Managing crop water efficiency with technology
By Ron Rosati, NCTA Dean

Crop producers from the region will have a unique opportunity here at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture on Thursday, February 19, for a workshop emphasizing soil moisture and irrigation efficiency.

If you are a landowner, manager, producer, crop consultant, educator or just one who wants to see and learn about the latest in agricultural technology and how this applies to crop production in the tri state area of Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado, please join us.

NCTA and the Nebraska Water Balance Alliance have been planning this important session for several months. It is exciting to showcase this new technology at NCTA for producers in the region, and particularly those facing limited irrigation.

The program promises to be an exciting collaboration with the agricultural industry about how we can best monitor soil moisture for agricultural purposes. Technology overviews will include moisture sensors and digital soil probes and the software to monitor and analyze crop water needs.

Once again, industry partnerships create an excellent opportunity for students at NCTA to learn the latest in irrigation technology and to interact with the employers and agricultural producers who they may be working with in the future.

The sessions are free of charge, but we do ask for advance registration by January 25 to accommodate for food service and the workshop materials. Each registrant will receive a resource packet.

Activities for the Soil Moisture Probe Workshop on Thursday, February 19 begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. and the program from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. CDT. Meet at the Nebraska Agriculture Industry Education Center on NCTA’s campus.

To register, contact Paige with Dawson Public Power District at (308) 324-2386 or e-mail NEWBA2012@gmail.com.

In addition to NCTA and the Nebraska Water Balance Alliance, our other workshop partners include the West Central Research and Extension Center based at North Platte, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, Simplot, Extreme Ag, Inc., of Cambridge and Paulman Farms of Sutherland.

Attendees can see the new technology with hands-on breakout sessions and view probes and software from five or six companies and visit with those representatives. Vendors will have display tables in the NCTA Ed Center.
Brad Ramsdale, NCTA agronomy professor, manages NCTA’s new irrigation technology program and will have students involved in these workshops. If you would like more details, contact Dr. Ramsdale at 308-367-5225.

Until then, mark your calendars and get registered within the next two weeks. I hope to see you there!

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NCTA Mission: 
The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture is devoted to a statewide mission of preparing students for successful careers in agriculture, veterinary technology, food and related industries. The college provides open access to innovative technical education resulting in associate degrees, certificates, diplomas and other credentials.

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