

# Kentucky Irrigation and Drought Resources

As irrigation and other water-resources issues develop within Kentucky's diverse agricultural community, producers across Kentucky are facing critical, and potentially costly, decisions and might not know where to turn for assistance. Given this, the Kentucky Farm Bureau's Water Management Working Group (WMWG) and the Kentucky Agriculture Science and Monitoring Committee (KASMC) have compiled a quick-reference listing of contacts and information. In general, once you've decided that an irrigation system is the right decision (contacts to help you with this are also included herein), the first point of contact will be the Kentucky Division of Water; that contact will be followed up with technical guidance provided by subject-matter experts based on your specific needs. Please feel free to contact any of the subject-matter experts listed; however, the Kentucky Division of Water has been tasked with getting you off on the right foot.

## What do I need or want to do?

***I want to utilize surface-water for irrigation or I am unsure of what my water resource should be:***

**Contact: Bill Caldwell**  
Environmental Scientist  
Watershed Management Branch  
Kentucky Division of Water  
502-564-3410  
bill.caldwell@ky.gov

***I want to utilize groundwater for irrigation:***

**Contact: David Jackson or Scotty Robertson**  
Groundwater Section  
Kentucky Division of Water  
502-564-3410  
david.a.jackson@ky.gov  
scotty.robertson@ky.gov



## *I would like additional guidance from a technical expert; who do I contact?*

### General agronomy

(Should I invest in irrigation? If so, when and how do I irrigate?)

<p><b>Dr. Chad Lee</b> University of Kentucky 323 Plant Science Drive Lexington, KY 40546 859-257-3203 cdlee2@uky.edu <a href="http://www.kygrains.info/contact-us.html">http://www.kygrains.info/contact-us.html</a></p>		<p><b>Dr. Carrie Knott</b> University of Kentucky P.O. Box 469 Princeton, KY 42445 270-365-7541 ext. 248 carrie.knott@uky.edu <a href="http://www.kygrains.info/contact-us.html">http://www.kygrains.info/contact-us.html</a></p>	
<p>Additional resources are also available through your local extension office. Go to: <a href="http://extension.ca.uky.edu/">http://extension.ca.uky.edu/</a> to find the office near you.</p>			

### Groundwater

(I'd like some additional information on groundwater in my region. Are there other irrigation wells near me? What are the characteristics of any existing wells? How can I locate a Kentucky-licensed driller?)

<p><b>Bart Davidson</b> Geologist, Water Resources Section Kentucky Geological Survey University of Kentucky 504 Rose Street Lexington, KY 40506-0107 859-323-0524 bdavidson@uky.edu <a href="http://www.uky.edu/kgs">www.uky.edu/kgs</a></p>	
---	---

### Surface water

(My fields are adjacent to a stream; what kind of flow can I expect and will this vary by season?)

<p><b>A. Thomas (Tom) Ruby III</b> Supervisory Hydrologist/Surface Water Specialist U.S. Geological Survey Indiana-Kentucky Water Science Center 9818 Bluegrass Parkway Louisville, KY 40299 502-493-1933 aruby@usgs.gov <a href="http://ky.water.usgs.gov">http://ky.water.usgs.gov</a></p>	
--	---

## Farm Water Quality and Quantity Resource Concerns

(How can I improve irrigation water use efficiency? How can I improve irrigation water quality? How can I improve quantity of irrigation sources such as ponds?)

For more information, contact your local **USDA Service Center**,  
<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/>



or your local **conservation district** office,  
<http://conservation.ky.gov/pages/conservationdistricts.aspx>.

## US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) lakes

(I have questions related to USACE lakes. I have additional questions regarding, or need help with, permits.)

### Cumberland River Watershed

Tammy Turley  
USACE Nashville District  
615-369-7515  
Tammy.R.Turley@usace.army.mil



### All other Kentucky watersheds

David Baldrige  
USACE Louisville District  
502-315-6675  
David.E.Baldrige@usace.army.mil



Note: in watersheds draining directly to the **Mississippi River**, you may also call the USACE Memphis District directly at 901-544-0738 to get assistance.

## Municipal and public water supplies

(I have questions about specific water-quality needs for my farm or operation. Can I connect to a local public water-supply and purchase water?)

### Bill Caldwell

Environmental Scientist  
Watershed Management Branch  
Kentucky Division of Water  
502-564-3410  
bill.caldwell@ky.gov



*I would like to find additional information and data related to drought, climate, and water resources in Kentucky; where are some places I can look?*

**U.S. Geological Survey (USGS):**

<http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/>

**Kentucky Geological Survey (KGS):**

<http://www.uky.edu/KGS/>

**Western Kentucky University Mesonet:**

<http://www.kymesonet.org/>

**National Weather Service Drought Page:**

<http://www.weather.gov/lmk/drought>

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):**

<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/scan/>

**University of Kentucky Ag Weather Center:**

<http://www.agwx.ca.uky.edu/>

**National Integrated Drought Information System:**

<https://www.drought.gov/drought/>

**U.S. Drought Monitor:**

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

**Illinois State Water Survey, University of Illinois, Midwest Regional Climate Center:**

<http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/>

