



Water Irrigation Efficiency Program Application

Overview

The Water Irrigation Efficiency Program is designed to increase irrigation water application efficiency in crop production by 20% or more. Approved grantees will receive up to \$1,500 per acre, for a maximum reimbursement of \$1,000,000 toward the purchase and installation of a system from an approved vendor. The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension will manage the funding process, including reviewing all proposals, funding disbursement, and grant management. This grant is designed to conserve our most precious resource - water. Those awarded will be required to report their data to further the research efforts of the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension as it relates to water efficiency, crop production, and impact on a variety of factors, such as yield, soil health, disease, and pest pressure. An appropriate water metering device will be installed on all new irrigation systems. Any questions about the grant should be directed to Stephanie Brennan, administrative assistant for the Water Irrigation Efficiency Program. Stephanie can be reached via email at: sbrennan@arizona.edu or CES-WaterGrant@teams.arizona.edu. To see more information about this grant, [click here](#) to visit our website.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be landowners or active leaseback farmers of the flood-irrigated property for which the grant is written.
- Applicants must have a grower permit issued by the Arizona Department of Agriculture pursuant to A.R.S. 3-363.
- Applicants must sign a three-year commitment to maintain the land and irrigation system, which begins on the date the system is operational.
- Applicants must monitor and report water usage and deliver data to the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension during the three-year period.

General Guidelines

Grantees must adhere to all rules and regulations laid out by the funding committee. Submission of a proposal is considered an acknowledgement of an agreement to selecting on-farm irrigation efficiency systems approved by the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension that increase water efficiency by at least 20%. Applicants may be asked to provide supporting documentation in addition to the documents listed in this Request for Proposal (RFP). Grantees will also be required to submit to periodic site visits.

This grant is a reimbursement grant. All funding awarded in this grant will be passed from the approved applicant (grantee) to the approved vendor. The Water Irrigation Efficiency Program can provide documentation allowing grantees to enter an arrangement with approved vendors if funding is a problem. We may also engage with selected grantees to provide advanced funding to vendors to launch an approved project. These arrangements will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Submission Process and Timeline

Applicants apply by filling out the grant application narrative at the end of this document. Completed proposals need to be emailed to Stephanie Brennan at: sbrennan@arizona.edu or CES-WaterGrant@teams.arizona.edu using the subject line, Water Irrigation Efficiency Program RFP.

In addition to the project narrative, applicants must submit a project cost estimate from an approved vendor that includes materials and installation as an attachment. Applicants may use the attached spreadsheet to document project costs or provide their own. If estimates for installation and other project costs are not available at the time of application submission, successful applicants will be required to do so prior to being awarded. Vendors will have to be approved prior to proposal approval.

For applicants who are active leaseback farmers of the property for which the grant is written, a signed letter from the landowner agreeing to a three-year commitment to maintaining the land and irrigation system is required.

Applicants may also submit site plans for the project area. Sketches of the land and project area are permitted.

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee of university and industry irrigation experts. Applications must be clear and address all questions in the below narrative.

The application process is ongoing and proposals may be submitted until October of 2026.

Grantee Requirements

Grants will be disbursed and managed by the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, who also will be responsible for researching water efficiency, crop production, and other project impacts in partnership with grantees.

- Grantees must utilize grant funding expressly for the improvement of water-use efficiency on flood-irrigated lands as outlined in this RFP.
- Proof of vendor agreement is required for fund disbursement.

- Grantees must install the approved increased efficiency irrigation system within the time

period approved by the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension before October 2026.

- Grantees must track water use after installation of approved increased efficiency irrigation system.
- Grantees must allow University of Arizona Cooperative Extension onto the applicable lands to research water efficiency, crop production, and related impacts. - The projected water savings of the new irrigation efficiency system must likely increase efficiency by at least 20%.

Please Note: We do not wish to be invasive when studying the impact on your crops. Research will be coordinated with you and with minimal impact to your business and land.

This is a grant. The applicant of an approved project will receive the grant award to be used by the applicant to acquire and install the system from the vendor. The applicant must pay the vendor.

Grant Application Narrative

Contact Information:

1. Name of applicant:
2. Job title/role:
3. Name of business/organization:
4. Contact information of the applicant:
 - a. Phone number:
 - b. Email address:
 - c. Billing information
 - i. Company Name:
 - ii. Billing Address:
 - iii. City/State:
 - iv. Postal Code:
5. If there is another person you would like included in correspondence, please add their information below:

Project Details:

1. Total acreage of property:
2. Acreage of proposed area to receive upgraded irrigation system:
3. Property address of proposed project:
4. Current crop/crops grown on the property:
 - a. What percentage of the acreage is dedicated to each crop?
5. Future crop/crops to be grown on the property:
6. Are you the landowner of the proposed property?
7. If you are not the landowner, is the landowner willing to engage in a three-year contract to maintain the irrigation system after the approved system is installed?
8. Describe your current irrigation system in detail:
9. Current annual water usage for the fields included in the application:
 - a. Current
 - b. Projected
10. How do you track your current water usage?
11. What is your current estimated efficiency?
12. Describe the new irrigation system in detail:
13. Estimated project cost:
 - a. Please provide a summary report if multiple quotes are provided
14. Amount requested from Water Irrigation Efficiency Program Grant
15. Applicant project match
 - a. Source (i.e. personal funds, business funds, loan, etc.).
16. Please detail the project timeline, including the estimated completion

date:

17. 15. Estimated efficiency gain:
18. Where is the efficiency gain achieved?
19. Estimated acre-feet of water saved:
20. Explain how the new system will be implemented and maintained:
21. Please describe your process for monitoring water use.
22. If the project estimate exceeds the approved funding by this program, please indicate your plans for funding the remainder of the project:
23. If the project estimate exceeds the per acre cap of \$1,500, please indicate your plans for funding the remainder of the per acre cost of acquisition and installation of the system:

Vendor Details:

1. Please list your desired vendor:
2. Have you received a formal estimate from this vendor?
3. Does your vendor have at least \$2 million in commercial liability insurance?
4. Is your vendor licensed and bonded?
5. Please provide contact information for the vendor below:
 - a. Name:
 - b. Job Title:
 - c. Email:
 - d. Phone Number:
6. If this vendor is not approved, is there another vendor you would like to work with?
 - a. Please list a secondary vendor:

Acknowledgements

Initial the following statements to indicate that you have read and agree.

_____ I understand that submitting this grant application does not guarantee funding for my project.

_____ I agree to abide by the terms and conditions of this grant if selected, including; monitoring and reporting on water efficiency, utilization of approved vendors only, and adherence to the timeline for completion.

_____ I understand that, if funded, my business/organization will not personally receive a reimbursement check for the project. Reimbursement checks will be distributed through the grantee to approved vendors.

_____ If my project exceeds either \$1,500 per acre or the \$1,000,000 funding cap, I acknowledge the remainder of the project cost is my business/organization's responsibility.

_____ If chosen, I agree to maintain the approved irrigation system for no less than three years from the date the system is in operation.

Attachment Checklist

Required Attachments:

Project Estimate:

[Attached](#)

Optional Attachments:

Site Plans:

[Attached](#)

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Edward C. Martin, Interim Director, Extension, Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension, The University of Arizona.

The University of Arizona is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information in its programs and activities.

Emitido en promoción del trabajo de la Extensión Cooperativa, leyes del 8 de mayo y 30 de junio de 1914, en colaboración con el Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos, Edward C. Martin, Director Provisional, Extensión Cooperativa, División de Agricultura, Ciencias de la Vida, Veterinaria, y Extensión Cooperativa, Universidad de Arizona.

La Universidad de Arizona es una institución que promueve la igualdad de oportunidades y de género. La Universidad no discrimina en sus programas y actividades por razones de raza, color, religión, sexo, nacionalidad de origen, edad, discapacidad, condición de veterano, identidad de género, preferencia sexual, o información genética.