

**Water Quantity Enhancement Activity – WQT04 – Regional weather networks for irrigation scheduling**



**Enhancement Description**

Crop evapotranspiration (crop ET) information from a regional weather network is utilized as a part of the irrigation water management plan for irrigation scheduling. Water use is planned and adjustments in application rates and timing are made using the regional weather network data.

**Land Use Applicability**

Cropland and pastureland.

**Benefits**

The use of data from regional weather networks can improve a farmer’s estimate of evapotranspiration from irrigated crops. This information combined with local rainfall data and monitoring of soil moisture can significantly improve the accuracy of irrigation timing and application rates. Benefits include reduced aquifer depletion, and reduced runoff and deep percolation, both of which reduce movement of agrichemicals from farm fields to aquifers, lakes, and streams.

**Criteria**

This enhancement requires:

1. A subscription to a regional weather network that supplies crop ET values for irrigation scheduling.
2. The crop ET information from the network must be used as part of the irrigation water management plan to match water application rates and timing to the needs of the crops and soils.

**Documentation Requirements**

1. Documentation of subscription to a regional weather network.
2. An irrigation water management plan showing the use of the crop ET data from a weather network in irrigation scheduling.

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Written documentation shall include a summary of the prior years irrigation scheduling program and improvements that will be implemented for the next growing season.