

MARCH 21, 2018: Agronomics

Session I is devoted to the agronomics of efficient water management. Topics will include NRCS funding availability, soil health, conservation tillage, residue management and fertility management.

MARCH 28, 2018: Irrigation Scheduling

Session II explains the application of irrigation scheduling tools. Participants will explore the costs and potential returns to irrigation scheduling and whether or not to apply pre-water. Presenters will discuss the variety of tools available for measuring soil moisture. Participants will learn about the many aspects of using capacitance probes, from installation to reading the data, and what to do with the information. Finally, there will be a discussion about bringing all the data together to make irrigation scheduling easier to use in your operation.

APRIL 4, 2018: Systems

Session III focuses on optimizing the most widely used irrigation system in the region, the center pivot system. Topics will include the economics of the center pivot and other systems, application efficiency, variable rate irrigation and pivot management, and monitoring and control, including remote pivot shut-off.

APRIL 11, 2018: Systems & Special Topics

The final session includes discussions of various topics related to irrigation management, including the 2018 profitability outlook for irrigated crops, the use of drones, other remote sensing techniques, variable frequency drives, and sub-surface drip irrigation.



For information or questions related to the registration process, please call 806-935-6401 or email kwelch@northplainsgcd.org. For additional information, go to http://northplainsgcd.org/masterirrigator

Of the 2016-17 graduates responding to a survey, 100% said they planned to implement the information they learned in the course.

"My primary role in our operation is risk management. In every session, I was able to identify key practices that will benefit our return on investment." - Master Irrigator Graduate 2017

"Great class on irrigation practices with leading edge technology presented by top people in their field." - Tommy Cartrite, Master Irrigator Graduate 2017

Industry Sponsors







The Master IRRIGATOR

How can I save groundwater while maintaining profitability? (Answer inside.)



Educational programs of the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin.



United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Master Irrigator Registration Form

Detach this flap, filled out, along with \$100, and return to: North Plains Groundwater Conservation District Attention: Master Irrigator PO Box 795, Dumas, TX 79029 OR, register online at

http://northplainsgcd.org/masterirrigator.

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Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please specify information about your operation.

Location (county): _____

Occupation:

____Producer ____Other:_____

Crops produced, in acres.

| Acres of Corn | Acres of Wheat |
|---------------|----------------|
| | |

_____Acres of Sorghum _____Acres of Cotton

____Acres of Other:_____

\$100 registration fee can be paid by:

| Check (Payable North Plains Groundwater Conservation District) |
|--|
|--|

| Mastercard | Visa | Discover |
|------------|------|----------|
|------------|------|----------|

Card Number: _____

Expriation Date:_____

Registration will be accepted for up to 25 qualified participants, or until

March 9, 2018.



What is Master Irrigator Training?

Master Irrigator training is an irrigation management curriculum made up of 24 hours of intensive irrigation education conducted over four one-day sessions, all on consecutive Wednesdays. The program is focused on increasing proficiency with the latest irrigation management tools, technologies and practices, as well as, understanding of how and why they work. Armed with this knowledge, you will be able to select tools and strategies that fit your operation that can be implemented to maximize your return on investment for every drop of water you use.

When:

| Session I: | Wednesday, March 21, 2018 |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| Session II: | Wednesday, March 28, 2018 |
| Session III: | Wednesday, April 4, 2018 |
| Session IV: | Wednesday, April 11, 2018 |

Where: North Plains Water Conservation Center 6045 County Road E Dumas, TX 79029

Why Should I Be Interested?

"We cannot stop doing better or we lose everything." – Master Irrigator Graduate 2016

A panel of producers, industry representatives and university specialists developed the curriculum by identifying irrigation tools and practices that would assist producers in cost effectively saving water. The curriculum covers a wide range of irrigation equipment and management strategies. Some of the topics addressed include:

• Planting drought-resistant hybrids at appropriate seeding rates;

• Monitoring field conditions using rain gauges, flow meters and soil-moisture probes;

• Managing irrigation with planting date, eliminating or reducing pre-irrigation, controlling the pivot, switching to a variant of lowenergy precision application irrigation or other high-efficiency delivery system, and using telemetry and irrigation scheduling tools;

• Managing crop residue by using conservation tillage practices; and

• Adjusting nutrient application to address reduced irrigation. In addition, each session will include the economic implications of the strategies being presented.

Several founding principles make the Master Irrigator program effective. First, all the tools, strategies and practices are accessible

and available to producers to use in their operations immediately. The solutions presented here are practical, not theoretical, and they are designed to help you start using less water while remaining economically viable, today. Second, combinations of teaching techniques are utilized to maximize the learning

Experiences include lectures, problem solving and in-field, handson application. In addition, each session will include a panel of producers using the technology/strategy to discuss pros and cons they have observed.

The program is taught by the best instructors available. Speakers are selected on the basis of their expertise and communication skills, regardless of university or industry affiliation. And finally, spreading the program out over a four-week period allows participants time to reflect on what they've learned, to ask followup questions, and for relationship building and networking.

Master Irrigator Graduates Have Access to a Special EQIP Fund Pool

Through an agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, those participants who complete the program and are awarded the Master Irrigator Certification will qualify for a special EQIP cost-share fund on approved conservation practices. Perfect attendance is required to qualify for EQIP funding and to graduate from the course.

In-season technical support will be available to each cost-share recipient to ensure strategies are being opimally implemented. Participants will be required to work with NPGCD personnel in documenting the effectiveness of the practices employed.

How Is Master Irrigator Funded?

Registration fees pay only a small portion of program costs. The Master Irrigator program is financially supported by the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District in cooperation with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and industry sponsorships.

Who Can Participate?

Any irrigator can apply. However, registration will be **limited to 25 participants, or until March 9, 2018.** In the case that more than 25 applications are received by the registration deadline, successful applicants will be determined by the date of application and location of the operation.