August 9, 2011 Irrigation Management Podcast

Hello, this is Gary Zoubek, UNL Extension Educator from York, Nebraska. Today is Tuesday August 9. The crops in eastern Nebraska have continued to make good progress this week and we've received about as much precipitation as we had crop ET or water use. Soybeans are in R3-R4 stages while the corn silks are turning brown and were in the milk stage or beyond in most fields.

This past week the ETgage at the Agricultural Research Development Center near Mead dropped 1.40 inches, the same as the week before. High temperatures for the week varied from 83° F to 94° F and averaged 89° F. The humidity was the same as last week ranging from 74% to 92% averaging at 81%.

With the corn crop now at V16 and beyond and soybeans at R3 or beyond, the crop coefficient is 1.1 for both crops. We multiply the crop coefficient of 1.1 by 1.40, the drop of the ETgage, to get our crop water use or ET of 1.55 inches for the week. This represents an average of 0.22 inch per day.

In York the average temperatures were cooler, but we had more humidity. Our ETgage dropped a little over one inch at 1.05 inches for the week. That's an ET of 1.15 inches for the week or 0.17 inch per day.

We irrigated the field at the ARDC near Mead which is a fine sandy loam and we received 2.2 inches of rainfall this past week, so we're in good shape at this time.

In the York area we received a little over an inch of rain. The York County Corn Grower plot was irrigated and with the rain on Saturday, the Watermark sensors are reading 5, 3, 85 and 18 at the one, two, three and four foot depths. That's a depletion of 0.75 inch. As we had indicated last week, we always want to leave some room in the profile for rainfall which we did receive this past week. Hopefully that will continue this week.

The Watermark sensors in the other fields I'm monitoring have similar depletions so we'll wait until the end of the week before we consider any irrigation applications.

For more information about these and other irrigation management tools, go to our CropWatch or Nebraska Ag Water Management Network webpages.

Next week I'll try and share some information about estimating crop water use needs for the rest of the season for crops in various stages of development. Until next week, thanks for listening; this has been Gary Zoubek, UNL Extension Educator.