

PROGRAM INFO

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

APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE AND ANNUAL PAYMENTS CAN BE TAKEN AT YOUR LOCAL USDA SERVICE CENTER. **DEADLINE FOR EQIP SIGN-UP IS DEC. 14, 2007.**

NSWCP: APPLICATIONS FOR COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE CAN BE TAKEN AT YOUR LOCAL NRCS OFFICE. THE NEXT ROUND OF APPROVALS FOR IRRIGATION PRACTICES WILL BE DEC. 11, 2007. **APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED BY NOV. 30, 2007.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPT. 3: LABOR DAY – GOV'T OFFICES CLOSED
SEPT. 4: CNPPID BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 9 AM
SEPT. 11: TBNRD BOARD MEETING 1:30 PM *
SEPT. 11-13: HUSKER HARVEST DAYS

WWW.HUSKERHARVESTDAYS.COM

* Times are tentative

No-till Whirlwind Expo Highlights!

- **Don't blame no-till. It is different management that works.**
- Good uniform spreading of residue at harvest is where successful no-till starts. Not a place to cut corners.
- Corn seeding depth = shoot for 2-2 ½ inches
- Soybean seeding depth = shoot for 2 inches
- Tillage breaks up the soil structure which leads to crusting, sealing the soil, thus eliminating infiltration and increasing erosion.
- Rainfall Simulator Demonstration: The tilled soil developed crusting resulting in increased runoff, more erosion, and a dry soil underneath. The no-tilled soil didn't crust resulting in less runoff, less erosion, and a wetter soil to deeper depths (increased infiltration).
- We looked at no-tilled soil just behind the pivot. Used a spade to dig in sprayer tire track and no track. The sprayer track had water standing and soil below the surface was dryer. Soil in non-track had all pivot water infiltrated and soaked down into the soil.
- Soil Clod Demonstration: No-till clod dropped in water held its structure. The tilled clod disintegrated.
- Pivot tracks are not as deep in a no-till environment due to stronger soil structure.
- When no-tilling, don't shred stalks. Leave them standing and anchored in the soil.
- Precise fertilizer placement is not needed. The crops will find the fertilizer.
- In a heavy residue no-till environment, pictures of corn didn't look so good at emergence as compared to tilled/less residue, however, the no-tilled heavy residue was the healthier better looking crop in July/August.
- Utilize cover crops for soil buildup, weed suppression, and to manage off-season moisture.

ACROSS THE TRI-BASIN NRD

Loomis Field Tour Highlights:

The photo at right was taken at the Field Tour on August 16th north of Loomis. Dinner was provided at the Loomis park. The afternoon session was held southwest of Loomis.



The north site compared gravity irrigation strategies to see how one can stretch water during water short years. This site used CNPPID's schedule. The 2005 & 2006 results from a site near Axtell were discussed. Dave Nelson discussed his project of irrigating based off 90%, 70%, 50%, and 30% soil moisture levels. Pumping Plant Performance was also discussed at this north site.

The site southwest of Loomis was sprinkler irrigated, comparing strategies of Fully Watered, Water Miser BMP, and Deficit Irrigation. Other topics included Crop Water Use and Soil Moisture Monitoring Equipment for Irrigation Scheduling, Predicting Last Irrigation, Crop Residues and Skip Row planting, ET gage sites, and NRCS's EQIP program.

Stage of Growth:

Corn (Full Dent to Black Layer stage): At Full Dent, all or nearly all kernels are dented or denting. This is updated/ revised information. Corn takes about 5.0 inches of moisture to reach maturity at Full Dent. At ¼ milk line, it needs about 3.75 inches, at ½ milk line, about 2.25 inches, and at ¾ milk line, about 1.0 inch. Black Layer is when corn is physiologically mature, not requiring any more moisture.

Soybeans (R3-Beginning Pod to R6.5-Leaves Yellowing stage): Soybeans in wheat harvested fields are not as far along as other soybeans. When the lower leaves start yellowing (R6.5), soybeans need about 1.9 inches of moisture to reach physiological maturity.

Irrigation:

Periodic rains have continued to supply valuable moisture for the crops. Some corn may need another inch or so. This depends largely on stage of crop growth and how the soil profiles have been managed during the year. Fields that maintained a wetter profile are done irrigating because they have the moisture. Fields that maintained a drier profile may still need to irrigate if no more rain comes. Hopefully the rains will come and they won't need to irrigate again.

Lake McConaughy is at 25.9% capacity versus 20.5% a year ago. Inflows to Lake McConaughy are at 692 cfs versus 567 cfs a year ago. Flows on the South Platte River @ Roscoe are at 10 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 – **August 16 thru August 29:**

Arapahoe 9.8 mi. NNE	0.68"
Bertrand 6.1 mi. SE	0.70"
Funk 12.5 mi. N	0.25"
Wilcox 0.3 mi. SW	1.47"
Heartwell 3.7 mi. S	0.81"

CROP ET (AUGUST 16 THRU AUGUST 29) AND GDD (AUG. 29)

Crop ET data comes from CNPPID's website which can be found at www.cnppid.com/

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

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

Weather Station: Holdrege 4 North GDD = 2278
Total Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 2.82 inches
Average Daily Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 0.20 inches

Weather Station: Minden GDD = 2301
Total Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 2.54 inches
Average Daily Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 0.18 inches

Weather Station: Smithfield GDD = 2237
Total Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 2.85 inches
Average Daily Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 0.20 inches

Weather Station: Holdrege 4 North GDD = 2151
Total Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 1.75 inches
Average Daily Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 0.12 inches

Weather Station: Minden GDD = 2171
Total Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 1.45 inches
Average Daily Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 0.10 inches

Weather Station: Smithfield GDD = 2103
Total Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 2.05 inches
Average Daily Water Use (ET) in last 2 weeks 0.14 inches

ET Information Sites:

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

Check out these web sites:

NRCS Nebraska	www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov/
Farm Service Agency	www.fsa.usda.gov/
Central Irrigation District	www.cnppid.com/
HPRCC	www.hprcc.unl.edu
TBNRD Home Page	www.tribasinnrd.org
UNL – Water	extension-water.unl.edu/
Farmers Almanac	www.farmersalmanac.com
Chat 'n Chew Café	www.kingcorn.org/cafe
No-till On The Plains	www.notill.org
UNL Cropwatch	cropwatch.unl.edu/



No-till
Good Structure
(porous)



Tilled
Poor Structure
(no pores)



Tilled
(breaking apart dirtier)
No-till
(In tact, cleaner)



Rainfall Simulator
Left: No-till – Less runoff, less erosion, more infiltration
Center: High residue tillage – In between
Right: Conv-tilled – more runoff, more erosion, less infiltration

Too many people overvalue what they are not and undervalue what they are.

- Malcolm Forbes (1919-1990) American Publisher

*** 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. ***

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