



## Comments by the IAM President

Jake Wildman

Hello all Irrigator's,

Thank you for checking out IAM's Summer/Fall 2020 newsletter. I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and your irrigation season is going well. Hopefully all of your crops are progressing nicely and Mother Nature has blessed you with a couple of timely rains throughout the growing season. Summer seems to be moving along fairly fast for myself. As I write this our farm is currently finishing up with small grain harvest, which means the 2020 fall harvest is right around the corner.

To say 2020 has been a strange year I think would be an understatement but fortunately IAM has been able to operate in a mostly normal fashion. We, as a board, were able to hold our normally scheduled meeting during the spring via Zoom and for our summer meeting we were able to meet in person as well as via Zoom. It was good that we were able to still meet as a board to discuss issues affecting you as irrigators and to plan our summer events promoting irrigation in Minnesota.

Like I mentioned in the last news-

PRESIDENT continued on page 2

## IAM & HAMMER FARMS CO-HOSTED A LEGISLATOR IRRIGATION FARM TOUR

On Tuesday August 4th Tom and Penny Hammer from Becker, MN and IAM co-hosted an on-farm irrigation information meeting at the Hammer Farm site for area legislators, state agency staff, farmers, and others. Several key legislators,

Ag Commissioner Thom Pederson, MDA and DNR staff, and another couple dozen farmers, crop – water consultants and local residents

IAM president Jake Wildman and Tom Hammer welcomed the group as did IAM Lobbyist Tony Kvilas.



Tom Hammer, Jim Anderson, Tony Kvilas & Jake Wildman

Tom and Jim Anderson from Belgrade share the changes in water application efficiency that they have seen over the years and demonstrated the usage of GPS in assisting variable rate irrigation water application and the easy access farmers have in keeping



AG Commissioner & IAM President

watch of their center pivots via their cell phone, tablet and or home computer.

University of Minnesota Ex-

LEGISLATOR continued on pg 8

## Fundraising Request for Alan Peterson Memorial Scholarship

What you need to know about Alan Peterson... He was more than a farmer; he was an advocate for the rights of farmers. He farmed in Clear Lake, Minnesota and was proud to have his sons involved on his 4th generation family farm. He worked hard, both locally and statewide, to bring issues farmers face to St. Paul. He was determined and motivated, but enjoyed the simple things in life, golf, travel, and family.

Alan had a short but intense battle with stomach cancer. Over the course of his illness, he endured chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery. Alan maintained an amazingly positive attitude and found strength in his family and his love for farming.

He was a mentor to many farmers, to those who had been farming along with him, or adding irrigation for the first time, and to those who were



Alan Peterson & AG Commissioner at farm.

SCHOLARSHIP continued on pg 5

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## Summer Research Field Days

August 20th (Th) Rosholt Research Farm  
Virtual Field Day  
Zoom Webinar 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm  
Registration & speaker info on pg 4

August 21st (Fr) AG and Energy Center –  
Central Lakes College in Staples, MN  
9 am – 1 pm (four wagons or own car)  
More info on pg 9

August 27th (Th) U of Mn Sand Plains  
Research Farm - Virtual Field Day  
Irrigation & Nutrient Management Topics -  
Noon to 1:30  
Registration & speaker info on Pg 11

## Welcome to the MN Irrigator's Summer Newsletter

Jerry Wright, 2020 IAM Membership Secretary



This newsletter comes to you thanks to the support of the enclosed advertisers, current IAM irrigators members, listed Industry Sponsors and Extra Mile Member Supporters on page .

Your Directors on the IAM Board welcome and strongly encourage you to become a member if you have not already joined. Last year we ended up with only 406 members

and the Board and officer would like to see those numbers grow in the coming year.

We all benefit from each other's ideas, experiences and support in the IAM activities in the new year including keeping a watchful eye on MN Irrigators Water Rights; telling personal stories about benefits of irrigation with Legislators as well as representing the interests of irrigation practices across the state.

WELCOME continued on pg 2

## **PRESIDENT** *continued from pg 1*

letter, our lobbyist have continued to update the board on a weekly, if not daily basis, what is taking place down in St.Paul. It continues to be a very unique situation taking place at the capital. Unfortunately, none of the language in our bill was adopted during the regular session, not because of a lack of effort, but the extraordinary circumstances that have taken place. With that said, our lobbyists continue to have discussions with the DNR and members of both the House and Senate and we will use this time to prepare as best we can for the 2021 session.

During our summer meeting we discussed if we should try to plan our annual summer legislative tour and with advice from our lobbyist, we decided to organize the event. We were able to host the event at Tom Hammer's farm near Becker, MN and it turned out to be an excellent day. We had about 10 legislators from both the House and the Senate. Speaker's included individuals from U of M extension, Conagra-Bird's Eye, and Commissioner Thom Peterson. I would like to first thank Tom and his wife Penny for hosting the day. I would like to thank all of the speakers who presented as well Commissioner Peterson, and lastly thank you

to all of the legislators that attended.

One thing I am honored to announce is IAM plans on starting a scholarship fund in memory of Alan Peterson. We felt this would be an appropriate way to remember Alan and the positive impact he had not only on IAM, but everybody that knew him. We are still in the process of finalizing a few of the details, but please look for more information on this in the newsletter and if you know of a high school student that fits the criteria, I encourage them to apply.

A couple more things before I wrap this up. I just want to remind everybody that if you haven't made a \$.25/acre donation to IAM legislative account please consider doing so. You

should have received a mailing about this a month or so ago. Like I have mentioned before, it is SO important IAM stays active down in St.Paul. I truly believe we are making positive strides down in St.Paul, but we need to continue to be present so we can tell our story and from that, good things will come. Thank you to everybody that has made a donation. From myself and the entire board, we really appreciate the support and we hope that you feel this is money well spent. We will continue to do our best to tackle the issues you face as irrigators.

Lastly, I would like to welcome Anna Bregier to the IAM board. She so kindly accepted to fill Alan Peterson's

position. She will make a great addition to IAM and I would just like to say thank you Anna for coming on board.

With that said I will wrap it up and just say thank you everybody for your support of IAM. As always, please don't hesitate to call myself or another board member if you have any issues come up or questions you may have regarding IAM. I look forward to hopefully seeing some of you at an event in the near future and hope for everybody to have a safe and bountiful harvest.

Jake Wildman  
IAM President

## **WELCOME** *continued from pg 1*

To become a member, simply return the signup form included on the last page of this newsletter. There are many benefits in belonging to IAM with the best one just simply knowing that you have joined in partnership

with your neighboring irrigators in supporting your IAM officers and the board of directors' legislative and agency contact activities. As a member, you can also be placed on the IAM email alert list if you submit your email address.

If you are not interested in receiving future newsletters from Irrigators Association of Minnesota (IAM), please send a note to [wrightsj@charter.net](mailto:wrightsj@charter.net) or IAM, 24 S. Edquist St., Appleton, MN 56208

If you have a topic that you would like to see discussed in a future issue, drop a note to IAM president, Jake Wildman at [jakewildman@outlook.com](mailto:jakewildman@outlook.com). Articles for the newsletter are solicited and gathered by the IAM officers and Membership Secretary, Jerry Wright whom can be contacted at [jerrywright1970@gmail.com](mailto:jerrywright1970@gmail.com). Crow River Press in Hutchinson manages the advertiser space and edits, prints and mails the newsletter.

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## The Kimmes are Committed to Conservation

By: *Danielle Isaacson, Program Operations Coordinator*

Bryce Kimmes (left) and Rodney Kimmes (right) recently became MN Ag Water Quality Certified. They are holding their Water Quality Certification sign in their field of second crop green beans after peas.

Over the past decade, Bryce Kimmes and his brother Rodney have installed numerous conservation practices on their 1,300-acre farm near Hastings, MN. They are committed to conservation and are working to protect and improve their soil health and water quality.

Bryce and Rodney have worked with Dakota County SWCD and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to install grassed waterways, sediment control basins, and establish cover crops after their canning crops and soybeans. They are also in the process of switching to strip till and have even built their own strip till machine. They split apply nitrogen by applying pre-plant in the spring and sidedressing in season, along with using an inhibitor.

Irrigation water management and reducing their groundwater use has been an important part of Bryce and Rodney's operation. They follow NRCS's standards for irrigation water management and recently updated all their irrigation systems including their spray nozzles, control

panels, as well as installed soil moisture probes. These practices ensure water use efficiency, help protect groundwater supplies, and reduce energy use.

In 2019 Bryce and Rodney were honored as the Outstanding Conservationists for Dakota County SWCD, and in 2020 they became certified through the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program. As a Water Quality Certified farm, the Kimmes are recognized for managing the land in their operation in a way that protects water quality. "The air, soil and water need to be conserved," said Bryce. "Being certified shows others that we're trying to do our part."

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) is a voluntary opportunity for farmers and agricultural landowners to take the lead in implementing conservation practices that protect our water. All agricultural producers are eligible to apply, and those who become water quality certified receive regulatory certainty for ten years, access to grants and financial assistance, and recognition as a producer who is

protective of water quality. Over 920 producers and 635,000 acres are water quality certified in Minnesota.

The MAWQCP has also recently added program Endorsements to recognize water quality certified producers who go above and beyond to implement conservation on their farms. The MAWQCP has three Endorsements available to water quality certified producers: Soil Health, Integrated Pest Management, and Wildlife.

In addition to their on-farm achievements, the Kimmes have volunteered their time and expertise to work with the University of Minnesota Extension to complete irrigation water management research and have represented the agricultural community by participating in the Dakota County Ground Water Technical Advisory Group. Bryce is also on the board of the SE Irrigators Association.

To learn more about the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program, please contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District or visit [MyLandMyLegacy.com](http://MyLandMyLegacy.com).

Danielle Isaacson, Program Operations Coordinator  
MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program, Minnesota Department of Agriculture  
Phone 651-201-6283 [MyLandMyLegacy.com](http://MyLandMyLegacy.com)



Bryce and Rodney Kimmes - MN Water Quality Certified Farm

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## Rosholt Research Farm Virtual Field Day

By: Holly Kovarik, District Manager

**Thursday, August 20, 2020**  
**Zoom Webinar 12:00pm-1:15pm**

Join us for an informational webinar session on the research trials including the Kernza® perennial grain, nitrogen fertilizer trails, cover crop and living mulches, and irrigation water management practices at the Rosholt Research Farm.

Presenters include the Pope and Stearns SWCDs, University of Minnesota, and University of Minnesota Extension & Forever Green.

Opening remarks will come from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen.

For complete details or to register, visit the Pope SWCD website [www.PopeSWCD.org](http://www.PopeSWCD.org) or the Stearns County SWCD at [www.StearnsCountySWCD.net](http://www.StearnsCountySWCD.net)

[StearnsCountySWCD.net](http://StearnsCountySWCD.net)

We had hoped to hold a field day in person but with COVID-19 and the restrictions for in-person events felt this was the most appropriate. Please register for this event by following the information on the attached flyer.

**Please register via Zoom by Tuesday, August 18th Register:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82514090063>**

**Meeting ID: 825 1409 0063**

If you have questions, please call 320-634-5327 or email: [Holly.Kovarik@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:Holly.Kovarik@mn.nacdnet.net)

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## Nitrogen Fertilizer Restrictions Begin in September

### Groundwater Protection Rule Prohibits Applications in Certain Areas of MN

By: Larry Gunderson, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is reminding farmers and landowners that beginning September 1, the application of nitrogen fertilizer in the fall and on frozen soil will be restricted in areas vulnerable to groundwater contamination. This will also apply to Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMAs) with elevated nitrate levels. Vulnerable groundwater areas include coarse textured soils, karst geology, and shallow bedrock. Approximately 12 to 13 percent of Minnesota's cropland is vulnerable to groundwater contamination. A map showing the vulnerable groundwater areas as well as a list of exceptions to the restrictions are available at MDA's website at [www.mda.state.mn.us/nfr](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/nfr).

A short video on the fall restrictions and links for additional information are available on MDA's website at [www.mda.state.mn.us/gprwebinar](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/gprwebinar)

The nitrogen fertilizer restrictions are part of the Groundwater Protection Rule, which minimizes potential fertilizer sources of nitrate pollution to the state's groundwater and works with local farmers to prevent public water supply wells from exceeding the drinking water standard for nitrate contamination.

**For more information, please contact Larry Gunderson at  
651-201-6168, [Larry.Gunderson@state.mn.us](mailto:Larry.Gunderson@state.mn.us).**



Alan sharing his irrigation practices

*SCHOLARSHIP continued from pg 1*

welcoming the next generation to their farms. He was passionate about irrigation, working tirelessly to draft and pass legislation that would protect farmers water rights.

The Irrigators Association of Minnesota is requesting donations to establish the "Alan Peterson Future Ag Leader Scholarship" to honor the life and legacy of Alan Peterson, who served as president of the Association for 18 years. This scholarship would encourage students to consider agriculture as a career but allow for a wide range of jobs within. Establishing a scholarship for students planning to study agriculture is a way for IAM and its members to keep Alan's legacy in farming alive.

A scholarship will be awarded annually beginning Spring 2021 to a Minnesota student with connections to IAM. Applicants will be reviewed by a selection committee.

**Donations should be payable  
to "IAM" and can be sent to:**

**Irrigators Association of Minnesota**

**c/o Fletcher Syltie, Treasurer**

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**Appleton, MN 56208**

**Cell 320-241-1767**



**IAM President Alan February 2018**

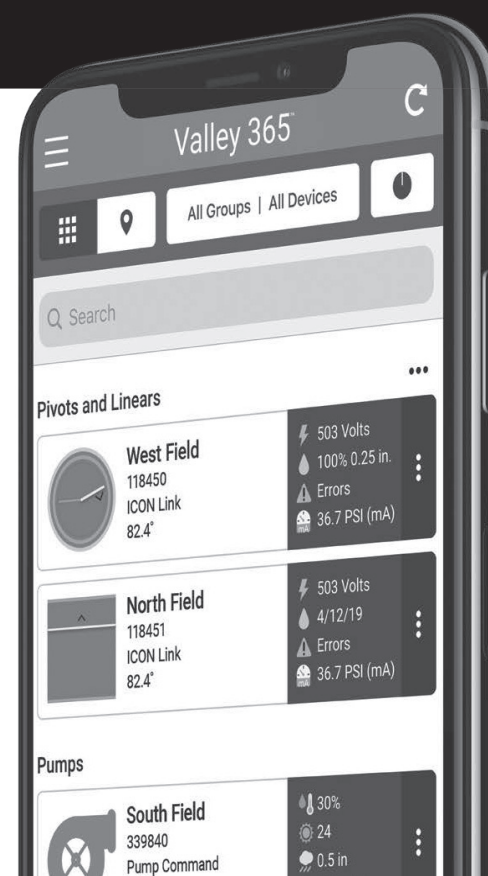
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# Center Pivot Water Application Uniformity Testing

By: Kelly Molitor - NRCS-SWCD – Stearns Co. , Waite Park, MN  
Kelly.Molitor@mn.nacdn.net



Blonigan Uniformity Test

A uniformity test, also known as a “catch can test,” is a great way to check how your irrigation system is applying water throughout your fields. Even if an irrigation pivot is well-maintained, there can still be small discrepancies that could add up in terms of the amount of water being applied at each nozzle.

Typically, the test is conducted by placing cups (catch cans) on stands 10 feet apart in a parallel line down the length of the pivot, then running the irrigator long enough to sprinkle at least 6 tenths over the cups. The

next day, the amount of water is measured in each cup using a graduated cylinder and is recorded. The irrigation event can be run at any part of the day, but It is best to run the pivot overnight in order to reduce evaporation losses from daylight hours. It is also important to run the pivot when there is minimal wind, this helps with the test’s accuracy and to reduce the risk of potentially tipping over cups.

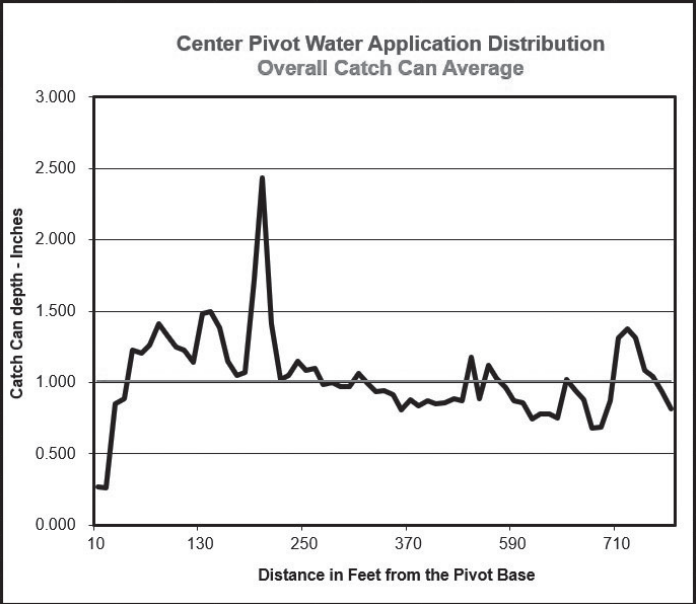
Recently, Kelly Molitor and Tessa Zee, both Soil Conservationists with the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), led one of these uniformity tests. The producer had two different types of irrigation pivots he was interested in testing. Within a matter of a couple of days the test

was completed for both systems, and Kelly and Tessa were able to go over the results with the producer.

Anything over 80% uniformity on a pivot system is adequate. However, if there are areas along the pivot that show less than 80% uniformity, we can look at the pivot itself to identify what may be the cause. Often it is just certain nozzles getting worn out, plugged, or corroded.



Kelly performing uniformity test



If you are interested in finding out how well your irrigation system is performing, please contact the Stearns County SWCD at (320) 251-7800 ext. 3 to schedule your uniformity test, today! We will be happy to assist you.



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Weather Station Collaboration with NDAWN July 15, 2020

By: EOT SWCD Nathan Wiese, [nathan.wiese@eot.mnswcd.org](mailto:nathan.wiese@eot.mnswcd.org) 218-346-9105



It is a well-established fact that weather is the most influential and impactful variable in water and nutrient management decision making. In an effort to bring more local weather information to our producers, the EOT

SWCD installed its first weather station in Perham in the early 90's. This station brought hourly data to the fingertips of our producers and helped guide management decisions that were profitable for the producer and better for the environment. The only problem? This was one weather station in a county that encompasses over 2,000 square miles, and as we all well know, weather can be different right across the road! =

In 2011, Clean Water funding made it possible for us to partner with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to expand our weather network to a regional area beyond Perham, extending the availability of local data to even more producers in and out of Otter Tail County. Even better data over a larger area meant better guidance on when and where to apply fertilizers and/or irrigation water on more land in the region.

A few years back (2014-2015) the SWCD and the City of Perham partnered to create the Central MN Ag Weather Network. Long story short, there wasn't adequate funding to support and maintain the Central MN Ag Weather Network to our standards. In an effort to expand the networks' usefulness, the EOT SWCD, the MDA, and the North Dakota Ag Weather Network (NDAWN) started a collaboration to collect and provide useful data in a convenient and easy-to-use manner. This collaboration has had challenges of its own, such as matching weather station programs, equipment upgrades, and website programming, but ultimately has brought useful information to more people.

Today, we have more exciting news! NDAWN has fully integrated our 12 weather stations into their website. Up until this point, our 12 weather stations were only available on the current weather page of the NDAWN site. What does this mean for you? It means our stations have access to all of the applications available on the NDAWN website such as Corn Growing Degree Days (GDD), Crop Water Use, Soybean GDD, Wheat/Small Grain Disease Forecaster, just to name a few.

- Weather stations in our area include:
- |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| • Becker          | • Perham     |
| • Clarissa        | • Pine Point |
| • Hubbard         | • Rice       |
| • Little Falls    | • Staples    |
| • Ottertail       | • Wadena     |
| • Parkers Prairie | • Westport   |

Check it out for yourself at <https://ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu/>





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Vasudha Sharma

## LEGISLATOR continued on pg 1

tension Irrigation Water Quality Specialist, Vasudha Sharma from St Paul shared her current research in evaluating tools to assist farmers in scheduling their irrigation water

needs. Vasu described her research efforts at the Sand Plains Research Farm near Backer using variable rate irrigation center pivots and at the Rosholt Research Farm at Westport suing a variable rate linear move. Extension Specialist Carl Rosen share the process and concepts that farmers are using to manage



Tom Hammer & Jim Anderson

efficient production yields.

Maria Crownhart from Birds Eye Foods/ Conagra Brands shared the importance of have a good mix of their specialty crops under irrigation to assure quality product. They also emphases that their businesses also offer great employee opportunities within their communities and as well provide excellent products for

their crop nitrogen needs on the sand soils to minimize nitrogen leaching while obtaining



Ag Commissioner & Audience

families and restaurants in feeding people.

Ag Commissioner Thom Pederson closed out the information gathering after lunch with sharing his perspectives on irrigation and its impact to the farming economy and the community in especially sand soil areas as well as providing necessary product to help feed the people of the world.

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## AG and Energy Center Central Lakes College

Friday, August 21, 2020 9am - 1pm  
26505 County Road 2 Staples, MN

Due to the environment that we are all working within, we are not having our normal luncheon program this year. There will be water and a small refreshment that is individually wrapped available. You are welcome to drive your own vehicle to the various locations' presentations are being given as well as ride on the hayracks that will be available. This event will follow MDH guidelines for outdoor events including social distancing.

### PRESENTATIONS FROM 9am-10:15am

#### • Cover Crop Variety Trial

A collaboration with the Soil and Water Conservation District led to a cover crop demonstration trial to be planted July 8. There is 40 different plots showcasing various cover crop varieties that are grown throughout the region as well as a few plots with cover crop mixes. Come learn about what cover crops work in sandy soils and applications of these different varieties

#### • Industrial Hemp Demonstration

This trial is demonstrating the growth and production of industrial hemp. Come and see what the plant looks like as well as discuss what the limitations and opportunities for the use of this crop is on your farm

#### • Tackling the White Whale of the North

This study is in collaboration with U of M Extension. White mold continues to be a serious issue affecting soybean yield throughout the region. The goal of this study is to determine the effect of different fungicide

### PRESENTATIONS FROM 10:45am-12pm

#### • Water Quality Study—AgXplore

This is a field scale study located under a pivot irrigation. The goal of this study is to analyze NZone Max applications to urea and liquid fertilizers. Data is being collected from lysimeters and wells to monitor nitrogen in soil pore water and ground water

#### • LCCMR Cropping Systems Study

This study compares three different cropping systems: Best Management Practices of a Corn—Soybean Rotation, Double Cropping of Soybeans and Camelina, and Growing Cash Crops in the perennial cover crop Kura Clover. Come and walk through the plots as well as visit with researchers on observations, yield, impacts to water quality, and profitability

#### • Specialty Crop Demonstrations

The Ag Center has various horticultural crop demonstrations including a few that will be highlighted during this time including the FFA High Tunnel, the CCY Garden, the Farm-to-School Garden, the Indoor Food Pod, the Living Legacy Gardens, and the apple orchard. Please come and visit with us and learn more about the production of these crops

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Melody Weber - 218.894.5123

Tiffany Klaphake - 218.894.514

[www.clcmn.edu/ag-energy-center/](http://www.clcmn.edu/ag-energy-center/)

## ■ Mark your Calendars ■

### 2021 Annual IAM Convention

Community Center  
Freeport, MN

Thursday - February 20th

Located just south of the Freeport exit along  
Interstate 94 and the Freeport City Water Tower

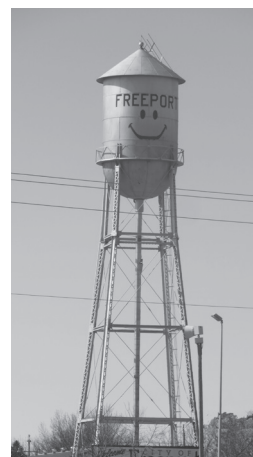
For more information contact

IAM president Jake Wildman

[jakewildman@outlook.com](mailto:jakewildman@outlook.com)

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## Sand Plains Research Farm - Virtual Field Day

Irrigation & Nutrient Management Topics

Thursday, August 27, 2020 - Noon to 1:30

Register at: <https://z.umn.edu/SPRF2020>

### Presentations & Speakers:

- Irrigation and Nitrogen management research projects for profitable corn production and groundwater quality protection - Vasudha Sharma, Assistant Extension Professor - Irrigation Specialist
- GEMS Informatics: Soil to Satellite and Sensor to Supercomputer - Bryan Runck, Geocomputing scientist
- Enhancing soil health in irrigated potato cropping systems - Carl Rosen, Professor and Extension nutrient management specialist
- Lessons from current nitrogen management research projects in irrigated corn - Fabian Fernandez, Associate Professor, and Extension soil fertility specialist
- Advancing Intensive Management of Continuous Corn on Irrigated Sands - Jeffrey Coulter, Professor and Extension agronomist

We had hoped to hold a field day in person but with COVID-19 and the restrictions for in-person events felt this was the most appropriate. Please register for this event by the link above.

Thanks, Vasudha Sharma, Ph.D.

[vasudha@umn.edu](mailto:vasudha@umn.edu) | 612-626-4986

Assistant Extension Professor-Irrigation Specialist

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# *Choosing the right* **WATER APPLICATION PACKAGE**

By Steve McCoon, CID

**Understanding the factors that affect pivot water application performance is important when considering today's technology options.**

**F**or many soil types, water conditions and terrain, center pivot irrigation can be the most uniform and efficient method of irrigation. These irrigation projects are customized, planned and engineered to ensure that the equipment investment and input dollars are spent as effectively as possible.

Modern center pivot manufacturers have an amazing array of engineering and digital technology options to offer the agricultural irrigation industry. It can be a challenge to determine what specific products and technologies are appropriate for your operation.

When it comes to pivots, the water application package (sprinklers, pressure regulators, nozzles and charts) is where the rubber meets the road; or in

this case, the water meets the soil. There are many factors that affect the optimization of center pivot water application packages. Knowing these factors and how they play a role in effective and efficient irrigation is important when making decisions concerning which water application package to use and how to best use it.

## **Understanding irrigation's effect on soil**


Every farm has its own mix of soil types, slopes, water infiltration rates and crop needs. It is key to remember that the most important part of the water delivery system from the water supply to the root systems is the soil itself. As irrigators, we can either help or hurt the soil's structure and intake rate. It is valuable to know how the sprinkler droplet size, distribution throughout the radius and

At maturity, some crops are very tall, like some corn varieties. Keeping the sprinklers on top of the pipe can help maintain a maximum radius and high uniformity.

even surface residue affect the soil intake rate. In their research paper titled, "Characterizing Droplet Kinetic Energy Applied by Moving Spray-Plate Center Pivot Irrigation Sprinklers," Bradley King, PhD, PE, and David Bjorneberg, PhD, PE, had this to say about water droplets, "The kinetic energy of discrete water drops impacting a bare soil surface is generally observed to lead to a drastic reduction in water infiltration rate due to soil surface seal formation."


 **You can read the entire paper at**  
<https://eprints.nwisrl.ars.usda.gov/1566/>.

The droplet sizes within the sprinkler pattern matters also. As an example, if all of your droplets were consistently a single size, it would create serious limitations to a sprinkler pattern. An intentionally designed variety of droplet sizes and stream radii are important to protect the intake rate of the soil and to help prevent surface sealing.

 **Find an interesting presentation including six truths of droplet size at:**  
[www.irrigation.org/IA/fileuploads/IA/resources/technicalpapers/2019/sprinkler-drop-characteristics\\_king.pdf](http://www.irrigation.org/IA/fileuploads/IA/resources/technicalpapers/2019/sprinkler-drop-characteristics_king.pdf).

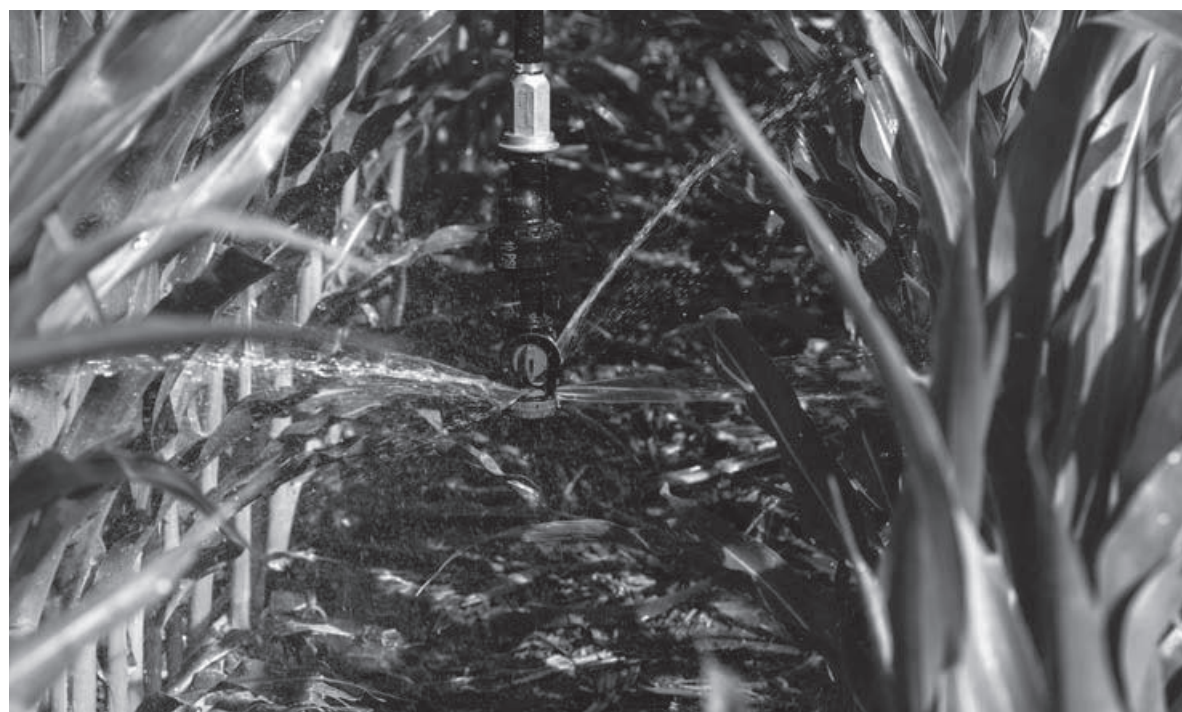
Therefore, the sprinkler type chosen, as well as the stream characteristics, velocity and specific energy of the various droplets produced by the sprinkler, will have a direct impact on soil surface sealing and

runoff potential. Silty soils are especially susceptible to surface sealing, so beware if the word "silt" is prominent in the name of your soil type.

 **If you are uncertain about your soil type or types, an easy way to find out what you have is with the free app from the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service called SoilWeb. SoilWeb can be downloaded onto your mobile device from the Apple app store or Google Play. Another option is to use the Web Soil Survey website: <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/app/homepage.htm>.**

Knowing about some of the most impactful influences on your center pivot's water application package and how they relate to each other is important when making decisions regarding the type of technology and equipment appropriate for your center pivots.

**Deep in the canopy of a corn crop, a low-pressure sprinkler on drops can be very effective if not spaced too far apart and if the soil intake rates are adequate.**



**Herein: ARTICLE PART 1, Part 2 will appear in the next issue of Minnesota Irrigator**

**Reprinted Article by permission from the Irrigation TODAY | Summer 2020 issue  
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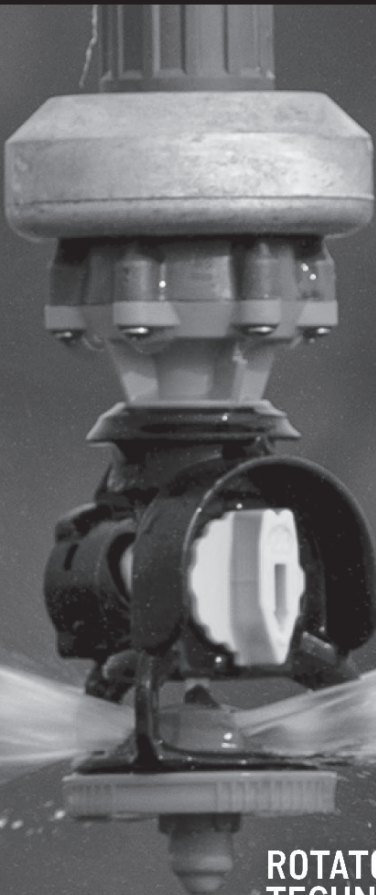
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## DNR WILL WORK WITH IRRIGATORS TO DEVELOP WATER USE EFFICIENCY QUESTIONS

By: Carmelita Nelson, Water Conservation Specialist, Minnesota DNR

Irrigation scheduling... Soil moisture testing... Irrigation sprinkler head maintenance... Center pivot pump screen cleaning... These are some of the ways producers are improving the efficiency of their irrigation systems.

**Beginning in January 2021**, agricultural irrigators will start reporting the water efficiency measures they are implementing along with the annual amount of water they have used. This web-based "Water Conservation Reporting System" will complement the water use reporting system currently in place.

For the past three years, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been working with cities, commercial, industrial, and institutional water users to create a web-based system that allows them to report their water conservation and efficiency measures. We now want to work with agricultural irrigators to do the same for them.

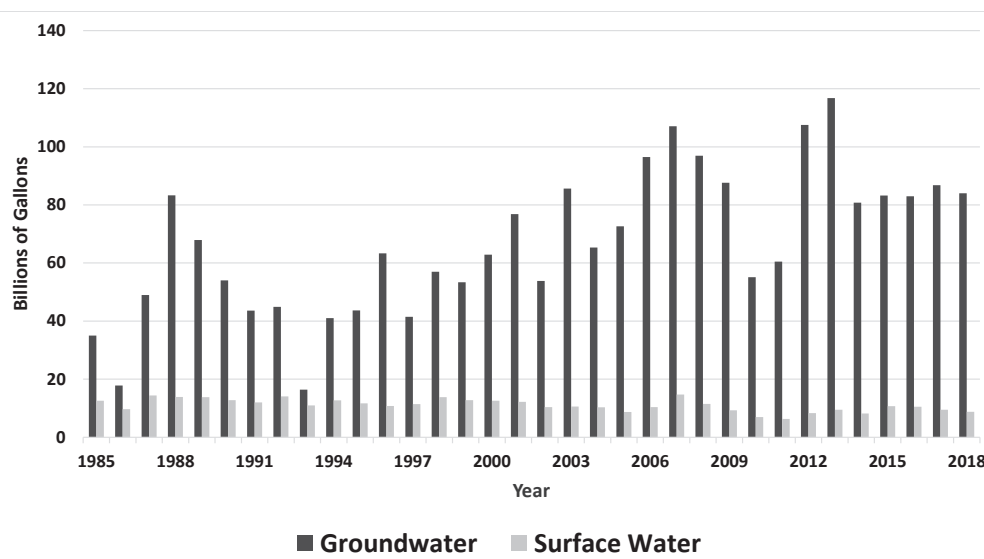
Initially, the DNR will compile a draft list of irrigation conservation measures from best practices recommended by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the University of Minnesota Irrigation Specialist, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and other irrigation guidelines.

Then, in early fall, the **DNR will work with the Irrigators Association of Minnesota**, as well as other irrigation-related organizations and interests, to review the draft list and recommend changes and refinements to it.

The DNR will use the refined list to create a web-based reporting system. DNR will ask some agricultural irrigators to volunteer to test the web-based reporting system, before it goes live.

If you are interested in reviewing the draft list of efficiency measures and/or being a pilot irrigator to test the new reporting system, please contact Carmelita Nelson, DNR water conservation specialist, at 651-259-5034 or [carmelita.nelson@state.mn.us](mailto:carmelita.nelson@state.mn.us).

### MN Reported Water Use: Agricultural Crop Irrigation



This graph demonstrates annual reported water use to the DNR from 1985 through calendar year 2018.

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If you have a topic that you would like to see discussed in a future issue, drop a note to IAM president, Jake Wildman at [jakewildman@outlook.com](mailto:jakewildman@outlook.com).

Articles for the newsletter are solicited and gathered by the IAM officers and Membership Secretary, Jerry Wright whom can be contacted at [jerrywright1970@gmail.com](mailto:jerrywright1970@gmail.com).

Crow River Press in Hutchinson manages the advertiser space and edits, prints and mails the newsletter.

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