AGRICULTURE WATER MANAGEMENT
STATEWIDE IMPACT REPORT

Meeting the Challenge
- With one of the largest aquifers in the world and more irrigated acres than any state in the United States, Nebraska is well positioned to be a leading agricultural producer in the region. However, water shortages do exist across the state, showing the need for improved management of water resources statewide.
- In 2014, Nebraska Extension programming in the area of Irrigation Water Management reached over 4,500 producers and consultants and over 1,550 youth.

Extension’s Impact
- Nebraska Ag Water Management Network: Cooperative project grew to 1,200 participants statewide covering 1.7 million acres. Received the USDA NIFA Innovative Programs and Partners Award for its groundbreaking water management work.
- App Development: Released three new apps for smart phones and tablets in 2014. To date, there have been over 1,800 downloads for the four water related apps the team has developed.
- West Central Crops and Water Field Days: When surveyed, 62% of past participants indicated they reduced the amount of irrigation water they applied as a result of attending.
- Water Resource Education: Provided tools and training on irrigation and water quality to sixty eight agricultural education teachers. 82% of participants planned to use, expand, or had already used the equipment in their curriculum.
- Soybean Management Field Days: 46% of attendees were likely or very likely to improve their water use efficiency after learning about replicated research plots at four locations across the state.

Public Value
- Since 2005, the Nebraska Ag Water Management Network is estimated to have reduced pumping by 1 million acre feet of water, helping to preserve Nebraska’s ground and surface water for future generations.
- Nebraska’s use of irrigation improves the state economy, with estimates that every inch of water applied per acre, generates roughly $100 of economic benefit to the state.