

When You Just Don't Have Enough: Producing Irrigated Alfalfa Under Deficit Conditions

Matt Yost, Utah State University - Logan, UT USA



Matt Yost is a native of southern Idaho where he was raised on a dairy farm. After completing his PhD in Applied Plant Science at the University of Minnesota, he spent 4 years doing postdoctoral research in the Midwest. He is currently an associate professor, associate department head, and agroclimate extension specialist at Utah State University. His current research and extension efforts center on optimizing water use in agriculture, soil health, precision agriculture, and adaptive nutrient management. He also directs USU crops – a team of 25 Extension faculty conducting coordinated research and outreach that educates and assists thousands of stakeholders each year.

The widespread and historic droughts of 2021 and 2022 are putting extreme pressure on many alfalfa producers to maintain production with less irrigation. This session will present past and ongoing research in Utah and other surrounding states on best strategies for improving alfalfa irrigation management and research-based approaches to deficit irrigation that minimize loss.