

2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
OVERVIEW AND WRAP UP

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in many elementary and high school grades beginning in 2009, (4) raising the gas tax by 1.2 cents this summer. To the governor's credit, he vetoed the gas tax bill, but the senators overrode his veto.

All in all, this session was a good one and no major harmful water laws were passed, changed or altered. Finally, our natural resources districts (NRDs) will have a chance to catch up and not have to deal with a new set of rules forced upon them by the DNR.

KANSAS DEMAND FOR MONEY
DAMAGES UNFOUNDED

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As schools lose financial resources due to a dwindling tax base, it is not only the educational system that suffers. Program and staffing cutbacks are made which have a negative impact on students and the local housing market. It is hard to attract and maintain quality staff or new students and their families. People quit coming to town and before you know it, you have another community without a school. Merchants suffer with fewer people and less visitors. People don't buy as much gas or as many groceries or open up as many checking accounts or get as many oil changes and the negative cycle goes on and on and on."

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PLATTE RIVER ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM
"COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT" UPDATE

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the Platte River while also providing the necessary water to meet the demands we face in the Platte River region. I am pleased that it was included in the natural resources bill and approved by the Senate." Sorry, Senator Nelson, the CA is extremely harmful to Nebraska irrigated agriculture and the economic well being of our state. The hit to the Platte River basin economies is huge and will have major and lasting effects on the quality of life in that highly productive region.

But there is hope. The CA has an "out" provision. At any time any one of the three state governors can pull their state out of the CA. As time passes, and Governor Heinemann begins to learn more about the dangers of proceeding down the road with the CA hand in hand with the FWS, we hope he will reevaluate his view of the program and pull Nebraska out of it because once the inevitable negative economic effects gain momentum there will be no stopping the downward cycle.



Irrigation Application Efficiencies Really Do Matter				
Irrigation Application Efficiency	Amount of Water that must be Pumped to Provide 12 Inches of Water to the Crop	Amount of Water that must be Pumped to Provide 18 Inches of Water to the Crop	Amount of Water that must be Pumped to Provide 20 Inches of Water to the Crop	Amount of Water that must be Pumped to Provide 24 Inches of Water to the Crop
50%	24 inches	36 inches	40 inches	48 inches
60%	20 inches	30 inches	33.33 inches	40 inches
70%	17.50 inches	25.7 inches	28.7 inches	34.3 inches
80%	15 inches	22.5 inches	25 inches	30 inches
90%	13.33 inches	20 inches	22.2 inches	26.67 inches
95%	12.65 inches	19 inches	21 inches	25.3 inches