO [WWW.NOTILL.ORG](http://WWW.NOTILL.ORG) OR CALL 1-888-330-5142 FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION.

\* Times are tentative

### **#1 – Invest in a Pump Test!!!**

Is air coming out of your nozzles? Is your well surging? Are your crops not uniform in their growth habits? Are fewer gates being opened than once was? This can all lead to reduced yields and ultimately, less profit. Investing in a pump test is the first thing you should do. **It can save money, time, and headaches.** Shouldn't you know what's in the ground before you start investing larger dollars? Because the wells around you are all fine, do not assume anything. Your investment is with your well, not the other wells. A pump test is an excellent indicator of current problems as well as potential problems. This test provides you with the most current reliable flow, pressure, and drawdown information. This information is viable in determining if new bowls are needed, if a new well is needed, or if the well needs to be drilled deeper. For example, don't assume because the surrounding well water elevations are 60 feet deep that yours is 60 feet deep. Do it right the first time. Don't assume and have to redo what was done because the well wasn't investigated the first time. Later in the crop season is the optimum time for doing pump tests while seasonal drawdown is at or near its peak.

Pump tests are also recommended when converting from a gravity system to a pivot or subsurface drip system. The information is valuable for matching pumps and motors in order to get the most efficient irrigation system possible.

A pump test can be completed by your well person. You can obtain and document the results on the NRCS-ENG-85 form "Pumping Plant Inventory and Evaluation Worksheet." This form is available at your local NRCS office or online at <http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/NE-ENG-85.pdf>. A sample of this form is shown on page 2.

## ACROSS THE TRI-BASIN NRD

### **EQIP Dryland and No-till Field Checks:**

Some of you may have already noticed NRCS staff or summer interns out checking your EQIP funded irrigation projects for dryland and no-till contract obligations. This week we got started in Kearney and Phelps counties. We will continue to do these and work our way into Gosper county. All irrigation related EQIP contracts signed in 2003 through 2007 with dryland and no-till obligations will be field checked. This past spring you all received a reminder letter with a map indicating which areas need to be dryland and no-tilled for the 2007 crop year. Failure to comply with your EQIP contract could result in termination, repayment of funds, plus penalties.

If you have any questions related to this or anything else related to your EQIP contract, contact your local NRCS office at the address or phone numbers listed on the backside of this newsletter.

### **Stage of Growth:**

**Corn (16-leaf to Milk stage):** We are at the peak water use stages of corn. Nitrogen and Phosphorus uptake is rapid. Environmental stress at this time can greatly reduce yield. At Blister, the kernels are at 85% moisture and will start declining til harvest.

**Soybeans (V6 to Beginning Pod stage):** Soybeans are heading into the most crucial period of plant development in terms of seed yield (Full Pod stage). Stress from Full Pod to Full Seed will reduce yields more than the same stress at any other period of development. Soybeans at Full Bloom with 50% defoliation will reduce yield by roughly 6 percent.

### **Irrigation:**

Beings we are in or heading into the high water use period of the growing season for corn and soybeans, irrigation is in full force where it is needed. Rains continue periodically in places allowing a few days relief from irrigation. As summer moves along, it seems these rains are scheduling themselves less often. Dependent upon where the rains have fallen recently, on the outside you can't see a difference between a lot of the dryland and irrigated crops. However, there are areas where you can start seeing a difference.

Last Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, hail took its toll in areas south of Elwood. I saw soybean fields completely stripped of leaves down to the stems and corn with heavy amounts of leaf loss.

Lake McConaughy is at 33.5% capacity versus 29.0% a year ago. Inflows to Lake McConaughy are at 185 cfs versus 150 cfs a year ago. Flows on the South Platte River @ Roscoe are at 87 cfs versus 0 cfs a year ago.

### **Rainfall:**

Rainfall amounts come from NeRAIN which can be found at website <http://dnrdata.dnr.ne.gov/NeRAIN/index.asp?&>.

Rainfall totals – **July 5 thru July 18:**

Arapahoe 9.8 mi. NNE	1.91"
Bertrand 6.1 mi. SE	0.76"
Funk 12.5 mi. N	0.73"
Wilcox 0.3 mi. SW	1.04"
Heartwell 3.7 mi. S	2.14"

# CROP ET (JULY 5 THRU JULY 18) AND GDD (JULY 18)

Crop ET data comes from CNPPID's website which can be found at [www.cnppid.com/](http://www.cnppid.com/)

The following information provided is for:  
Corn (emergence = May 15<sup>th</sup>)  
GDD (med. season maturity = 2450)

The following information provided is for:  
Soybean (emergence = May 25<sup>th</sup>)  
GDD (med. season maturity = 2360)

Weather Station: Holdrege 4 North GDD = 1228  
 Total Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 3.93 inches  
 Average Daily Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 0.28 inches

Weather Station: Minden GDD = 1241  
 Total Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 3.71 inches  
 Average Daily Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 0.27 inches

Weather Station: Smithfield GDD = 1199  
 Total Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 3.78 inches  
 Average Daily Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 0.27 inches

Weather Station: Holdrege 4 North GDD = 1101  
 Total Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 3.12 inches  
 Average Daily Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 0.22 inches

Weather Station: Minden GDD = 1111  
 Total Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 3.01 inches  
 Average Daily Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 0.22 inches

Weather Station: Smithfield GDD = 1066  
 Total Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 2.94 inches  
 Average Daily Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 0.21 inches

### Below is a SAMPLE FORM for Field Pump Test Data

#### ET Information Sites:

Water Use Hotline – dial 1-800-993-2507  
 Central Irrigation District: [www.cnppid.com/](http://www.cnppid.com/)  
 KRVN radio broadcasts or <http://krvn.com/>

#### Check out these web sites:

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/)  
 Central Irrigation District [www.cnppid.com/](http://www.cnppid.com/)  
 HPRCC [www.hprcc.unl.edu](http://www.hprcc.unl.edu)  
 TBNRD Home Page [www.tribasinrrd.org](http://www.tribasinrrd.org)  
 UNL – Water [extension-water.unl.edu/](http://extension-water.unl.edu/)  
 Farmers Almanac [www.farmersalmanac.com](http://www.farmersalmanac.com)  
 Chat 'n Chew Café [www.kingcorn.org/cafe](http://www.kingcorn.org/cafe)  
 No-till On The Plains [www.notill.org](http://www.notill.org)  
 UNL Cropwatch [cropwatch.unl.edu/](http://cropwatch.unl.edu/)

Observation Number	Flow (gpm)	Well Pressure (psi)	Drawdown Pumping Level (ft.)	Constant RPM (motor or pump)
1				
2				
3				
4				

-- Date of Test: \_\_\_\_\_ (recommendation within last two years).  
 -- Test completed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
 -- Phone number of tester: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Field pump test data must show data in all columns for a minimum of four different points of flow at a constant rpm.

*Contentment is not the fulfillment of what you want but the realization of how much you already have.*  
 - ?????

\*\*\* 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. \*\*\*

**USDA-NRCS**  
 1609 Burlington Street  
 PO Box 798  
 Holdrege, NE 68949-0798  
 308-995-6121, Ext. 3

**USDA-NRCS**  
 309 Smith Street  
 PO Box 41  
 Elwood, NE 68937-0041  
 308-785-3307, Ext. 3

**USDA-NRCS**  
 1005 South Brown Street  
 Minden, NE 68959-2601  
 308-832-1895, Ext. 3

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

official business