Efficient Irrigation and the Myth of Water Conservation: Misconceptions from the Field

Among the general public and some water professionals there is a belief that inefficient irrigation methods such as flood irrigation waste water. If agricultural producers would only convert to efficient irrigation methods more water would be available for other uses. Furthermore when farmers convert to efficient methods they may be able to lease their unused water to others and profit nicely from upgrading their systems.

This presentation will encourage participants to focus on the concept of consumptive use when it comes to discussions of irrigation and “wastefulness.” It will also point out some potentially undesirable consequences of the myth.