



NEWS RELEASE
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Useful to Usable Launches Irrigation Investment_{DST}, A *FREE* Tool Enabling Farmers within the Corn Belt to Explore the Profitability of Investing in Irrigation Equipment; Webinar training available Sept 21

West Lafayette, Indiana-The USDA funded [Useful to Usable](#) climate initiative has just launched a new *FREE* tool, the [Irrigation Investment_{DST}](#) which helps farmers decide if investing in irrigation would be profitable based on their location-specific data. The tool does this by using simulated historic yields and irrigation water quantities for corn and soybeans based on high spatial resolution climate data and soil texture information. This customizable tool also accounts for tax and loan information making it a uniquely personal way to explore the profitability of an irrigation investment and understand the financial performance of changing your corn/soybean rotation schedule with and without irrigation.

“Users can customize the share of corn and soybeans in their crop rotation, the acre-inches of irrigation water applied in dry, normal and wet rainfall years, and crop yields and prices to generate customized results that can be downloaded from the website,” said Ben Gramig, Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University.

States like Kansas and Nebraska are primary targets for irrigation systems due to lack of rainfall, combined with temperate conditions and favorable soil. Other areas throughout the Corn Belt have well established irrigation, not necessarily due to low rainfall but due to weather variability from year to year or soil conditions. The overall acreage covered by irrigation across the United States is growing and may prove to be beneficial for managing risk in corn and soybean operations. However, irrigation equipment is an expensive long-term investment and this tool’s ability to customize based on yields and cost provides valuable insight into the potential benefits of such an investment.

“The tool provides estimates of the Net Present Value and internal rate of return from investing in a center-pivot irrigation system, and indicates the number of individual years the investment would have been profitable,” Gramig said. “The calculator combines climate, yield, and economic cost data to let users explore the profitability of investing in irrigation for corn and soybean rotations.”

Wednesday, September 21 (11-11:30am Eastern), there will be a training webinar led by Ben Gramig, to help familiarize potential users with this tool. This training is co-sponsored by the USDA Midwest Climate Hub. Register now: [Registration](#).

Irrigation InvestmentDST is part of the U2U suite of tools created to help farmers and agricultural advisers manage increasingly variable weather and climate conditions across the Corn Belt. For more information, go to www.AgClimate4u.org.

Useful to Usable is a USDA-funded research and extension project comprising 50 faculty, staff and

students from nine north-central U.S. universities with expertise in applied climatology, crop modeling, agronomy, cybertechnology, and agricultural economics and other social sciences.

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