

LAND DRAINAGE AROUND THE WORLD

You can read the latest news in agriculture drainage across the world - as compiled for ICID weekly e-Bulletin

India: Drainage department inaction creates havoc for Bheela farmers

24 July 2013

More than 200 acres have been submerged under rainwater in Bheela village due to apathetic attitude of the drainage officials. Residents allege that the district administration has not been listening to their woes as most of them are staunch Congress supporters. "Basmati transplanted on nearly seven acres of my land is destroyed to waterlogging. Every inch of my field is filled with two-four feet water at different places. I have tried to re-plant basmati paddy few days back but that too went vain," a farmer Parminder Singh Thind said.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/Punjab/Jalandhar/Drainage-department-inaction-creates-havoc-for-Bheela-farmers/SP-Article1-1097708.aspx>

USA: Researchers develop drought treatment for crops

5 July 2013

South Dakota's major agricultural groups have a few suggestions for the state's watershed task force. While the ag groups don't all support the five concepts presented during a meeting of the state's Regional Watershed Advisory Task Force on July 1 at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel, they all agree that the state needs to improve its drainage laws. Creating water management districts was a recurring theme at the meeting. The concept is backed by the South Dakota Corn Growers Association, South Dakota Farm Bureau, South Dakota Farmers Union and South Dakota Soybean Association.

<http://www.aberdeennews.com/aan-ff-07-05-13-agwatershedlobby-20130705,0,3606673.story>

South Dakota ag groups seek changes to drainage laws

2 July 2013

South Dakota's major agricultural groups have a few suggestions for the state's watershed task force. While the ag groups don't all support the five concepts presented during a meeting of the state's Regional Watershed Advisory Task Force on Monday at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel, they all agree that the state needs to improve its drainage laws. Creating water management districts was a recurring theme at the meeting. The concept is backed by the South Dakota Corn Growers Association, South Dakota Farm Bureau, South Dakota Farmers Union and South Dakota Soybean Association.

<http://www.aberdeennews.com/news/aan-south-dakota-ag-groups-seek-changes-to-drainage-laws-20130701,0,7884444.story>

USA: County board discusses drainage with farmer

14 May 2013

In a follow-up to the May 6 meeting, the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors decided at the May 13 meeting to reject a request from landowner John Oftedahl to pay a portion of ditch work on Drainage Ditch 6 lateral 1. John Oftedahl came to the May 6 meeting to ask the county board and ditch district to pay for work he said he was required to complete on Winnebago County Drainage Ditch 6, lateral 1. Oftedahl said the extra work cost him \$1,500 and supervisors determined the county would pay \$600 if Oftedahl's request was granted. Supervisors Terry Durby and board chairman Mike Stensrud indicated May 6 that they supported Oftedahl's request.

http://globegazette.com/forestcitysummit/news/local/county-board-discusses-drainage-with-farmer/article_0c3b4c-bcb1-11e2-80c1-0019bb2963f4.html

UK: Somerset farmers demand river dredging action as flood solution

19 April 2013

A despairing smallholder tore up her *drainage rates* demand in front of Defra Minister Richard Benyon last night as 100 Somerset farmers gathered to quiz him on a solution to extreme floods. Her action was stark evidence of the true economic cost of last year's torrential rain to the rural economy. The woman, who did not want to be identified, was put out of business by the disaster. Today, Mr Benyon will be shown new figures which a partnership of authorities say provide an overwhelming economic case for dredging stretches of the rivers Parrett and Tone. Regular dredging stopped years ago, and the cost now would be more than £3 million. But

when ruined grassland, other flooded businesses, flooded roads and major road diversions are taken into account, it is understood the cost to the economy outweighs the cost of the prevention work, as summer flooding becomes an increasing threat. <http://www.thisissomerset.co.uk/Somerset-farmers-demand-river-dredging-action/story-18745173-detail/story.html#axzz2R0YVZnRQ>

Agricultural drainage widening Minnesota Rivers

5 March 2013

The Blue Earth River is 50 per cent wider along its entire length than it was seven decades ago, largely because a generation of artificial drainage on the surrounding landscape has doubled the flow of water coursing between its soft banks. It's one of many Minnesota Rivers that has seen a significant increase in flow, and all of which are sending millions of tons of dirt and pollution downstream to the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Those turbid rivers, in turn, are scouring their banks, accelerating a natural geological process that could fill the top third of Lake Pepin with dirt within the century.

<http://www.startribune.com/local/195482761.html>

Drainage workshop offered to farmers

22 February 2013

South Dakota State University Extension will host a two-day drainage design and water management workshop in Aberdeen at the Ramkota on Wednesday and Thursday (Feb. 27 and 28). This hands-on workshop will focus on the planning and design of agricultural tile drainage systems to meet both business and environmental objectives, according to a news release. Workshop topics will include legal aspects, basics of soil drainage, agronomic perspectives, doing your own tiling, land evaluation tools and conservation drainage.

http://www.aberdeennews.com/news/aan-6a.02-22-12.biz.drainage-20130222_0_3531811.story

USA: \$30 million treatment plant targets tainted Valley farming drainage

11 February 2013

FIREBAUGH -- A \$30 million water treatment plant rises slowly over this quiet prairie on the San Joaquin Valley's west side where nature has both blessed and cursed farmers. It's a federal experiment amid 97,000 acres where annual farm production creates nearly a half-billion dollars in the economy. Irrigating this fertile land leaves farmers with a nasty flush of drainage -- natural salts and metals from a long-gone inland sea. Water treatment might be the final step in putting an end to a chronic problem that has threatened the area for decades. In the past, the drainage was discharged through a sensitive marshland on its way to the San Joaquin River, tainting plants and animal life along the way. <http://www.fresnobee.com/2013/02/11/3169896/30-million-treatment-plant-targets.html>

USA: Soil salinity and drainage requirement using recycled drain water for crops

8 February 2013

How can reuse areas be designed and managed to provide an effective alternative to traditional agricultural drainage disposal? Reclamation is conducting a feasibility study to provide a solution to the historic drainage problems of the San Luis Unit in California. The current plan calls for collection and reuse of all agricultural drain discharge. This will require about 10,000 acres of new drain water reuse development to handle the drainage flows. The Panoche Drainage District, a part of the San Luis Unit, has been operating a 1,800-acre drainage reuse facility for several years (start in 1998) using shallow subsurface drains to provide water table and salinity control.

<http://www.usbr.gov/research/projects/detail.cfm?id=7283>

Israel: Agriculture, Interior ministries launch drainage audit

4 February 2013

The director-generals of the Agriculture and Interior ministries have appointed former Water Authority head Shimon Tal to conduct an audit of how the country's local drainage authorities functioned during last month's storm. With a particular focus on flooding, Tal will be assessing the drainage activities in EmekHefer Regional Council, Hadera and Baqa al-J as well as adjacent areas, the Agriculture Ministry said. Among the elements evaluated will be whether the authorities performed drainage maintenance, whether they transferred funds necessary and whether everyone in the chain of action performed his or her function properly, according to the ministry. <http://www.jpost.com/Headlines/Article.aspx?id=302097>

USA: Drainage ditches can help clean up field runoff

10 January 2013

Vegetated drainage ditches can help capture pesticide and nutrient loads in field runoff, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) scientists report. These ditches - as common in the country as the fields they drain - give farmers a low-cost alternative for managing agricultural pollutants and protecting natural resources. Agricultural Research Service (ARS) ecologist Matt Moore at the agency's National Sedimentation Laboratory in Oxford, MS, and his colleagues conducted the research. ARS is USDA's chief intramural scientific research agency. Until recently, the primary function of many edge-of-field ditches was to provide a passage for channeling excess water from crop fields. Many farmers controlled ditch vegetation with trimming or dredging to eliminate plant barriers that could impede the flow of runoff. <http://www.wisfarmer.com/business/drainage-ditches-can-help-clean-up-field-runoff-----jpg-308867-186327342.html>

Video: Farm drainage in Illinois Tiling Machine - YouTube

Uploaded by Ernest Bontrager - Farm drainage is important for increased crop yields. This video shows Yoder Farm Drainage installing a 10" plastic line...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgG3eRDuEmc>

Central gov't deploys drainage and irrigation workers to clean Georgetown, Guyana

5 December 2012

Amid calls by the opposition Peoples National Congress Reform (PNCR) for Guyana's capital, Georgetown, to be cleaned up, the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) on Wednesday deployed more than 400 workers to help clean up the city. PNC point-man on the city clean-up plan, Joseph Harmon called the move by central government a "piece-meal" approach but a good start that requires the involvement of all. "Why couldn't it be coordinated because what you'll get there is a piece-meal exercise and we need to get citizens involved? That is not the kind of response I think citizens are looking for. I believe that's a knee-jerk reaction," Harmon told Demerara Waves Online News (www.demwaves.com). With the municipality short of manpower and vehicles, Harmon still hopes that the private sector, security forces, central government and ordinary citizens can be mobilized to clean up Georgetown ahead of Christmas.

<http://www.demerarawaves.com/index.php/2012/12/055097/Latest/central-govt-deploys-drainage-and-irrigation-workers-to-clean-georgetown.html>

Farm drainage remains hot topic in Iowa

27 November 2012

Various aspects of farmland drainage are agenda topics at a December 12 workshop for farmers and others who are interested in learning more about ag drainage. The meeting will be held at Manatt Community Center in the town of Brooklyn in east-central Iowa. The program begins at 9 a.m. and will adjourn at 3:30 p.m. Advance registration is recommended. "We are offering this farmland subsurface drainage workshop due to the overwhelming interest in this topic in recent years," says Kapil Arora, an agricultural engineer with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

http://farmprogress.com/wallaces-farmer-story-nl13_3nl-farm-drainage-remains-hot-topic-iowa-9-65234?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=27+November+2012

Using technology to learn from soil, crops

22 November 2012

MILROY, Minn. -- Just south of Milroy is an acreage that has belonged to the Hicks family since 1885, but these days the field is wired with electronic instruments that transmit data in real time to the University of Minnesota Southwest Research and Outreach Center in Lamberton. The center is one of the partners in the five-year United States Department of Agriculture funded Sustainable Corn Project. "This field is part of a nine-state, 40-scientist regional project," said Jeff Strock, a soil scientist with the center. "We're trying to make predictions about climate change and corn production." Instruments measure soil temperature, moisture and water flow through the drainage structure, which is downloaded through a satellite antenna together with data from an on-site weather station.

http://www.thonline.com/news/national_world/article_f1a08d1b-8876-583c-bd70-208c0a12dcca.html

Action needed to improve farm drainage in Meirionnydd

13 November 2012

THIS year's wet weather, coupled with a delayed start to ditch maintenance, has created "unacceptable" problems for low-lying farmland in Meirionnydd, meetings in Dolgellau heard. NFU Cymru county chairman Trefor Hughes, who has land in the Harlech Internal Drainage District (IDD), said a five-year maintenance and improvement programme was needed. "For ditches to work effectively in some areas, there needs to be some capital investment in sluices, pumping stations and the de-silting of estuaries into which the water drains," he said. <http://www.dailypost.co.uk/farming-north-wales/farming-news/2012/11/13/action-needed-to-improve-farm-drainage-in-meirionnydd-55578-32219942/>

Ag drainage tiles blamed for loss of wetland basins

29 October 2012

Agriculture drainage tile would no longer be exempt as a pollution point-source in Minnesota if the state takes to heart a suggestion from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service official. The federal Clean Water Act currently does not consider agriculture drainage tile as a point source. The Wetlands Conservation Act in Minnesota contains the same exemption. Farm interest groups for decades have fought to maintain the exemption for fear that producers would be subject to increased costs from Clean Water Act permitting and potential lawsuits. <http://agfax.com/2012/10/29/ag-drainage-tiles-blamed-for-loss-of-wetland-basins/>

Irrigating with tile

7 October 2012

FARGO, N.D. — In a dry year, some farmers in the region are designing sub-surface tile drainage systems to use as sub-surface irrigation, and some soon will be able to control and monitor their pumps from smart phones and other computers. Control-drainage is becoming a bigger issue, says Max Fuxa, sales manager for the Ellingson Drainage location in Harwood, N.D. Some farmers are using systems to irrigate crops. <http://www.morrisuntribune.com/event/article/id/28874/group/homepage/>

Drainage panel tries to balance interests - Question is who decides on agriculture water flow

29 September 2012

Members of a state task force studying how South Dakota can better manage agricultural drainage say achieving that goal might require county commissions to give up local control of the issue. The South Dakota Legislature this year created the Regional Watershed Advisory Task Force to complete a multiyear, comprehensive analysis of South Dakota's agricultural drainage and water flow management. http://www.argusleader.com/article/20120930/NEWS/309300027/Drainage-panel-tries-balance-interests?nclick_check=1

Bangkok city hall, Irrigation Department joins to speed up water drainage

25 September 2012

BANGKOK, Sept 21 - Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) and Irrigation Department experts met Friday to speed drainage of large volumes of water more effectively in light of expected heavy downpours. Bangkok deputy governor VallopSuwandee said after the meeting that the capital has encountered a large amount of water due to continued heavy rains, combined with water drainage from the northern part of country. <http://www.pattayamail.com/news/bangkok-city-hall-irrigation-department-join-to-speed-up-water-drainage-16976>

Drainage, irrigation system upgrade

17 September 2012

MUAR: More than 220 families in FeldaLenga, Batu 27, here have lauded the government's recent allocation of RM1.2 million for upgrading the settlement's drainage and irrigation system. The project, expected to be completed by the year-end, would resolve the current flash-flood problems that have plagued the locals for more than a decade. FeldaLenga village development and security committee chairman, JalilSalleh, said a concrete drainage and widening of a 12km road were part of the project. <http://www.nst.com.my/streets/johor/drainage-irrigation-system-upgrade-1.144713>

Severe storms and poor drainage destroy Riverton crops

13 August 2012

A weather system that keeps hitting an area of Riverton this year has caused major losses. Overland flooding, hail and wind damage along with issues of improper drainage affect an area of approximately 20,000 acres, and has farmers reporting huge crop losses and water logged land.

"Last Wednesday there was a huge storm in the exact same area, about five miles wide with winds in excess of 100 km an hour and hail. It hailed out quite a few farmers, us the worst, with 1,300 acres totaled (destroyed)," said John Sigurdsson, a grain and cattle farmer in the Riverton area.

<http://www.interlakespectator.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3599606>

Anderson: Conservationists, farmers look to the future

4 August 2012

Last week, on a parcel of the 1,200 acres he farms in this western Minnesota County, a throng of a few score strong gathered to see first-hand some of the latest technologies developed to remove nitrate from farmland runoff that Albin drains through subsurface tiles. Attendees of a two-day "conservation drainage" workshop also learned during a field trip to Albin's farm about ways to stabilize stream banks and reduce sloughing of those lands into rivers, which in Minnesota too often destroys fish and other aquatic habitat and impairs river navigation. Like many Minnesota farmers, Albin knows well tiling's benefit to crop yields. Shedding surface water by tiling not only allows quicker access to fields for planting and harvest, it minimizes the chances crops will be flooded.

<http://www.startribune.com/sports/165006906.html>

Farmers aim to boost levee

21 July 2012

WARSAW, Ill. - Farmers in rural Hancock County are more than willing to pitch in additional tax dollars to beef up their 50-year levee to protect their 30,000 acres of farmland. So, they don't need the state to pitch in dollars it doesn't have. But they do need the state's help in getting past all the paperwork, permits and processes the state requires before they can push the dirt. Rather than weaving through the red tape for the weeks and months to come, the farmers whose land is protected by the Hunt-Lima Drainage and Levee District are gathering all the agencies on their levee and hoping that will help streamline the project. The politicians and agency heads will tour the drainage district Monday morning. They then will hold a public forum at 1 p.m. Monday on the property of one of the farmers.

<http://www.thehawkeye.com/story/hancock-levee-072112-precde>

Farmers suffer more misery as Somerset Levels flood again

25 June 2012

Days of heavy rain have brought fresh flooding and more misery for farmers on the Somerset Levels.

The River Tone has started to overtop again, inundating parts of Curry Moor, near Taunton.

Farmers had been cutting emergency drainage channels on the moor to clear the last of the water from catastrophic floods caused by April's heavy rain, which have wiped out crops and wildlife across more than 2,500 acres in the area. But the operation has now had to be halted as fields start to disappear under rising flood water again. Farmers' losses on Curry Moor and neighboring Hay Moor – some of the most fertile and productive land on the Levels – have already run into millions of pounds. They have seen their hay and silage crops wiped out and have lost valuable summer grazing for their livestock.

<http://www.southwestbusiness.co.uk/news/25062012084607-farmers-suffer-more-misery-as-somerset-levels-flood-again/>

Martin County restricts fertilizer use on lawns during rainy season

31 May 2012

Martin County will join Stuart and Sewall's Point this week by restricting the use of fertilizer on lawns during the summer rainy season. The Martin County ordinance banning the use of fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus on lawns takes effect Friday and will be enforced through Oct. 1.

Such ordinances are intended to reduce the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus washing into ponds, streams and the St. Lucie River. Other fertilizers without nitrogen or phosphorus are permitted.

"People think heavy rain soaks the fertilizer into the ground," Deborah Drum, Martin County's ecosystem manager, said. "That's not what happens."

<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/weather-news/martin-county-restricts-fertilizer-use-on-lawns-during-2383511.html>

Deep drains bring saline land back into production

18 May 2012

THE Wheatbelt Catchment Alliance (WCA) is calling for all levels of government to support a regional drainage plan to transform saline effected land and curtail the further spread of salinity. The plan will establish arterial deep drains throughout the worst salt affected areas of the Wheatbelt allowing all farmers in these areas the opportunity to dispose of saline ground water safely by connecting into these facilities. The call comes as the WCA celebrates the successful trial of deep drains in the YarraYarra catchment in the northern Wheatbelt.

WCA chairman Max Hudson said the trial near Gutha in the northern Wheatbelt had seen 100 hectares of salt-affected land brought back into production.

<http://www.merredinmercury.com.au/news/local/news/business/deep-drains-bring-saline-land-back-into-production/2561307.aspx>

NRCS chief promises wetland solution for frustrated Red River Valley farmers

2 May 2012

WEST FARGO, N.D. - The head of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service promised by September to come up with a just solution for wetland determination backlogs when he spoke Monday at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds here. Wetlands determinations that are held up, waiting for NRCS approval, have become frustrating for the region's farmers, particularly those in the central and southern Red River Valley. They want to use tile drainage or water management to contend with a string of wet years, and to capitalize on higher commodity prices and land values.

<http://www.grandforksherald.com/event/article/id/235623/group/homepage/>

Field drainage affects Red River Valley flooding, new study shows

10 April 2012

WEST FARGO – Tile drainage of farm fields has been cast as a villain that aggravates flooding in the Red River Valley and held out as a great hope for better managing runoff to minimize flooding.

The debate has raged – especially since the record 2009 flood – without a comprehensive scientific assessment of the pros and cons of subsurface field drainage and flooding. The Red River Retention Authority was briefed Tuesday on the findings of a year-long study on tile drainage in the valley that was reviewed by 21 scientists and engineers.

<http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/357112/>

Drainage services to over 40m farmers by 2020: ADB

8 April 2012

ISLAMABAD - To assist Asian countries drainage services to over 40 million farmers by 2020, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has financed more than 200 irrigation projects, with investments totaling US\$6.6 billion, and has some US\$1.1 billion of irrigation projects pipelined. In line with its Water Operational Plan, ADB is organizing a four-day Asian Irrigation Forum starting from April 11 to review the region's performance in irrigation and irrigated agriculture, explore the future of irrigation and drainage in rural development, and identify needs and opportunities for strengthened partnerships to deliver more productive irrigation services throughout the region. With a global population of 7 billion, Asian irrigation is now at a crossroads.

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2012/04/08/news/profit/drainage-services-to-over-40m-farmers-by-2020-adb/>

Drainage key despite drought

21 March 2012

While the fundamental benefits of draining farmland are as relevant today as always, contractors are exploring new technologies to get the job done more efficiently. Land drainage was firmly back in fashion after the horribly wet summers of 2007 and 2008, with contractors across the UK assigned with the job of surveying, renewing and replacing long neglected drainage schemes.

<http://www.fwi.co.uk/Articles/21/03/2012/132055/Drainage-key-despite-drought.htm>

Mississippi: Field drainage issues and a word about wheat varieties

11 March 2012

Our friends in Texas would probably cringe to hear me say that wheat prefers dry weather during the spring green-up and plant development period. That is understandable since there is a realistic minimum rainfall that even wheat must have. Much of the Texas wheat growing area actually needs rain for their wheat since some portions of that region have had essentially no rain to support their wheat crop. The situation here in Mississippi has been much different from Texas in that we have received more than enough rain to support our wheat crop. We have in fact received such an abundance of rain this spring that many low lying and flat wheat fields have suffered from water logging that has suppressed plant development.

<http://agfax.com/2012/03/11/mississippi-field-drainage-issues-plus-a-word-about-wheat-varieties/>

NDIA working toward enhanced drainage and irrigation

10 February 2012

Agriculture's success is premised on an efficient and effective drainage system and, the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA), under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture has been steadfast in ensuring that drainage and irrigation structures are built across the country, more especially in the agricultural belts. Under the Authority's 2011 Capital and Current Works Programme huge sums were spent to improve drainage, enhance competitiveness and increase productivity.

<http://www.ppp-civic.org/new/index.php/features/706-ndia-working-toward-enhanced-drainage-and-irrigation->

Farmers Hope \$1 Billion Lawsuit Solves Drainage Problem

3 February 2012

Farmers are upset because they've had to pay for drainage service that the federal government was ordered to provide. The drainage now in Westlands Water District is not efficient. The federal government's partially installed canal serves as more of a dump than drainage. Because the water isn't properly drained, it stays in the land, and salt builds up, choking the crops. Farmers say in the past, excessive selenium and boron led to a deformity in local birds.

<http://www.ksee24.com/news/local/Westlands---JWI-138681624.html>

