

MN Irrigator

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Irrigators Association of Minnesota
3000 145th St. NW
Rice, MN 56367

Publication of the Irrigators Association of Minnesota • Winter 2026

Comments from the IAM President

Thanks Jerry & Fletcher

By **Jake Wildman, IAM President**
320-424-0713 • jakewildman@outlook.com

Greetings IAM Members,

I hope everybody had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy Year.



First, I would like to share a few transitional items that IAM is currently going through. Jerry Wright, IAM's long time Membership Secretary and Fletcher Syltie, IAM's long time treasurer, have both decided that it is their time to step

away from IAM's board.

Both have been involved with IAM for over 25 years and I cannot thank them enough for the amount of time and effort they have put into this organization. This organization would not be where it is at today without these two individuals, so again thank you Fletcher and Jerry for everything you have done. If you happen to run into either Fletcher or Jerry at a meeting or some sort of gathering, please thank them for everything they have done for IAM.

With that being said, Marlene Schlichting has agreed to take over the treasurer position and IAM's current Vice President Anna

PRESIDENT continued on Page 2

51st Annual Convention & Expo Coming Feb. 19

Minnesota irrigators, researchers, agency leaders, and industry partners will come together this winter for the 51st Annual Convention & Expo hosted by the Irrigators Association of Minnesota. The long-running annual event continues to serve as a key forum for sharing timely updates, statewide perspectives, and practical insight ahead of the irrigation season.

The Convention & Expo will be held Thursday, February 19, 2026, at The Park Event Center, located at 500 Division Street, Waite Park, Minnesota. Doors and registration open at 8:30 a.m., giving attendees the opportunity to check in and connect with exhibitors before the program begins at 9 a.m. The event runs through 2 p.m. and includes lunch.

Each year, the IAM Convention & Expo brings together the people and information that shape irrigation across Minnesota. The program is designed to provide context on current conditions, emerging challenges, and policy consid-

51ST ANNIVERSARY

Convention & Expo

February 19, 2026
9:00 AM - 2 PM
Registration & Vendors 8:30 AM

The Park Event Center
500 Division Street
Waite Park, MN 56387

<p>8:30 AM - 9:00 AM</p> <p>9:00 AM - 10:00 AM</p> <p>10:00 AM - 10:20 AM</p> <p>10:20 AM - 10:40 AM</p> <p>10:40 AM - 11:15 AM</p> <p>11:15 AM - 12:00 PM</p> <p>12:00 PM - 1:00 PM</p> <p>1:00 PM - 2:00 PM</p> <p>2:00 PM</p>	<p>Registration, Exhibitors, and Refreshments.</p> <p>Annual Business Meeting, Updates from MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen and IAM Lobbyists.</p> <p>Dr. Vasu Sharma, University of Minnesota Extension - Irrigation research and water-management insights for Minnesota irrigators.</p> <p>Jeppe Kjaersgaard, Minnesota Department of Agriculture - Update on RCPP funding, projects, and what's ahead for irrigators.</p> <p>Exhibitor Break & Refreshments</p> <p>State Project Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Earth • Little Rock Creek <p>Lunch Buffet & Exhibitor Break</p> <p>Keynote Speaker: Dave Janson, President of Strategic Farm Marketing & Crop Insurance</p> <p>Closing Remarks & Door Prizes</p>
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EXPO continued on Page 5

DNR water appropriation application fee increase

By **Dan Miller, Water Use Specialist, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**
Phone: 651-259-5731 Email: dan.w.miller@state.mn.us

As we shared through the August edition of the MN Irrigator, DNR water appropriation permit application fees have increased as of January 1, 2026. The Minnesota State Legislature approved the fee increase during the 2025 legislative session. The permit application fee was last changed in 2005 from \$75 to \$150 per permit application.

The fee increases support the changing demands on water resources and the need for the DNR to review permit applications, conduct technical analyses, and manage water supplies and data across the state.

Any new permit applications, amend-

ment requests or transfers will be required to pay \$600 per permit application, amendment request or transfer.

What will the DNR do with the increase in fees?

It will take some time for the new fees collected to be realized in program improvements and catch up with the accumulated work, but the DNR expects the fee increases will support:

- Technical review and analyses of new applications and existing permits, with increasing demands for available water.

FEE INCREASE continued on Page 8

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President from Page 1

Bregier will take over as membership secretary. I would like to thank both of them for taking on these roles. Marlene and Anna are both currently transitioning into these roles. With this change, I just want to make everybody aware that there will be a change in address to where you will send your membership forms and other mailing items, so please be on the lookout for that.

Moving on to some legislative items. As you are aware, IAM authored a bill during last year's legislative session. The bill was introduced in both the House and the Senate. Because of the timing of when the bill was introduced, it did not receive a hearing in the appropriate committees.

Over the last few months, IAM, along with our lobbyists have had discussions about how we would like to move forward with the bill in this upcoming legislative session, which starts on February 17. One of these discussion's has been with Agri-Growth, which is an organization that represents many sectors of the agricultural industry in Minnesota. Agri-Growth has been working on some DNR permit reform language and there is on-going discussion between the two organizations about the possibility of combining Agri-Growth's bill with IAM's language. Both

IAM and Agri-Growth plan on meeting with the DNR before the session starts to discuss different options.

Also, prior to session, IAM plans on attending an agriculture summit legislative listening session taking place in Fergus Falls at the end of January. Several legislator's and commissioners from different agencies will be on hand to discuss ways to support agriculture across Minnesota. We look forward to the event and appreciate the opportunity to be involved in the discussion. As we move into February, IAM will also be attending one of Attorney General Keith Ellison's future of Minnesota's water task force meetings in Mankato. At the event we will hopefully get an opportunity to share a small piece of our story and promote ag in general to a group that is unfamiliar with what we do.

Before I wrap up, I just want to remind everybody about IAM's annual meeting coming up on February 19th at The Park Center in St.

Cloud. We will be hosting it in the same location as last year, but this year we will start at 9am with the business meeting instead of in the afternoon. You will be able to find the agenda of the event here in the newsletter and I just encourage everybody to attend if your schedule allows. As always, you can register for the event by mailing in your registration form or you can register on-line at our website, mnirrigator.org.

Thank you again for your support and membership of IAM. We appreciate the opportunity to represent your interests as irrigators and we will continue to do our best to fight for your right to irrigate the crops that provide the food for the people of this world.



Fletcher Syltie, IAM's long time treasurer, is stepping aside. Also moving on from his position as IAM's longtime Membership Secretary is Jerry Wright (pictured in middle of page, left side).

Welcome to the Minnesota Irrigator's Winter Newsletter



By Jerry Wright, IAM Membership Secretary
wrightsj@charter.net

This newsletter comes to you thanks to the support of advertisers, current IAM members, Industry Sponsors and Extra Mile Members listed on page 9 and 11.

Your Directors on the IAM Board welcome and strongly encourage you to renew your membership if you have not already joined. Last year we ended up with 508a members.

Following this issue, I am concluding my service as the IAM Membership Secretary and co-editor of the MN IRRIGATOR newsletter. I wish to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU for the opportunity to collaborate with the IAM Board and past IAM Executive Directors and Board members over the past 30+ years. It has been a

privilege to assist in creating this communication tool for irrigating farmers in Minnesota, as well as for others interested in irrigated agriculture, water conservation, and best management practices.

Everyone benefits from each other's ideas, experiences, and partnership in IAM activities this 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.

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Minnesota Ag Weather Network

The MDA and local partners operate 40 weather stations in the Minnesota Ag Weather Network (MAWN). Another 24 stations in the state are owned and operated by the North Dakota Ag Weather Network (NDAWN), a vital partner in the project.

Providing accurate and detailed local weather data within 20 miles of ag areas across the state is a goal of the project. Up to 80 total stations may be necessary to achieve this goal.

Information gathered at each site is integrated into NDAWN, which developed tools and applications to make the data readily accessible to the public.

Minnesota station data is available at: ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu and ndawn.info/centralmn.html.

The network relies upon landowners across the state willing to host weather stations. Each weather station is installed in an area of about 30x30 feet (0.02 acres) on land not enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) due to program rules. The intent is to operate on each site for at least 50 years. Landowners interested in hosting a station can complete the Minnesota

Ag Weather Station Host Application.

Weather Station Details

- Each weather station is solar powered and transmits data over a cellular network every 5 minutes.
- Stations monitor weather up to 33 feet in the air, and soil conditions down to 7.5 feet below the surface, including rain and snow, air temperature and humidity, wind speed, solar radiation, and soil temperature and moisture.
- Research-grade monitoring equipment is used to ensure high-quality and valuable data.

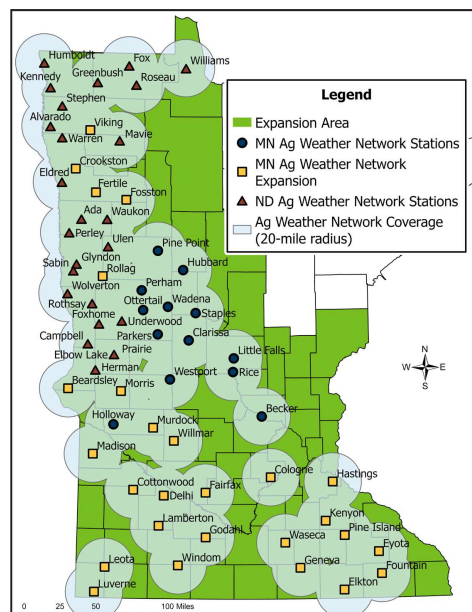
Network Expansion

In 2023, the MDA received funding from the Clean Water Fund to expand the weather station network to agricultural areas statewide (green shading on the map). The initial expansion of about 40 additional weather stations began in 2024 and will be completed in cooperation with local partners over the next few years.

Data Collected

- Rainfall

WEATHER DATA continued on Page 4



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. Articles for the newsletter are solicited and gathered by Anna Bregier, IAM Vice President and Membership Secretary at annabregier.pfc@gmail.com.

Palmer Creations out of Glenwood, MN manages the advertising space, editing, printings, and mailing.

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Weather Data from Page 3

- Air temperature
- Wind direction and speed
- Relative humidity
- Dew point temperature
- Soil temperatures to 7.5 feet
- Soil moisture to 40 inches
- Solar radiation
- Snow depth and snow water equivalent

Data and tools available through MAWN with resulting benefits:

Soil temperature:

- Optimize the timing for fall application of fertilizer and manure, and termination of cover crop
- Reduce loss of nutrients, keep nutrients available for next season's crop



- Minimize leaching of nitrate into groundwater
- Inversion alert system and wind speed and direction**
- Detect temperature inversion and quickly changing weather conditions before pesticide application
 - Keep pesticides on target for treatment and reduce the risk of drift
 - Prevent off-site movement of pesticides that can drift to nearby surface waters

Irrigation scheduling

- Estimate evapotranspiration to determine crop water needs and optimize irrigation water usage
- Optimize yields and improve water productivity
- Minimize the quantity of water used and the potential leaching of ag chemicals and manure to groundwater

Disease risk forecasting

- Determine periods of disease risk; apply pesticide only when disease risk is high
- Reduce need for preventive pesticide applications
- Reduce unneeded pesticide application and potential water contamination

Runoff risk forecasting

- Forecast potential overland runoff up to 10 days and delay application to prevent runoff
- Reduce runoff loss, keep manure onsite and available to the crop
- Prevent loss of manure or other inputs to surface water

MAWN's expansion is made possible through the support of Minnesota's Clean Water Fund.

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Daily Crop "ET" Information Available

Central MN Ag Weather Network
www.mda.state.mn.us/central-minnesota-ag-weather-network

North Dakota Ag Weather & ET
(Includes Central & NW MN Counties)
ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu/

Benton SWCD
www.soilandwater.org/
320 968 5300 ext 3

East Ottentail SWCD
www.eotswcd.org/
218-346-4260 ext 3

Dakota County SWCD
ima.respec.com/dakota/
651-480-7781

Pope County SWCD
www.popeswcd.org/
320-634-5327

Sherburne SWCD
www.sherburneswcd.org/
763 241 1170 ext3

Wisconsin Daily Crop ET Potential
(Includes SE MN Counties)
agweather.cals.wisc.edu/sun_water/et_winn

Expo from Page 1

erations that directly affect irrigators statewide. This approach creates space not only for updates, but also for shared understanding.

This year's agenda includes irrigation research and water-management insights from the University of Minnesota Extension, along with updates on conservation programs and funding opportunities through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Time will also be dedicated

to discussion of current state-level issues facing Minnesota irrigators, allowing representatives and partners to provide updates on evolving situations, regulatory considerations, and topics affecting irrigation operations across different regions of the state.

A featured highlight of the afternoon will be the keynote presentation by Dave Janson, President of Strategic Farm Marketing & Crop Insur-

ance. Speaking from 1-2 p.m., Janson brings decades of experience in commodity markets, crop insurance, and grain merchandising. His background includes serving as a senior merchant with Cargill across multiple segments of the grain and export system. Raised on a Minnesota dairy farm, Janson holds a degree in Agri-

EXPO continued on Page 6



51st Annual Convention & Expo

Location
Park Event Center
500 Division St.
Waite Park, MN

Date
02.19.2026
8:30 AM

Learn what's new in water, research, and statewide irrigation issues.

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Expo from Page 5

cultural Education with a minor in Agricultural Economics from the University of Minnesota and will offer attendees a market-focused perspective on agriculture and risk management.

Beyond the formal program, the Convention

& Expo places strong emphasis on connection. Industry vendors will be on site beginning at 8:30 a.m., providing opportunities throughout the day for irrigators to explore products and services, ask questions, and build relationships that extend beyond the meeting.

Registration is \$20 with pre-registration and \$25 at the door, and includes access to all sessions, the exhibitor area, and lunch. Individuals may pre-register online at: <https://irrigators-association-of-minnesota.square.site/>

Now in its 51st year, the IAM Convention & Expo remains a trusted annual gathering, bringing Minnesota's irrigation community together to stay informed, share perspectives, and prepare for the season ahead.



Top to bottom: IAM's 50th Annual Convention & Expo; Jeppe Kjaersgaard, Minnesota Department of Agriculture speaking at the 50th Convention & Expo.

**Convention Keynote Speaker**

Dave Janson, President of Strategic Farm Marketing Inc., is a licensed commodity broker, crop insurance agent and grain marketing specialist. Dave was a senior merchant for Cargill. During his tenure he worked at a barge loading facility, an export and soybean processing plant, a terminal elevator and CBOT delivery warehouse, and the Cargill headquarters in Minnetonka, MN. Dave grew up on a dairy farm in Minnesota and has an Agricultural Education degree with a minor in Ag Economics from the University of Minnesota.

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or IAM President – Jake Wildman
320-424-0713 or jakewildman@outlook.com

Exhibit at the IAM 51st Convention & Expo

Industry partners are invited to exhibit at the 51st Annual Convention & Expo hosted by the Irrigators Association of Minnesota, a long-standing event that brings together Minnesota irrigators, researchers, agency leaders, and decision-makers.

Vendor registration is now open at:
<https://irrigators-association-of-minnesota.square.site/>

Vendor space is limited, and early registration is encouraged.

The event will take place Thursday, February 19, 2026, at The Park Event Center (500 Division Street, Waite Park, Minnesota). Vendor set-up begins at 7:30 a.m., with doors and attendee registration opening at 8:30 a.m. After strong feedback from vendors on the layout and flow of the venue last year, IAM is pleased to return to The Park Event Center for the 2026 Convention & Expo.

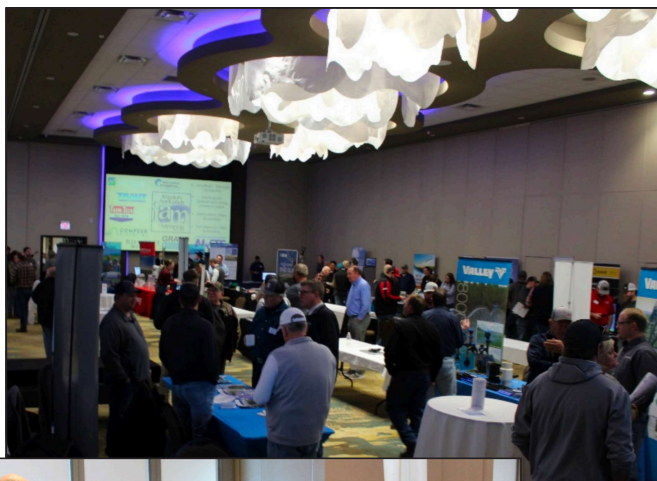
The exhibitor experience is designed to encourage meaningful interaction throughout the day. Coffee and pastries will be available throughout the morning, with a lunch buffet included, helping keep attendees on site and creating natural opportunities for conversation during breaks and meals.

Vendors gain direct access to a focused audience of irrigators and professionals involved in irrigation planning, management, conservation, and current state-level issues. The program draws attendees who are actively engaged and looking to connect with trusted partners, products, and services.

Vendor participation is offered through IAM membership and Circle sponsorship options, which include a vendor table at the Convention & Expo along with year-round visibility through IAM communications and events. Multiple participation levels are available to fit a range of organizations and goals.

Whether you provide equipment, technology, consulting, or services that support irrigation operations, exhibiting at the IAM Convention & Expo is an effective way to build relationships, strengthen brand presence, and stay connected to Minnesota's irrigation community.

Register to become a vendor at:
<https://irrigators-association-of-minnesota.square.site/>



Top to bottom:
 Vendor space
 at the 2025
 Annual Con-
 vention & Expo;
 50th Annual
 Convention &
 Expo attendees
 speaking to
 exhibitors.

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Fee Increase *from Page 1*

• Reducing the backlog in permit applications requiring technical review and analysis for more complex project proposals and applications.

• DNR compliance efforts with existing permit terms and conditions in areas with limited water availability and increasing demands for water resources.

• Improved understanding of aquifers across

the state and sharing this information with existing permit holders and new applicants.

The DNR is required to balance competing management objectives that include both the development and protection of Minnesota's water resources. Minnesota law also requires the DNR to manage water resources for current and future generations. This includes domestic supplies,

agriculture, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, power generation and, in some situations, navigation.

If you have any questions about the new permit application fees, please contact Tom Hovey, DNR Water Regulations Unit Supervisor, at tom.hovey@state.mn.us or 651-259-5654.



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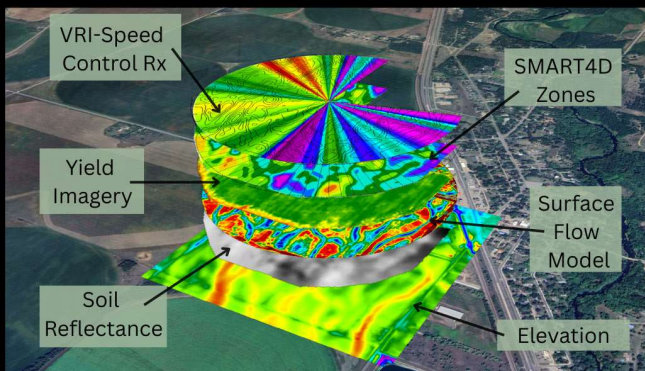

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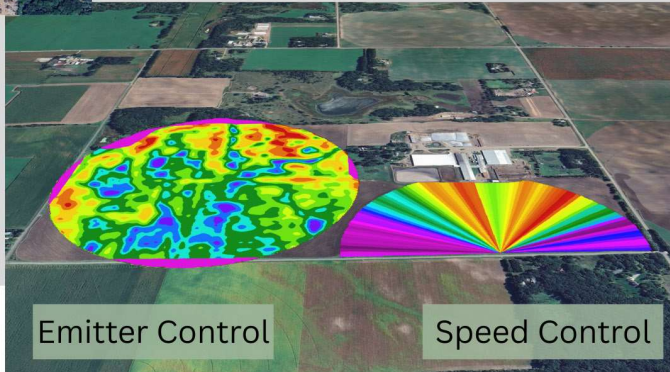


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MDA Reminders for Installers, Operators

Chemigation & Fertigation Permit Requirements

Chemigation permits are issued by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to operators who apply fertilizer (fertigation) and/or pesticide through an irrigation system that is connected to a water source.

To obtain a chemigation permit, the operator must submit a permit application to the MDA, pay the required fee, and meet the permit requirements that include the installation of the required antipollution device(s) (check valves) that are approved.

A list of MDA approved check valves can be found at the MDA's webpage at www.mda.state.mn.us/chemicals/fertilizers/chemigation.aspx. The operator must apply for a permit one time. A new permit is required when the operator of the system changes which occurs due to the sale or lease of the farming operation or business.

In center pivot chemigation systems another name for an antipollution device is a check valve. Two (2) MDA approved check valves in a series must be installed when applying pesticide.

MDA REMINDERS continued on Page 10



Central Minnesota Irrigators

ANNUAL MEETING

Join fellow irrigators for a focused program featuring current data, applied research, and discussions that help inform the year ahead.

Thursday
22 Jan., 2026

Registration
08:30 am

Prairie Event Center
201 W. Main St.
Parkers Prairie, MN

 www.centralmnirrigators.org/events

MORE INFO 



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WE WELCOME YOUR IAM STORIES OR PICTURES

Please share your stories and pictures with Anna Bregier,
IAM Vice President and Membership Secretary at annabregier.pfc@gmail.com

MDA Reminders from Page 9

When applying fertilizer, a single MDA approved main line check valve is required. A check valve must also be installed on the injection pump or line. The fertilizer and/or pesticide must be injected into the irrigation stream after

the main line check valve(s).

Mainline check valves, springs and automatic low pressure drains: We're seeing more and more instances where check valve springs have broken/failed and automatic low pressure drains

plugged. Growers are strongly urged to open the mainline check valve bodies and inspect these items at least annually before the season begins.

MDA REMINDERS continued on Page 11



These photos illustrate a center pivot irrigation used to chemigate fertilizer only. When chemigating fertilizer only, operators are required to have one anti-pollution device.

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Thank you to IAM Vice President Anna Bregier and technical staff at Central Lakes College for creating the Facebook page and upgrading and organizing the IAM website layout.



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MDA Reminders from Page 10

A broken spring or plugged automatic low-pressure drain does not offer the required backflow prevention under Minnesota law.

Apply online at www2.mda.state.mn.us/webapp/erenewal/apply.jsp



This photo illustrates two anti-pollution (backflow prevention) devices used on center-pivot irrigation systems. When chemigating pesticides alone or a combination of fertilizer and pesticide, operators are required to have two anti-pollution devices.



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Contact MDA Chemigation Consultant Kari Mastin with questions at kari.mastin@state.mn.us or 651.272.7501

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Financial assistance available for irrigation technology upgrades

By Jeppe Kjaersgaard, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

To apply for funding contact your local SWCD office and submit a conservation program application. The deadline for applying for financial assistance is February 27, 2026, but contact your SWCD office early to ensure a timely application.

Irrigation technologies available for financial assistance include e.g., soil moisture sensors, irrigation water management, remote data access and remote operation control, upgrades of sprinklers or panels, fertigation retrofits, pump upgrades including upgrades to variable frequency drive pumps, irrigation pipeline, variable rate irrigation technology, and drip tape system upgrades.

Financial assistance is available for technology upgrades to irrigation systems located within the Anoka, Becker, Benton, Cass, Clay, Dakota, Douglas, East Otter Tail, Grant, Hubbard, Isanti, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pope, Sherburne, Stearns, Stevens, Swift, Todd, Wadena, Washington, West Otter Tail, Wilkin and Wright Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) service areas.

You apply for funding by contacting your local SWCD office and submitting a conservation program application. The deadline for applying for financial assistance is February 27, 2026, but con-

tact your SWCD office early to ensure a timely application.

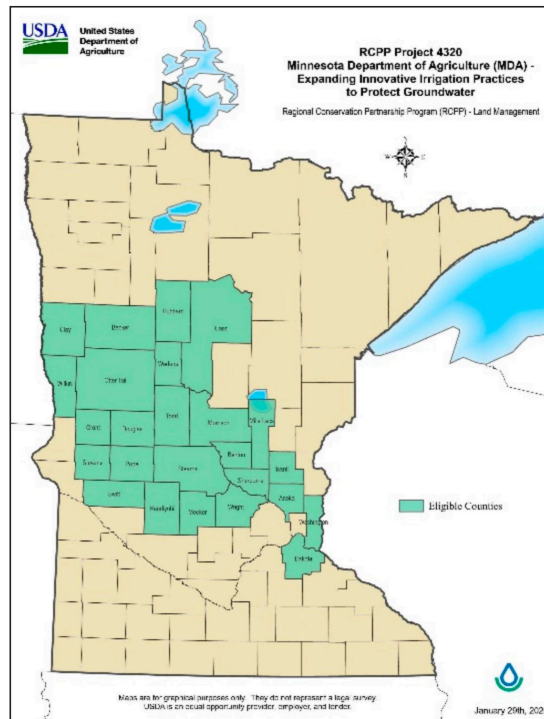
The funding is provided through a renewed agreement with the USDA's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). It builds upon a \$3.5 million award for similar projects in 2021.

This initiative brings together a broad coalition of partners. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture, USDA-NRCS, the SWCDs listed above, the Irrigators Association of Minnesota, Central Lakes College Ag & Energy Center, AgCenter-Minnesota State, University of Minnesota, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, state agencies, irrigator's associations, and irrigation businesses have partnered to offer this program.

Irrigators receiving financial assistance will also receive a discount to participate in the Minnesota State Farm Business Management Program which provides an annual financial analysis of their operation.

The program will also help build irrigation-related technical expertise and information sharing among SWCD, NRCS and irrigation industry staff, and organize field days and irrigation technology demonstration events.

For more information, contact your local SWCD or see the program website at agcentric.org/rcpp-precision-irrigation



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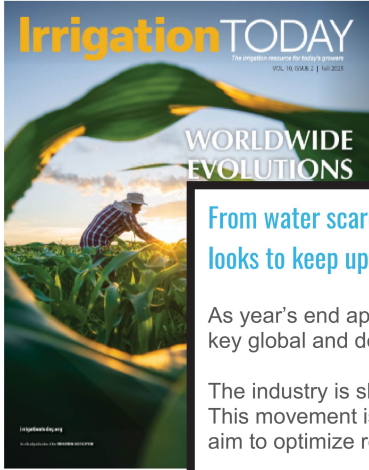
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Irrigation TODAY
The irrigation resource for today's growers
VOL. 16, NUMBER 2 | Fall 2025

WORLDWIDE EVOLUTIONS

COVER STORY

Global Irrigation Outlook: Worldwide Evolutions

From water scarcity and economic challenges to the rise of AI and sustainable practices, ag irrigation looks to keep up with rapid change

As year's end approaches, the irrigation market is undergoing a significant transformation, driven by key global and domestic trends.

The industry is shifting in response to the urgent need for water conservation and sustainable practices. This movement is a key part of the broader adoption of precision agriculture and smart irrigation, which aim to optimize resource use, boost crop yields and promote healthier plants.

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IN THIS ISSUE

Editorial message
Global irrigation challenges demand local solutions through unified performance, smart technology

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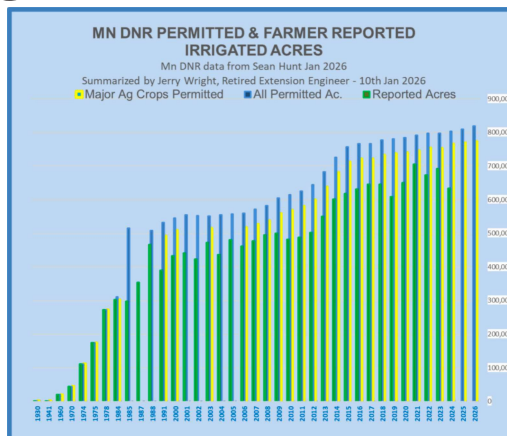
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Annual MN Irrigated Crop Acres Update

by Jerry Wright, Retired Extension Engineer
University of Minnesota 10th Jan 2026

Permitted irrigated agricultural crops in Minnesota continue to grow each year. The blue bar graph gives a historical presentation of permitted irrigated acre growth over several selected years between 1960 and 2026. The green bars show the reported annual irrigated acres, and they have grown at a similar rate each year, some years show a slight variation from the mean depending on the weather temperature and rainfall conditions and irrigation needs.

IRRIGATED ACRES continued on Page 15



**1970 - 1978 data gathered by Extension County Agents & collated by Extension Ag Engineer, Roger

Summary of DNR Permitted & Reported Irrigated Acres per Season						
YEAR	Permitted Sod/Nurs/Fruit - Irrig	Permitted Ag Crops - Irrig	Permitted Wild Rice - Irrig	Total Permits	IRRIGATED	
2026	13,111	772,880	32,193	818,315		
2025	13,699	769,196	26,416	809,311		
2024	13,531	766,035	29,690	809,256	633,479	
2023	14,615	752,611	29,568	796,794	691,545	
2022	14,620	753,136	29,568	797,324	673,379	
2021	15,376	745,822	30,008	790,062	682,324	
2020	14,958	739,692	30,008	784,658	650,870	
2015	14,664	711,559	30,037	756,260	617,473	
2010	14,351	568,114	31,819	614,284	481,269	
2000	8,665	508,186	27,814	544,665	432,888	
1991	6,062	491,761	34,283	532,106	389,970	
1984			301,755	310,432	301,755	
1978			272,119	272,119	272,119	
1975			174,094	174,094	174,094	

The Minnesota Irrigation acreage totals shown in the Table above lists out the actual DNR permitted acres, and then the farmer reported irrigated acreage over the past 7 years plus the previous 5/10-year intervals back to 1975 for Agricultural Crops, along with domestic Wild Rice and the grouping of Sod, Nursery and Fruit.

If you are not interested in receiving future newsletters from Irrigators Association of Minnesota (IAM), please send a note to Anna Bregier, Membership Secretary.

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. Articles for the newsletter are solicited and gathered by Anna Bregier, IAM Vice President and Membership Secretary at annabregier.pfc@gmail.com.

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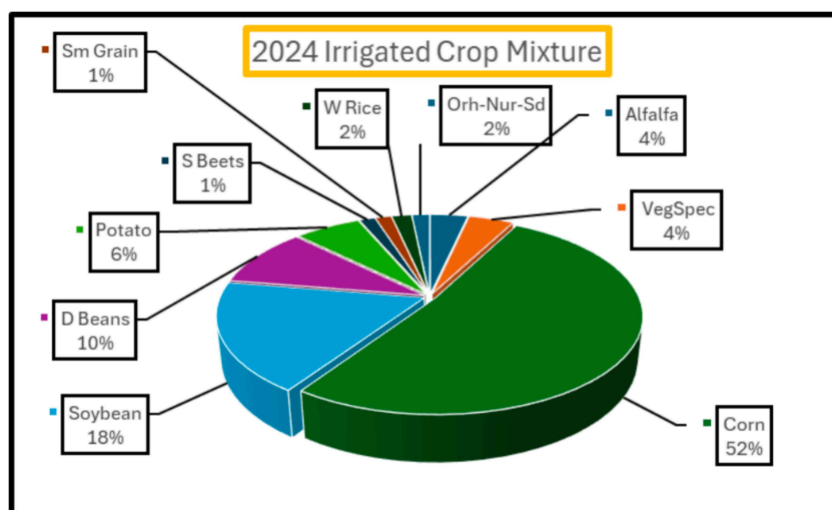
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Irrigated Acres from Page 14

TOP 10 Minnesota Counties - 2024 Reported Irrigated Crop Acres to DNR																
	Data shared by Sean Hunt of DNR Waters- 6th Jan 2026								Table created by Jerry Wright, IAM Membership Secretary- 10th Jan 2026							
COUNTY	Alfalfa	Veg	Sn Bean	Peas	Sw Corn	Corn	Soybean	Dd Beans	Potatoes	Sg Beets	Sm Grain	Orchard	Nursery	Sod	Wild Rice	TOTAL
Otter Tail	4,421	2	121		9	45,700	20,438	14,772	6,797		2,480	2	197	51		94,991
Stearns	3,498	523	55	1,506	2,151	32,847	8,327	3,027	309	2,386	1,570	36		110		56,343
Dakota	881	520	1,734	1,810	3,409	31,750	9,200	419	1,151	48		30	1,846	1,443		54,240
Pope	1,141	412	215	1,663	2,309	28,358	8,047	6,857	1,307	2,626	134					53,069
Swift	272	453	170		215	23,261	6,668	3,590		2,124						36,753
Sherburne	102	254	120		143	18,977	9,133	397	6,946			60	192	234		36,559
Morrison	1,676	5	329	1,731	39	19,221	4,639	4,410	2,453		35		8			34,546
Wadena	934	2		65	6	12,086	6,171	2,643	4,772		1,567		1	80		28,326
Hubbard	2,092	1		14	3	8,730	1,434	7,466	4,647		733	2	144	5		25,271
Todd	1,639		55			11,586	5,365	685	1,132		398					20,859
SubTotal	16,656	2,172	2,799	6,789	8,284	232,515	79,422	44,266	29,513	7,184	6,917	130	2,388	1,923	0	440,958
	Alfalfa	Veg	Sn Bean	Peas	Sw Corn	Corn	Soybean	Dd Beans	Potatoes	Su Beets	Sm Grain	Orchard	Nursery	Sod	Wild Rice	TOTAL
GraTOTAL	22,190	3,958	3,519	8,344	10,928	327,891	114,714	61,801	39,365	9,333	9,516	735	4,004	5,486	11,695	633,479

A full listing of all counties in a PDF file can be downloaded from the Irrigators Association of Minnesota (IAM) webpage at mnirrigators.org



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Membership can be renewed on IAM website

If you have not visited the NEW IAM website (www.mnirrigators.org) and Facebook page recently it's time you do so! At IAM, our mission is to "support new science-based research on irrigation management and provide advocacy at the state and local level for the right of farmers to irrigate." This website highlights our work, provide updates and events also via our Facebook page.

The website also allows you to join/renew your membership online with credit card as well as make other donations to IAM projects.

ects.

"The impact of irrigation on Minnesota's economy not just to the farmer, but also the rural communities where irrigation takes place in Minnesota is significant. IAM wants to spread the message that farmers who irrigate are working hard to be good stewards of our natural resources."

-Alan Peterson, Former IAM President

There is also a place for farmers to find irrigation resources from research farms across the state and access the latest copy of IAM's Minnesota Irrigator newsletter.

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