

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.

ALABAMA SUPPLEMENT TO ENHANCEMENT WQT04 REGIONAL WEATHER NETWORKS FOR IRRIGATION SCHEDULING

Crop evapotranspiration information from a regional weather network can be utilized as part of an irrigation water management plan to increase the efficiency of the water being used. This enhancement is applicable to irrigated crop land or irrigated pastureland. This enhancement requires a subscription to a regional weather network that supplies crop evapotranspiration data and this data is used as a part of the irrigation water management plan. Refer to the national enhancement for more information.

Documentation Requirements:

1. Documentation of subscription to regional weather network that supplies crop evapotranspiration data.
2. An irrigation water management plan showing the use of the crop evapotranspiration data in irrigation scheduling.

Regional weather networks that supplies crop evapotranspiration data in Alabama:

Alabama MesoNet

<http://wx.aamu.edu/ALMNet.php>

AWIS Weather Services, INC

<http://www.awis.com/index.html>

ALABAMA SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR THIS ENHANCEMENT

WQT04 - Regional Weather Networks for Irrigation Scheduling

Documentation Form

Producer Name:		Date:			
Tract Number(s):		County:			
Field Number(s):					

NOTES:

1. Attach documentation of subscription to a regional weather network.
2. Attach copy of irrigation water management plan showing use of crop ET data from weather network.

The supplied documentation accurately reflects the implementation of this enhancement.

SIGNATURE:
