

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

Technology plays a key role in the study of irrigation water use in a five-acre demonstration corn plot southeast of Imperial.

This marks the first year of what will be a multi-year study to collect data to help farmers determine the most efficient use of their irrigation water.

As a farmer, imagine checking corn fields with a light scanner that measures the water and nitrogen levels present in the corn leaf.

Wouldn't that be a great way to determine if the field is under stress due to a shortage of water and/or nitrogen?

Wouldn't it be great to be able to apply more water or nitrogen to certain parts of the field or shut off certain sprinkler heads to save water on non-crop portions of the field?

One doesn't have to imagine having those technologies—it exists today and is being put to use in the new study plot.

Twenty area farmers turned out Monday evening to learn more about the studies and hear updates on irrigation strategies.

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