

Water Efficiency Irrigation Program

Agriculture in the American Southwest provides the nation with high quality food, feed, and fiber. Blessed with hot summers, mild winters, and dry climates Arizona has become a center for growing specialty crops of unparalleled quality. In our current climate, one of the most limiting factors to crop production in Arizona is water availability, driving the desire for more conservative use on the farm.

State funding has been allocated to assist commercial growers transitioning to more efficient water use practices. Reimbursement grants will be awarded up to \$1,500 per acre to support infrastructure costs of farms transitioning away from flood irrigation to more efficient technologies, expected to provide a 20% or greater water savings.

The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension group is tasked with administering the reimbursement grants and will assist growers with understanding available options and development of best use practices.

Program Overview and Requirements

- Applicants must have a grower permit issued by the Arizona Department of Agriculture pursuant to A.R.S. 3-363.
- Landowners or active leaseback farmers identify current flood irrigated fields that would benefit from irrigation improvement technology.
- A grant request form is emailed to the Extension review committee who will assist with designing and reviewing an irrigation efficiency plan for the land.
- Up to \$1,000,000 in grant funds per farm will be paid directly to approved vendors to install irrigation improvement infrastructure that has previously demonstrated the ability to reduce water use by 20%.
- Irrigation water use will be monitored by the review committee for three years after improvement to advise on optimal in-season use and assist with adjustments to salinity management program.
- Application process is ongoing, and proposals may be submitted until October 2026
- For more details visit our Arizona Extension webpage, download an application, or email us directly at CES-WaterGrant@teams.arizona.edu

<https://extension.arizona.edu/water-irrigation-efficiency-program>

<https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/data/2023water-efficiency-program.pdf>

Fillable Application:

<https://arizonace.quickbase.com/db/bs3d4s3rs?a=nwr&ifv=50>