

What is the Nebraska Water Balance Alliance?

A non-profit organization formed in 2010 to promote sustainable water solutions and safeguard our economy and quality of life.

Why was the Alliance formed?

Concern over regulations restricting irrigation brought a group of leaders to explore the issues and possible alternatives. A UNL study by Dr. Eric Thompson in 2011 found that if just 18,600 acres of irrigated farmland were converted to dryland in central Nebraska, it would result in a loss of \$7.6 million in crop production, \$10.8 million in business receipts and 138 jobs.

How is this group different?

- **No vested water interests to protect.** We welcome different perspectives.
- **Comprehensive intent.** We consider all sources and consumptions of water.
- **Grassroots, collaborative, solutions-oriented.**

How can the Alliance help?

- **Facilitate collaboration.**
- **Share information.**
- **Pursue funding for promising projects.**



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The Nebraska Water Balance Alliance is a non-profit group, supported by your donations.

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Because today's water management decisions will alter the future of Nebraskans for generations

Nebraska water milestones:

Periods of extreme drought has driven innovation :

1890s drought led to organized, cooperative stream flow diversions.

1930s drought prompted construction of large reservoirs and coordinated water delivery systems.



1950s drought triggered innovation in well drilling and pumping which expanded ground water irrigation.

2000s drought led to regulations that focus on reducing irrigation even though irrigation consumes only 10% of the total precipitation and stream flow.

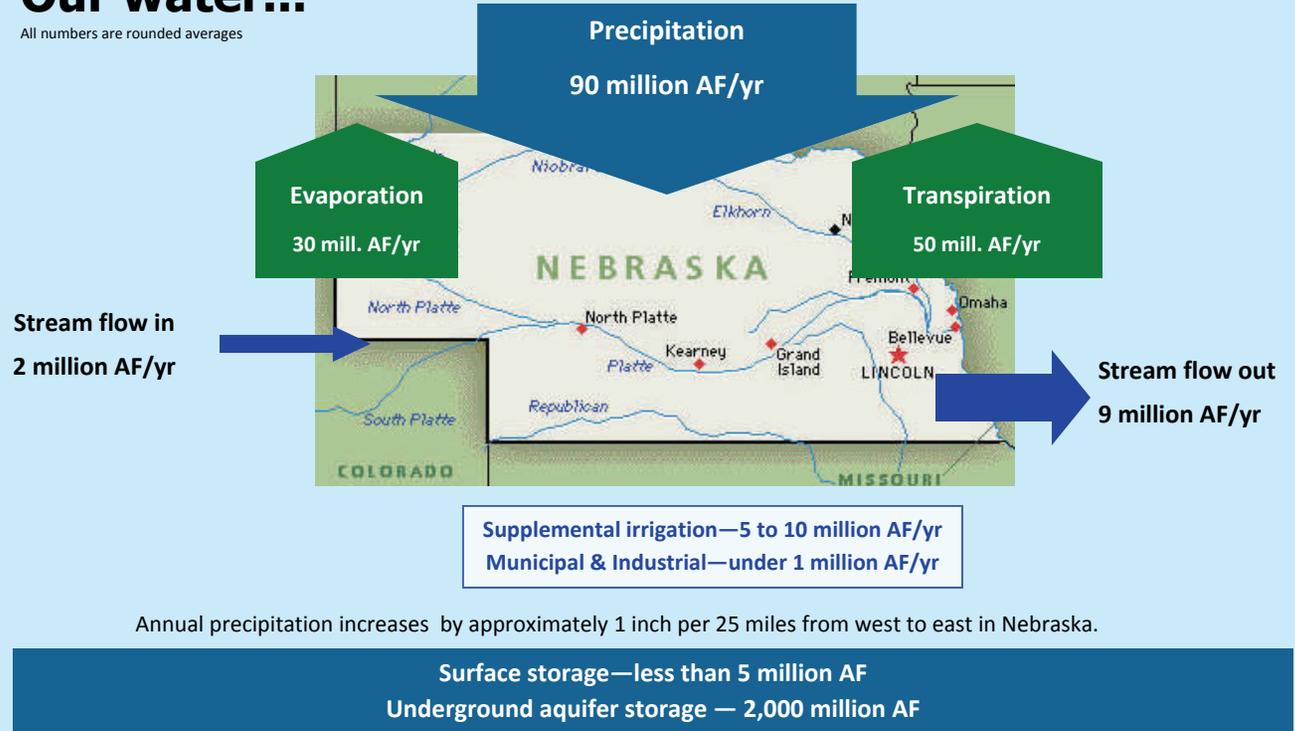
Past water management strategies focused on **BLUE** water. New strategies, like conjunctive management and producer driven tactics, consider both **GREEN** and **BLUE** water and offer hope for the future.



Variability is a major challenge for Nebraska. In 2011, we experienced flooding. In 2012, the state experienced extreme heat and drought. This vividly underscores the importance of once again looking at new technologies and discovering the innovative approaches that will insure a legacy of water of the future.

Our water...

All numbers are rounded averages



BLUE WATER is liquid water in streams, lakes, wetlands, reservoirs and underground aquifers.

GREEN WATER is moisture that returns to the atmosphere through evaporation and transpiration from plants.

A comprehensive approach can help us...

- Recognize how ground and surface water impact each other.
- Consider strategies that look at both Blue and Green water.
- Take into account all sources and consumptions of water.
- Utilize new technologies and approaches to reduce water consumption and maximize the highest value uses of water.