



Managing Risks Associated With Irrigation of Row Crops in the Coastal Plain of Virginia

Irrigation is a vital practice for the health of southern row crops, yet many farmers native to the south find themselves conflicted about the method during the dog days of summer. While irrigation can ease the stress of limited rainfall during the growing season, it can also present financial, regulatory, and production risks if not successfully managed.

In 2017, Virginia Tech University organized a project to educate farmers of Coastal Virginia on the correct approach to irrigation. The project aimed to inform farmers on the methods for efficient irrigation management, regulatory requirements surrounding irrigation, and estimating the costs and benefits of

supplemental irrigation.

This information was delivered to 39 participants during a two-day workshop at the Virginia Tech Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center (AREC). The development of tools and extension factsheets were used to supplement participant learning.

As a result of this project, farmers in the coastal region of Virginia learned to use irrigation to their advantage effectively. These farmers now understand the benefits of irrigation for their operations, including rough costs for installation and service of irrigation systems. Also, farmers are now educated on the permitting and reporting requirements for withdrawing water for irrigation, allowing them to manage water application to optimize growing conditions. Additional educational materials are available online for the benefit of farmers in the future.

The Southern Extension Risk Manage Education Center ([SRMEC](#)) seeks to empower the strengths and skills of farmers and ranchers across the Southern region to more effectively manage risks of operating in the diverse agricultural sector. To learn more about this SRMEC funded project visit this link: [Educating Coastal Virginia Farmers on Irrigation Practices](#)



"Information was good – glad it will be available online to refer to at a later date."

-Virginia Row Crop Farmer



Empowering Producers to Manage Risks



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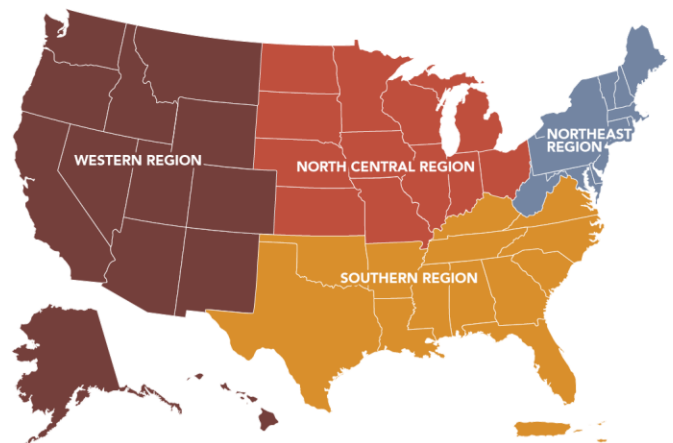
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“Educating America’s farmers and ranchers to manage the unique risks of producing food for the world’s table.”

Extension Risk Management Education (ERME) is delivered through four regional centers that provide grant funding and leadership within their regions.

Projects are producer-focused, results-based and encourage public-private partnerships. Funded projects must identify targeted results that will help producers manage risk and then describe how the project will measure those results.

Extension Risk Management Education has funded innovative programs that have generated tangible results for producers in every state. ERME is committed to funding results, providing transparent accountability, and encouraging collaboration. View the accomplishments of all funded projects on our website.
<http://ExtensionRME.org>



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