



A Virtual Irrigation Workshop

Remote Sensing and Variable Rate Irrigation

Public Value Statement

Irrigation accounts for about 50 percent of the consumptive use of fresh water in North Dakota. Beneficial use of water for irrigation requires that it be withdrawn and applied efficiently as possible. With technology always changing, education is needed to successfully use these technologies for good irrigation water management.

The Situation

Advances in technology related to remote sensing, remote control of center pivots, soil water monitoring and advanced programming of center pivot control panels are changing how irrigators manage their allocated water. Many companies are offering services that purport to help irrigators, but this sometimes leads to information overload. Understanding these technologies and how they may be applied is knowledge that the irrigators of North Dakota need to maintain a sustainable amount of good quality water and still achieve high yields.

Extension Response

A virtual irrigation workshop was organized to present topics that pertain to the use and application of advanced technologies related to irrigation water management. The workshop was held from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each morning for 2 days. The virtual platform allowed us to arrange for presenters from Colorado State University and the University of Nebraska. In addition, we had irrigators and local businesses that are using these technologies share their experiences.

Impacts

The number of people participating varied from a high of 72 to 65 for both days showing continued involvement by the viewers throughout the workshop. Participants were mainly from North Dakota but there were registered participants from Saskatchewan, South Dakota and Minnesota. The number of questions posed through the chat box and after the presentations was very active.

Feedback

"My top three presentations were Chuck Burr, Josh Messer and Matt VanRay. Very informative for me. There were many other presentations that were worth my time also."

"Very successful irrigation meeting! Would you have an audio-visual copy that you could forward to me?"
"Job very well done with these workshops. I felt the subject matter was very good and informative."
"I've been a regular attendee of the irrigation conference, and thought this was the best I've ever attended here in ND. Really excellent speakers this year! Thanks for all of your efforts for a successful event."

Primary Contact

Thomas Scherer
Extension Agricultural Engineer
NDSU Dept. 7620
PO Box 6050
701-231-7239
Thomas.Scherer@ndsu.edu

Non-Extension Collaborators

Lance Gaebe and Julie Ellingson with the North Dakota Irrigation Association (NDIA). Also, the executive board of the NDIA participated in the selection of topics and speakers.

Resource Links

Approval was obtained from most of the speakers to post their audio/visual presentations.

The presentation pdf's will be at:
<https://www.ndwaterconvention.net/schedule/>

Audio/visual presentations will be on the ND Water YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6aZi4oMVI CnoEGZ_3f5P_q