Project Overview

Intern: Julia Franck
Major: Agricultural Engineering
School: University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Company Background

UNL Extension is a resource for members of the community and their goal is "to help Nebraskans transform knowledge into 'know how'-having confidence, skill and understanding to make better decisions about their businesses, their communities, their families and their personal lives." The extension educators work together to provide a network of knowledge and assistance to the people of Nebraska.

Project Description

This summer I assisted the Colfax County Educator, Aaron Nygren, with the delivery and installation of Watermark sensors and ET gages around Colfax, Platte, Dodge, Butler, Boone, and Saunders counties. We delivered 92 sensors to producers who have previously used sensors and installed 48 sensors and 6 ET gages for first year producers. While we installed the sensors we taught the producers how to use the sensors and how to read the data tables to determine when to start irrigating. I also did an in-depth assessment for two producers in the area. I looked at two pivots for each producer and determined the efficiency of the pivots.

Pollution Prevention Benefits

Implementation of Watermark sensors creates the potential for energy, water, and cost savings and reduction of greenhouse gases. The analysis of the irrigation systems also creates the potential for energy, water, and cost savings and greenhouse gas reduction; as well as an increase in efficiency of the systems.