



Press releases for Upper Big Blue NRD CROP-TIP from 2004-2007

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UPPER BIG BLUE

Natural Resources District

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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE USE

CROP-TIP Field Day, September 9, 2004

Cornerstone Bank and the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District sponsored the First Annual CROP-TIP Field Day on September 9, 2004. CROP-TIP, which is an acronym for “Cornerstone Resources Observation Plot-Test Irrigation Project” is a 24-acre site along Highway 81, just north of the Moses Ford Motor Company in York.

In January 2004, Cornerstone Bank and the Upper Big Blue NRD signed a triennial agreement and entered into a collaborative partnership sharing the 24-acre site that Cornerstone manages to be designated as an agricultural test and education project.

Over 70 producers, farmers and Cornerstone Bank customers attended the event that featured Gary Zoubek, York County Cooperative Extension agent, Paul Jasa, UNL Extension Engineer, Suat Irmak, UNL Agricultural Water Management Specialist, and Dan Leininger, Water Conservationist at the Upper Big Blue NRD.

Leininger explained how the CROP-TIP educational site was created and then emphasized how the NRD utilized a limited irrigation program and reduced nitrogen application based on soil testing. In particular, Leininger and Zoubek introduced a University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension—Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources formula that takes into consideration a projected yield in correlation to organic matter and residual nitrogen credits to arrive at a nitrogen application recommendation.

CROP-TIP has a yield goal of 185 bushel per acre on irrigated corn. The percent Organic Matter determined from the surface soil sample that was taken this spring was 2.9% with the average nitrate level at 8.5 parts per million (ppm). The previous crop at the site over the last five years was alfalfa. A nitrate-nitrogen credit for an alfalfa field over 5 years old is 90 lbs/acre according to the University. Based on this formula, it was determined that only 25 pounds of nitrogen per acre was required.

“One of the results we hope to show from CROP-TIP, explained Leininger, “is that it pays to soil test and to make use of the carry-over nitrate-nitrogen that is already present in the soil. This results in cutting

farm operation expenses by applying less fertilizer and prevents leaching of excess nitrates into the groundwater.”

Irmak demonstrated how an ET gauge can be used to mimic evapo-transpiration rates which provides useful information for supplementing irrigation scheduling. “The estimation of crop evapo-transpiration (ET) is one of the critical components of irrigation scheduling and water management,” explained Irmak, “Crop ET can be estimated from the combination of several climate variables such as solar radiation, air temperature, wind speed, and relative humidity by using energy balance equations and proper crop coefficients.”

Jasa illustrated how various planter attachments can ensure that seeds are planted at consistent depths, which results in uniform emergence of corn plants that is the key to realizing top-end yields. Jasa also performed a demonstration of water infiltration rates of no-till versus conventional till soil. Applying equal amounts of water, the no-till soil had even distribution and complete saturation throughout the soil profile, while the conventional till soil showed limited saturation and ‘ponding’ of water on the surface. Jasa attributes the increased saturation of the no-till soil to improved soil structure.

“The CROP-TIP site has been greeted with much interest and enthusiasm and we are anxious to see the yield results based on our limited fertilizer application and irrigation scheduling, states Leininger, “The use of this special test site will help to demonstrate that calculated use of irrigation water and nitrogen application can help to save producers and farmers money yet still produce similar yields. We want to keep this project simple and straight-forward with relevant data and information that farmers can use as a management tool in their farming operations.”

“Cornerstone Bank has been extremely progressive and generous in their commitment to provide this outstanding opportunity for the district and its constituents,” says Rod DeBuhr, Upper Big Blue NRD Water Department Manager. “Cornerstone has afforded the NRD with the opportunity to develop and demonstrate water conservation practices with groups such as producers/farmers, FFA students and 4-H members.”

If you would like to schedule a tour for you or your group/organization of the “CROP—TIP” operation, please call Dan Leininger, Upper Big Blue NRD Water Conservationist at (402)-362-6601.



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NEWS RELEASE
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“2nd Annual CROP-TIP Field Day” scheduled for September 8, 2005

Cornerstone Bank and the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District will be sponsoring the “2nd Annual CROP-TIP Field Day” on September 8, 2005 at 6:30 P.M. The public is invited to this informational, fun-filled evening. The CROP-TIP site is located south of York, Nebraska, adjacent to the north side of the Moses Ford Dealership along Highway 81.

The “Cornerstone Resources Observation Plot—Test Irrigation Project (CROP-TIP) was an idea formulated in January 2004 by Cornerstone Bank and the Upper Big Blue NRD. Similar to an outdoor classroom, the water conservation project is used as a research plot for producers and youth throughout the area. We will share the data from last year, as well as provide an update of what has happened with the field this year.

Four speakers are featured and will cover the following topics:

Paul Jasa, UNL Extension Engineer, **“Benefits of No-Tillage”**.

Derrel Martin, UNL Extension Engineer, **“Irrigation in Limited Water Situations”**.

Rod DeBuhr, Upper Big Blue NRD Water Department Manager, **“Nitrogen Management with Soil Testing”**.

Dan Leininger, Upper Big Blue NRD Water Conservationist, **“Evapo-transpiration & Atmometer Program”**.

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If you would like information on any of the services that the Upper Big Blue NRD provides, or have any questions/comments, please feel free to contact:

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NEWS RELEASE
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“3rd Annual CROP-TIP Field Day” scheduled for September 7, 2006

Cornerstone Bank and the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District will be sponsoring the “3rd Annual CROP-TIP Field Day” on September 7, 2006 at 6:30 P.M. The public is invited to this informational, fun-filled evening. The CROP-TIP site is located south of York, Nebraska, adjacent to the north side of the Moses Ford Dealership along Highway 81.

The “Cornerstone Resources Observation Plot—Test Irrigation Project (CROP-TIP) was an idea formulated in January 2004 by Cornerstone Bank and the Upper Big Blue NRD. Similar to an outdoor classroom, the water conservation project is used as a research plot for producers and youth throughout the area. We will share the data from last year, as well as provide an update of what has happened with the field this year.

Three speakers are featured and will cover the following topics:

Suat Irmak, UNL Agricultural Water Management Specialist: **“Drip Irrigation”**.

Rod DeBuhr, Upper Big Blue NRD Water Department Manager: **“Ground Water Management Area Regulations and Water Meter Cost-Share Program”**.

Dan Leininger, Upper Big Blue NRD Water Conservationist: **“CROP-TIP Results”**.

There will be plenty of fun and Door Prizes...everyone is invited!

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 20, 2007

“4th Annual CROP-TIP Field Day” scheduled for December 5, 2007

Cornerstone Bank and the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District will be sponsoring the “4th Annual CROP-TIP Field Day” on December 5, 2007 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Cornerstone Event Center - York County Fairgrounds. The public is invited to this informational, fun-filled event.

The “Cornerstone Resources Observation Plot—Test Irrigation Project (CROP-TIP) was an idea formulated in January 2004 by Cornerstone Bank and the Upper Big Blue NRD. Similar to an outdoor classroom, the water conservation project is used as a research plot for producers and youth throughout the area. We will share the data and new irrigation systems implemented at CROP-TIP this year. **We are expecting a large crowd for this event and a RSVP is required by November 30th by calling the NRD.**

Six speakers are featured and will cover the following topics:

Paul Jasa, UNL: “**No-Till in Corn-on-Corn**”.

Richard Ferguson, UNL: “**Nutrition Management**”.

Ron Rose, NPPD: “**Power Efficiency in Irrigation**”.

Frank Kwapnioski, NPPD: “**Dynamics of Surface & Groundwater in Nebraska**”.

Rod DeBuhr, Upper Big Blue NRD: “**Ground Water Management Areas #1 and #2 for Quantity and Quality**”.

Dan Leininger, Upper Big Blue NRD: “**Sub-Surface Drip Tape Experiment at CROP-TIP and 2007 Harvest Results**”.

NOTE: Attendance at this field day will fulfill the requirements for Zones 5 & 6 water quality management training.

There will be a Free Meal and plenty of Door Prizes along with several ag vendor booths ...everyone is invited, but you must RSVP your spot by November 30 by calling Linda Martindale, Upper Big Blue NRD at (402) 362-6601. Call now as space is limited! Sponsors include Cornerstone Bank (York, NE), Diversity D (Brownfield, TX), Eco-Drip (Hastings, NE), and NETAFIM (Salina, KS).

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