IRRIGATION TRAINING PROGRAM
Goal

To equip irrigation managers and technical support personnel with information and resources to support improved irrigation management and water conservation.

Objectives

Provide participants with core knowledge base, including irrigation fundamentals, irrigation technologies, and best management practices.

Compile currently available and new educational materials into a convenient resource package.

Develop a series of educational events to deliver the information to the target audiences to improve their knowledge base.
Target Audiences

Agricultural producers, especially progressive producers

Certified crop advisers and technical service providers

Extension educators (county faculty)
Funding and In-Kind Support

United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service Ogallala Aquifer Initiative; Texas Water Development Board; Texas AgriLife Extension Service; Texas Water Resources Institute; Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service; Texas AgriLife Research; Texas A&M University Departments of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Soil and Crop Sciences and Agricultural Economics; Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board; United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service; irrigation industry and commodity representatives.
Core Knowledge

Irrigation scheduling
  Soil moisture management & monitoring
  Evapotranspiration

Economics
  Irrigation economics (Steve Amosson)
  Efficiency (water, energy)

Irrigation technologies and BMPs
  Surface irrigation
  Center pivot irrigation
  Microirrigation
Core Knowledge

Conservation BMPs (including conservation tillage, etc.)

Water quality issues in irrigation
  Salinity management
  Water quality protection

Crop-specific irrigation management
  Corn, cotton, sorghum, hay & forages, peanut, wheat, soybean, ...

Irrigation information resources and tools

Updates
  Technologies and tools
  Water issues
  Research
Project Development and Program Delivery

Irrigation training curriculum and resource manual

Modular design for regional program adaptability

Materials include “off the shelf” and newly developed items

Multi-state USDA-ARS Ogallala Aquifer Program collaboration
Project Development and Program Delivery

Training events

✓ Lubbock – Feb. 1, 2008  (Dana Porter and Mark Brown)
Vernon – Aug. 19, 2008  (John Sij and Dana Porter)
Amarillo – Jan. 14, 2009  (Nich Kenny, Leon Church, Leon New)
Weslaco – TBD  (Juan Enciso and Guy Fipps)
Uvalde – TBD  (Guy Fipps and Charles Swanson)
Wharton – TBD  (Guy Fipps and Danny Fromme)
Comments

Feedback from the Lubbock event was very positive.

Response to the training materials has been very encouraging.

Input and collaboration from AgriLife Extension and Research faculty, Kansas State University faculty, and representatives from other agencies, organizations and industry are very much appreciated.