

Kentucky Irrigation and Drought Resources

As irrigation and other water-resources issues develop within Kentucky's diverse agricultural community, producers across Kentucky are facing critical, and potentially costly, decisions and might not know where to turn for assistance. Given this, the Kentucky Farm Bureau's Water Management Working Group (WMWG) and the Kentucky Agriculture Science and Monitoring Committee (KASMC) have compiled a quick-reference listing of contacts and information. In general, once you've decided that an irrigation system is the right decision (contacts to help you with this are also included herein), the first point of contact will be the Kentucky Division of Water; that contact will be followed up with technical guidance provided by subject-matter experts based on your specific needs. Please feel free to contact any of the subject-matter experts listed; however, the Kentucky Division of Water has been tasked with getting you off on the right foot.

What do I need or want to do?

I want to utilize surface-water for irrigation or I am unsure of what my water resource should be:

Contact: Bill Caldwell
Environmental Scientist
Watershed Management Branch
Kentucky Division of Water
502-564-3410
bill.caldwell@ky.gov

I want to utilize groundwater for irrigation:

Contact: David Jackson or Scotty Robertson
Groundwater Section
Kentucky Division of Water
502-564-3410
david.a.jackson@ky.gov
scotty.robertson@ky.gov



I would like additional guidance from a technical expert; who do I contact?

General agronomy

(Should I invest in irrigation? If so, when and how do I irrigate?)

Dr. Chad Lee

University of Kentucky
323 Plant Science Drive
Lexington, KY 40546
859-257-3203
cdlee2@uky.edu
<http://www.kygrains.info/contact-us.html>



Dr. Carrie Knott

University of Kentucky
P.O. Box 469
Princeton, KY 42445
270-365-7541 ext. 248
carrie.knott@uky.edu
<http://www.kygrains.info/contact-us.html>



Additional resources are also available through your local extension office.
Go to: <http://extension.ca.uky.edu/> to find the office near you.



Groundwater

(I'd like some additional information on groundwater in my region. Are there other irrigation wells near me? What are the characteristics of any existing wells? How can I locate a Kentucky-licensed driller?)

Bart Davidson

Geologist, Water Resources Section
Kentucky Geological Survey
University of Kentucky
504 Rose Street
Lexington, KY 40506-0107
859-323-0524
bdavidson@uky.edu
www.uky.edu/kgs



Surface water

(My fields are adjacent to a stream; what kind of flow can I expect and will this vary by season?)

A. Thomas (Tom) Ruby III

Supervisory Hydrologist/Surface Water Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
Indiana-Kentucky Water Science Center
9818 Bluegrass Parkway
Louisville, KY 40299
502-493-1933
aruby@usgs.gov
<http://ky.water.usgs.gov>



Farm Water Quality and Quantity Resource Concerns

(How can I improve irrigation water use efficiency? How can I improve irrigation water quality? How can I improve quantity of irrigation sources such as ponds?)

For more information, contact your local **USDA Service Center**,
<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/>



or your local **conservation district** office,
<http://conservation.ky.gov/pages/conservationdistricts.aspx>.

US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) lakes

(I have questions related to USACE lakes. I have additional questions regarding, or need help with, permits.)

Cumberland River Watershed

Tammy Turley
USACE Nashville District
615-369-7515
Tammy.R.Turley@usace.army.mil



All other Kentucky watersheds

David Baldrige
USACE Louisville District
502-315-6675
David.E.Baldrige@usace.army.mil



Note: in watersheds draining directly to the **Mississippi River**, you may also call the USACE Memphis District directly at 901-544-0738 to get assistance.

Municipal and public water supplies

(I have questions about specific water-quality needs for my farm or operation. Can I connect to a local public water-supply and purchase water?)

Jack Stickney

Source Water Protection Specialist
Kentucky Rural Water Association
3251 Spring Hollow Avenue
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42104
270-843-2291
j.stickney@krwa.org
www.krwa.org



Climate and weather

(I have questions about the risk of drought and extreme climate conditions. Where can I get information about historical conditions and projections of future weather patterns?)

Dr. Stuart Foster

State Climatologist for Kentucky
Kentucky Climate Center - Western Kentucky University
1906 College Heights Boulevard
Bowling Green, KY 42101
270-745-5983
stuart.foster@wku.edu
<http://www.kymesonet.org>



I would like to find additional information and data related to drought, climate, and water resources in Kentucky; where are some places I can look?

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS):

<http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/>

Kentucky Geological Survey (KGS):

<http://www.uky.edu/KGS/>

Western Kentucky University Mesonet:

<http://www.kymesonet.org/>

National Weather Service Drought Page:

<http://www.weather.gov/lmk/drought>

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):

<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/scan/>

University of Kentucky Ag Weather Center:

<http://www.wagwx.ca.uky.edu/>

National Integrated Drought Information System:

<https://www.drought.gov/drought/>

U.S. Drought Monitor:

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Illinois State Water Survey, University of Illinois, Midwest Regional Climate Center:

<http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/>

