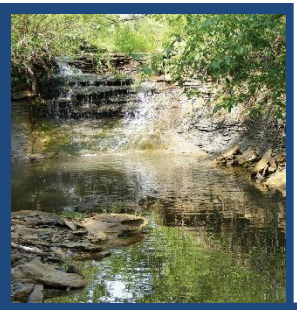


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# Saving the Ogallala


**Jacob Dooling**
Water Conservation Program Coordinator
Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation


October 27, 2025

# Depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer threatens Kansas farmers and communities.

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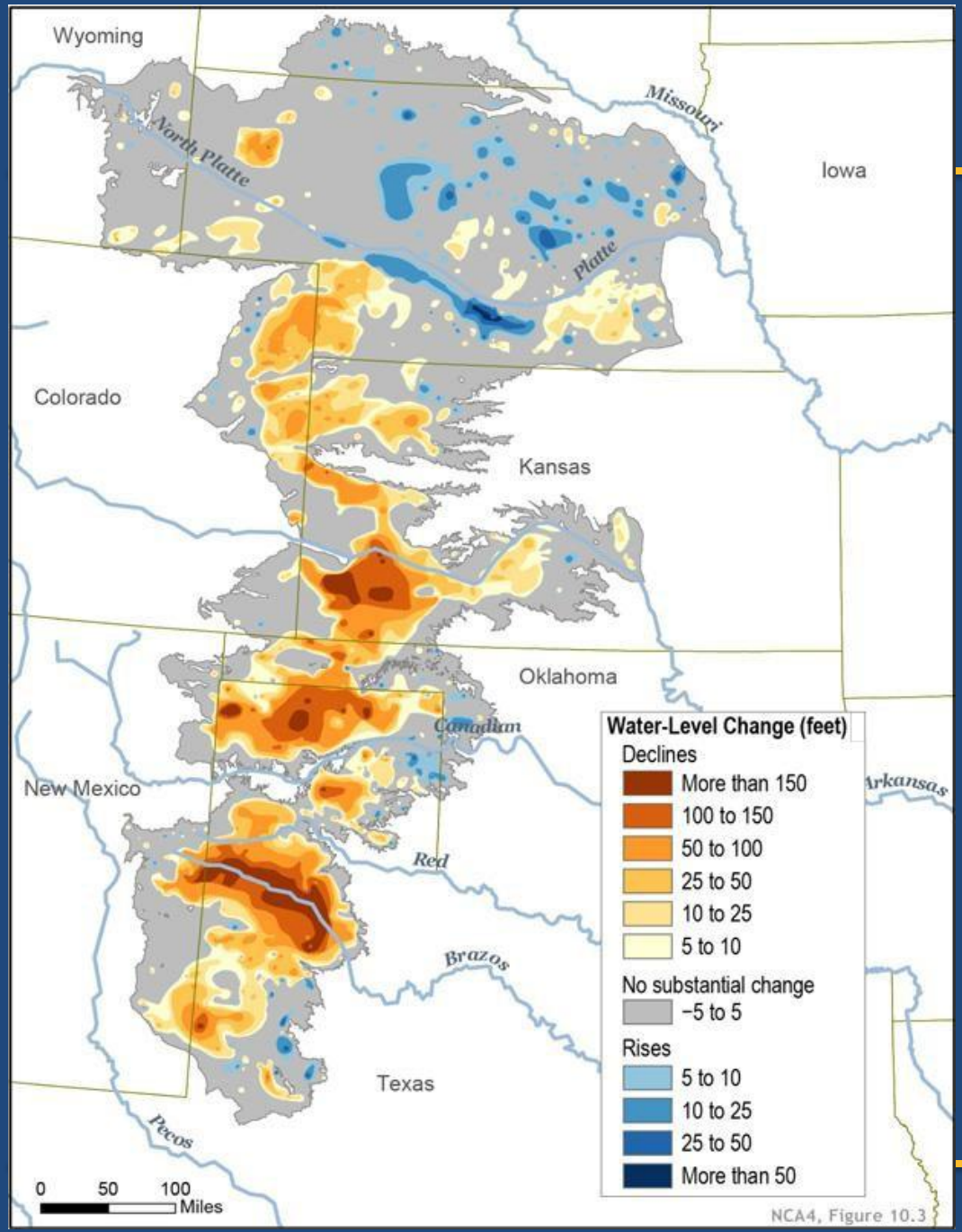
# Irrigation circles

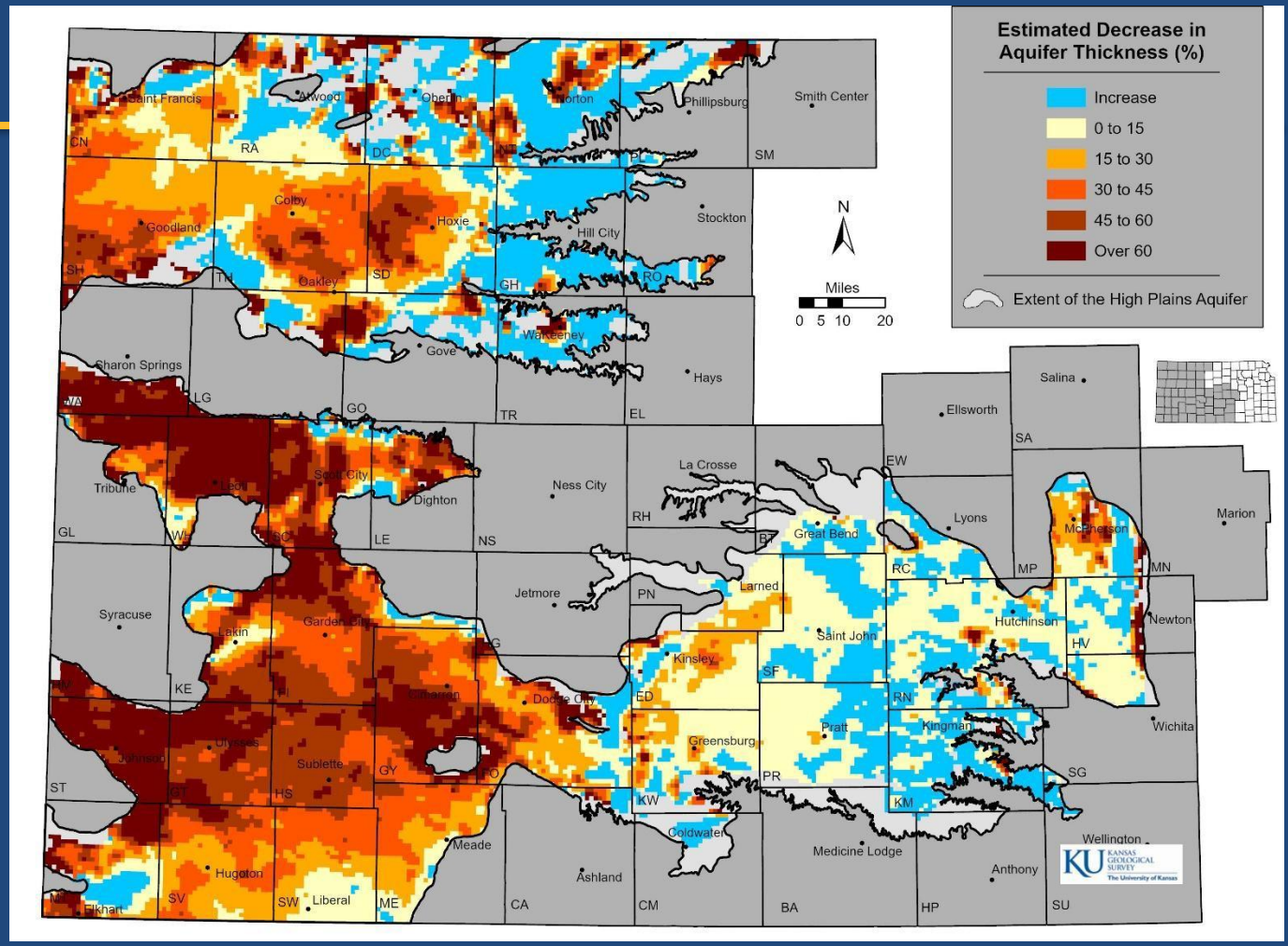
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# aka High Plains Aquifer

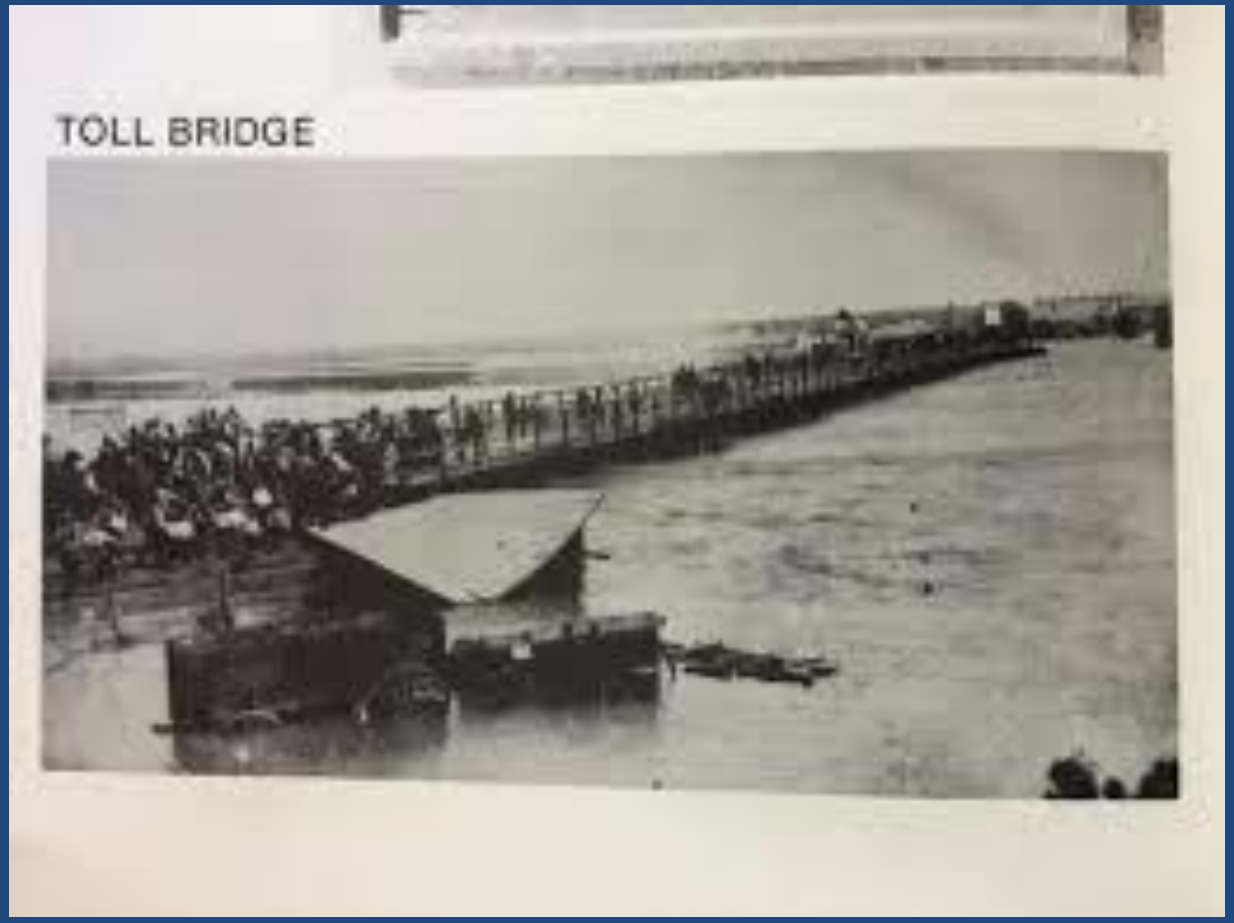
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# Arkansas River in 1800s – Dodge City and Great Bend







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# Dodge City - Arkansas River today



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# Why Save the Ogallala?

- Kansas is agriculture state
  - Farmers grow corn for local feedlots and dairies
  - 180,000 in 130 dairy farms
  - 5.95 million cattle in ranches and feed yards
- Communities running out of water
- Water Quality – Uranium

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# DOC Water Conservation Programs

- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- Water Transition Assistance Program
- Irrigation Technology Initiative



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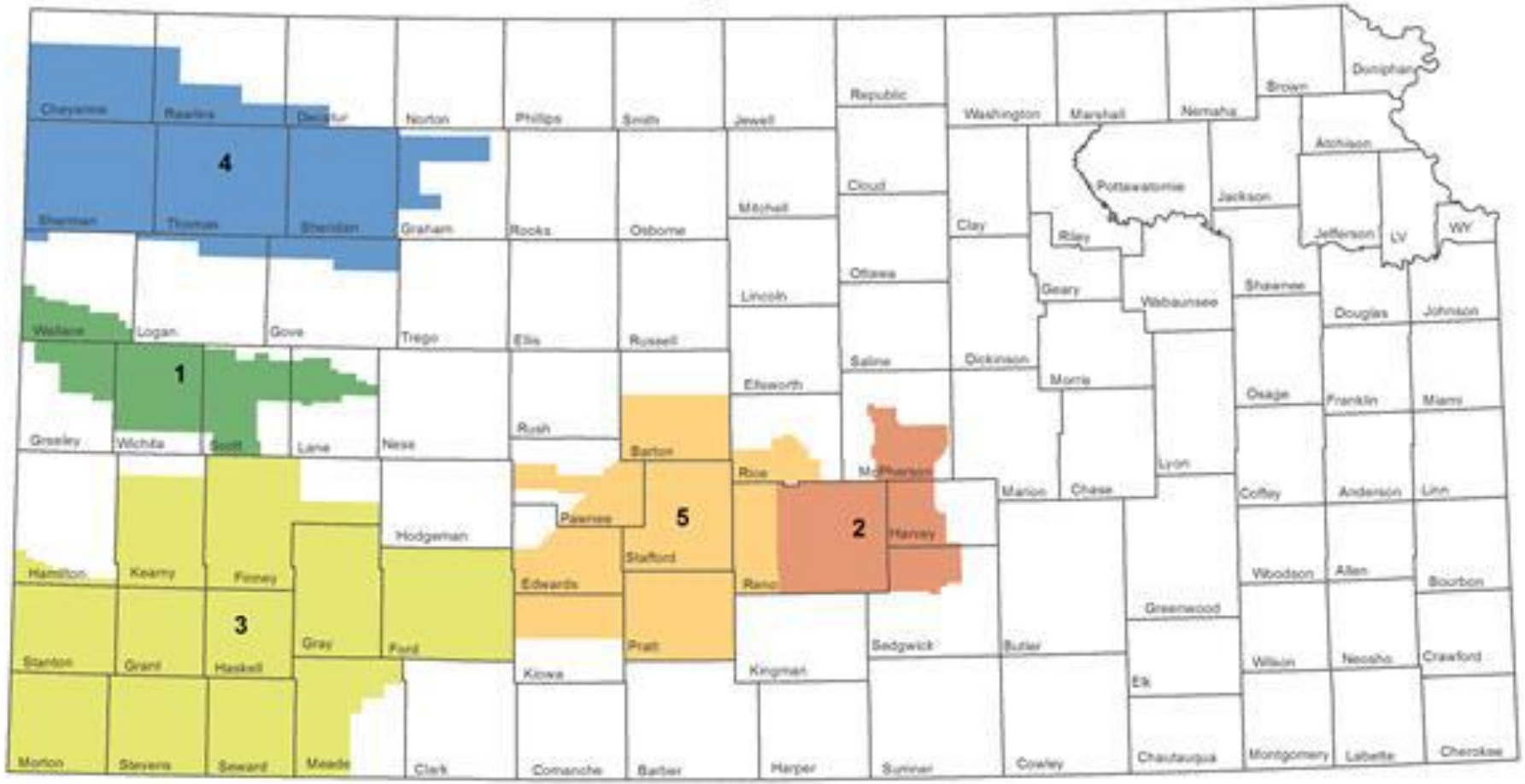
# Irrigation Technology Initiative - ITI

Working with five established Groundwater Management Districts (GMD)

- Five managers rather than 38
- Not all counties were completely covered in GMD area
- Irrigation expertise

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# Groundwater Management Districts in Kansas




Western Kansas GMD #1 | Equus Beds GMS #2 | Southwest Kansas GMD #3 | Northwest Kansas GMD #4 | Big Bend GMD #5

Disclaimer - Features on this map represent conditions as of the date of the map and are subject to change. The user is referred to specific policies, regulations, and/or orders of the Chief Engineer.

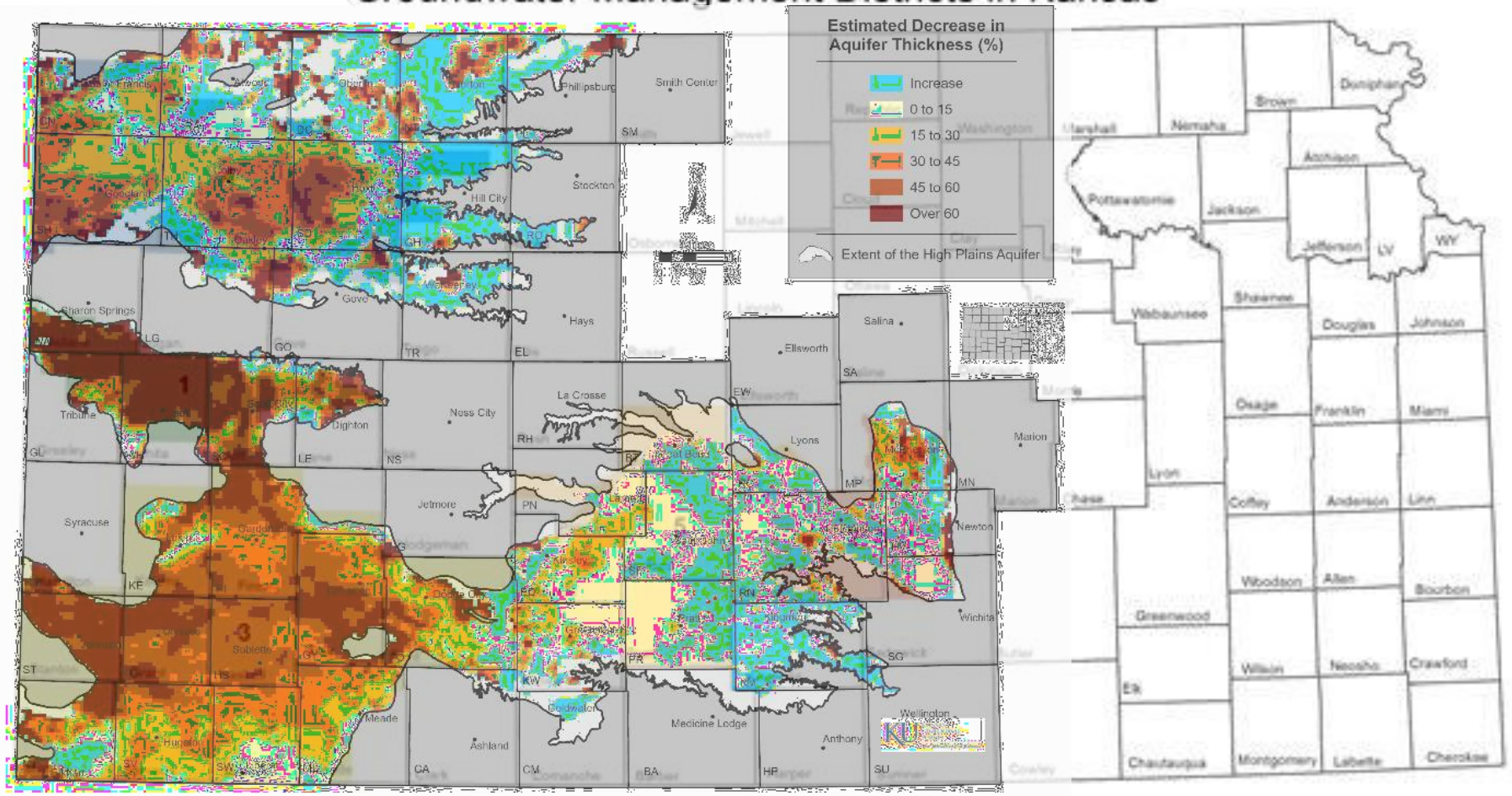
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0 25 50 100 Miles

Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources
July 24, 2017

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# Groundwater Management Districts in Kansas



# Irrigation Technology Initiative - ITI

State initiative was intended to be introduction/baseline or pre-requisite for RCPP.

FY 2025:

$1.3 million initial allocation

$150,000 per GMD, excess funds for Technical Assistance/Admin Fees

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# Irrigation Technology Initiative - ITI

1 Lead System Evaluator
3 System Evaluators

Training and certification on Natural Gas, Electric, and Diesel Fuel pumping plants

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# Irrigation Technology Initiative - ITI

Practices available

- Irrigation System Evaluation
- Crop Uniformity Evaluation

RCPP Practices

- Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
- Sprinkler System (442)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Pumping Plant (533)

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# Saving the Aquifers

Results and Impact

GMD 1: 55 evals, 7 nozzle packages, 3 Field Net sensors

GMD 2: 0 evals

GMD 3: 6 evals

GMD 4: 25 evals

GMD 5: 3 evals

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# Saving the Ogallala

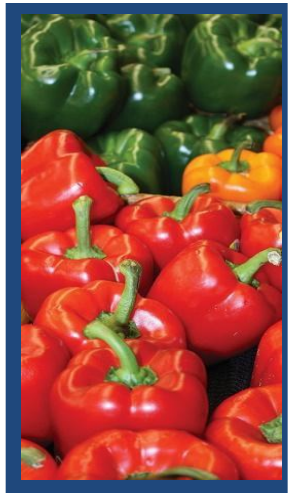
"When the well is dry, we know the worth of water"

Benjamin Franklin

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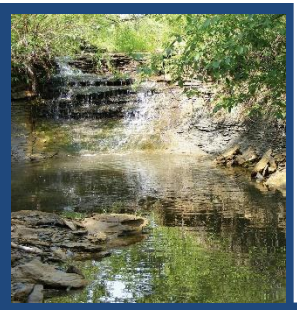




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# THANK YOU


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