

Irrigating Alfalfa: When & Where It Might Pay

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Irrigation in the Corn Belt is sparse due to high precipitation levels. However, recent and predicted precipitation variability is causing some to consider whether irrigation might be a good investment in some areas. Useful to Usable, a large federally-funded project, has developed an irrigation investment tool for corn and soybean. This tool will be utilized to estimate what alfalfa irrigation investments might look like.



Dr. Yost is a native of southern Idaho where he was raised on a dairy farm. After completing his Ph.D., he spent 4 years doing postdoctoral research in the U.S. Midwest. He has authored numerous journal and extension articles on research dealing with nitrogen management, precision agriculture, soil conservation, and bioenergy crops. His research interests include developing land management practices that promote resiliency to weather variation and changing climate. Such practices include precision management and conservation of water and other agricultural inputs, improving soil health, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and using climate scenarios and projections as decision aids for managing climate risk. Matt earned a B.S. in Agribusiness, Science, and Technology from Brigham Young University-Idaho and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Applied Plant Sciences from the University of Minnesota.