

**Irrigation Information for the 2015 Crop Year**  
**Topeka Regional Office**  
**May, 2015**

The following information has been compiled regarding irrigation water supply for the 2015 planting season by the Risk Management Agency (RMA), Topeka Regional Office (Topeka RO). RMA has not confirmed any water reduction was due to an insurable cause of loss within the insurance period or made any determinations but is providing information it has gathered for Approved Insurance Providers' reference:

**Nebraska:**

**Southwest and Central, Nebraska:**

The following information was received from the Bureau of Reclamation in McCook, Nebraska. The irrigation districts with estimated water allocations are shown below.

<u>Irrigation District</u>	<u>Estimate Farm Delivery (Acre Inches)</u>
Mirage Flats	4.5"
Frenchman Valley and H & RW	0.0"
Frenchman-Cambridge	
Meeker – Driftwood Canal	6.0"
Cambridge Canal	8.0"
Red Willow & Bartley Canals	0.0"
Bostwick in Nebraska	5.0"

**NOTE:** Inches of availability are estimates only and do not constitute a guaranteed delivery. These estimates are for the District's use in determining an estimate to supply water users. Estimates are based on current State administration of water and are subject to change accordingly. In water short districts the estimates would need to be adjusted if the district does not plan to deliver one inch of water each six or seven days.

The following information was received from The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District.

The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (CNPPID) that stores water in Lake McConaughy has announced that they will be providing a reduced supply of 12 acre-inches to its irrigators. They will begin the season on June 8th and end on August 31st. There will be the normal 6 run or a 4 run option to deliver the 12 inch allocation. It is important to emphasize that this is a reduction from the normal 18 inch allocation and that each irrigator's water situation could be different depending on the availability of supplemental irrigation sources.

CNPPID will not be offering storage water to the Paxton-Hershey, Suburban, Keith-Lincoln, Lisco, and Platte Valley Districts from Lake McConaughy this irrigation season by the canal companies will be allowed to accrue water in Lake McConaughy by not requesting irrigation deliveries early in the

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season. This will allow canals to requests and release of the accrued water to supplement the natural flow in the Platte River at times when it may be more beneficial.

Counties which may be affected by the above allocations are **Dawson, Franklin, Furnas, Gosper, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Kearney, Nuckolls, Phelps, Red Willow and Webster.**

#### **Kansas:**

##### **North Central, Kansas:**

The following information was received from the Bureau of Reclamation in McCook, Nebraska. The irrigation districts with estimated water allocations are shown below.

Irrigation District	Est. Farm Delivery
Almena	3.0"
Kansas-Bostwick	9.0"
Webster	3.5"

**NOTE:** Inches of availability are estimates only and do not constitute a guaranteed delivery. These estimates are for the District's use in determining an estimate to supply to your water users. Estimates are based on current State administration of water and are subject to change accordingly. In water short districts the estimates would need to be adjusted if the district does not plan to deliver one inch of water each six or seven days.

Counties which may be affected by the above allocations are **Jewell, Norton, Osborne, Phillips, Republic, and Rooks.**

##### **Northwest Kansas - Groundwater Management District 4:**

**Sheridan 6 High Priority Area.** On April 17, 2013, the Chief Engineer issued his Order of Designation for the Sheridan 6 LEMA to apply less irrigation water within a five year period. Each irrigation water right within the Sheridan 6 LEMA shall be limited to a total maximum 5-year quantity of 55 inches per designated eligible acre.

The following are the affected sections in **Thomas and Sheridan Counties:** TWP 7S-28W: Sections 19-21 and 28-33 TWP 7S-29W: Sections 4-9 and 16-36 TWP 7S-30W: Sections 19-36 TWP 8S-29W: Sections 1-18 TWP 8S-30W: Sections 1-18 TWP 8S-31W: Sections 22-27 and 34-36.

#### **Southwest Kansas:**

##### **2015 Projected Surface Water Supply for Surface Water Supplied Irrigation Ditches in Hamilton, Kearny, and Finney Counties- April 17, 2015**

Source: Kansas Division of Water Resources

Six irrigation ditches in Southwest Kansas have access to available Arkansas River flows and to water stored in John Martin Reservoir which is located approximately 70-miles west of the Colorado-Kansas state line. Surface water from the Arkansas River is generally used to supplement groundwater irrigation. However, there are fields that have access to only surface water.

The Arkansas River basin in Kansas continues the experience a dry river hydrology and has a limited amount of account water available. On April 1, 2015, Kansas had 12,226 acre-feet account water stored

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in John Martin Reservoir. The included table shows the available water supply to Kansas in John Martin Reservoir on April 1st of each year. The Ranking shows the how each year compares to the others with 1 being the most available and 10 being the least. Please note that the April 1st supply is the lowest of the past ten years.

Year	Water Available to Kansas on April 1st	Ranking of Available Water Supply
2015	12,226	10
2014	17,542	5
2013	12,718	8
2012	12,330	9
2011	18,948	4
2010	27,012	2
2009	28,174	1
2008	15,948	6
2007	22,186	3
2006	13,211	7

Counties which may be affected by the above allocations are **Hamilton, Kearny, and Finney.**

**All Other Areas of Kansas:**

Minimum Desirable Streamflows (MDS)

The table below shows flows (in cfs\*) at selected gaging stations as of May 14, 2015 for streams where MDS remains of interest. There were 266 files under MDS administration.

The flows at the Concordia and Clay Center gages on the Republican River have been above MDS since May 7 and May 8, respectively. If the flows remain above MDS through May 21 and May 22, respectively, the criteria to cease MDS administration will be met.

The Solomon has been above MDS since May 7. It appears likely that it will remain above MDS for some time now. If it remains above through May 21, the criteria to cease MDS administration will be met.

MDS administration began under 13 files on April 15 for Mill Creek. The flow has been above MDS since May 4. If it remains above through May 18, the criteria to cease MDS administration will be met.

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<b>Streamflows as of May 14, 2014</b>			
<b>Gaging Station</b>	<b>Current Flow*</b>	<b>May MDS*</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Republican River at Concordia	1730	150	Admin began March 20, 2015; 70 files.
Republican River at Clay Center	1900	250	Admin began March 20, 2015; 136 files.
Smoky Hill River at Ellsworth	28	30	Admin began March 23, 2015; 3 files.
Saline River near Russell	14	15	Admin began October 22, 2014; 8 files.
Solomon River at Niles	323	60	Admin began March 23, 2015; 36 files.
Mill Creek near Paxico	13	25	Admin began April 15, 2015; 13 files.

\*cfs = cubic feet per second

*(Information provided by Kansas Department of Agriculture, Water Management Services)*

A map of affected counties along with any updates can be found at:

<http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/>

### **Colorado:**

Several well augmentation associations have issued quotas on replacement water. Counties which may be affected by quotas are **Adams, Morgan and Weld**

**STATEWIDE:** See Information from the Water Availability Task Force May Drought Update:

<http://cwcb.state.co.us/public-information/flood-water-availability-task-forces/Documents/DroughtUpdate.pdf>

### **Colorado Water Supply Conditions Update (May 2015)**

**From the Office of the State Engineer: Colorado Division of Water Resources**

<http://water.state.co.us/DWRIPub/SWSI%20Reports/swsi201505.pdf>

### **Arkansas Basin Irrigation Supply Estimates (Southeast Colorado):**

The estimated 2015 irrigation water supply from Division 2, Colorado Division of Water Resources can be found at: [http://www.rma.usda.gov/fields/ks\\_rso/irrigation/](http://www.rma.usda.gov/fields/ks_rso/irrigation/)