Colorado Water-Related Extension Programs

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Extension Water Program - Areas of focus

- Water (irrigation)
  - Systems
  - Management
  - Limited Water Cropping systems
  - Rural Drinking water protection

- Nutrient management
  - Preventing water quality impairment while maximizing yield
  - Manure management
Methods of Delivery

- Applied research & field demonstration
  - Field days
  - Workshops
- Publications
- Direct communication
- Training farmer service providers
  - Public – USDA-NRCS, Extension agents
  - Private – consultants, fertilizer and pesticide dealers, etc
- Electronic media – web pages, newsletters, email, video
Colorado Extension Water Team

- Four off-campus water specialists
- Five campus specialists
- Other supporting faculty and staff
Field Research/Outreach Projects
On-Farm, Applied Research and Demonstration

Alternatives to removing water from agriculture

- Limited Irrigation
  - Irrigation < full ET
  - Controlled timing

- Alternate Cropping systems
  - Reduced tillage
  - Alternative crops
  - Hybrid stress tolerance
  - Nutrient management

- Rotational Fallowing
- Partial season irrigation
Irrigation Management – Improved Scheduling Tools

- Weather station network for crop ET
- Demonstration of simple to complex tools
  - Soil moisture by feel
  - Soil moisture sensors
Previously Irrigated Cropland
Stabilization and Reclamation

Objective:

- Establish recommendations
- Demonstrate to landowners cover crop benefits:
  - Improve soil properties
  - Manage residual nutrients
  - Reduce weed pressure
  - Provide plant residue to decrease soil erosion
Irrigation Water Quality and Salinity Management
Drinking water protection for rural residents
Field Demonstration with Partners
Water Quality Demonstration – sediment
Training farmer service providers
Training farmer service providers
Water Extension Programs

- Conducts applied research and demonstration to convince farmers to change practices
- Collaboration with other agencies and partners is key

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