



THE WATERLINE

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NRCS QUICK RESPONSE AREA PROGRAM (QRA)



This program was designed to enhance the regular EQIP program for temporary retirement of water rights and irrigated land in targeted areas of the District. However, it appears questionable at this time as to whether or not the program will have funding for 2009. This is dependant on the status and the detail of the Farm Bill. The target areas for 2009 in GMD#1, are 2 mile radii around public water supply sources. This program had very good participation in 2006 and 2007 and is based on criteria to maximize actual retirement of water and reduction in consumptive use. Please note that the administrative agency in charge of the QRA program is the NRCS. Questions related to the program and funding timelines should be directed to your local NRCS office, if and when the program is announced.

DISMISSED WATER RIGHTS

First of all, we would like to introduce our summer intern Matt Masters to the District (pictured at right). Matt hails from Wisconsin and is a recent graduate from University of Wisconsin. He comes from an agriculture background and is not new to our area, as he has worked with irrigated agriculture in the area in recent years. We welcome Matt and look forward to his contribution and expertise to the District this summer. As part of the GMD's summer intern program, we will be making well site visits to collect information on location and condition of wells associated with Dismissed and Abandoned Water Rights within the District. This is being done to update our information as well as to get a clearer handle on wells that may need to be plugged for safety and/or concerns of potential direct contamination to the aquifer. This information will be used to help us explore possible assistance programs for well plugging.



2008 MONITORING WELL INFORMATION

The January, 2008 water level measurements for Kansas have been completed and summarized and the results vary greatly this year. In western Kansas, where water is pumped primarily from the Ogallala Aquifer, declines were greatest in the southwest where levels dropped an average of 1.65 feet between 2007 and 2008. During the same time period, water levels in west-central Kansas (GMD#1) dropped an average of 1.1 feet. In the northwest corner of the state from Cheyenne to Graham counties, they dropped 0.91 feet. The year before (2006-2007) average declines were 2.45 feet in the southwest, 0.73 feet in west-central and 0.27 in the northwest. It is important to note that many of the 2007 measurements for GMD#1 were actually taken in late March due to snow and ice. This allowed the water table to recover somewhat more than usual in those wells, therefore making the 2008 levels look a bit more severe. In south-central Kansas, water levels in the Great Bend Prairie Aquifer rose 3.1 feet. In the Equus Beds Aquifer north of Wichita, water levels rose 2.04 feet. In comparison, between (2006-2007) levels dropped 1.19 feet and 2.39 feet respectively. The great variability is due mainly by precipitation differences. Precipitation in south-central Kansas was 150-200 percent above normal in 2007, while most of western Kansas areas had moderate drought to abnormally dry conditions.



WESTERN KS GMD1

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