

WHAT IF?

If we get **water management right**, that translates into real opportunities for producers, local communities, and the state.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A 12,500 HEAD DAIRY

CONSTRUCTION:

- \$136.9 million
- 603 jobs
- \$2.5 million in state and local taxes

OPERATION:

- \$113.9 million, annually
- 176 jobs
- \$8 million in state and local taxes, annually

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A 42.5-MILLION-BUSHEL SOYBEAN CRUSH FACILITY

CONSTRUCTION:

- \$457 million
- 1,502 jobs
- \$6.6 million in state and local taxes

OPERATION:

- \$1.17 billion, annually
- 1,266 jobs
- \$30.5 million in state and local taxes, annually

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF 1,000-ACRE ONION FARM (IRRIGATED)

\$9.1 MILLION, ANNUALLY

22 JOBS

\$500,000 IN STATE AND LOCAL TAXES, ANNUALLY

Smart Water Management. Stronger Farms. Stronger Communities.
STRONGER NORTH DAKOTA.

North Dakota Irrigation AND Drainage Study 2026

IRRIGATION

LESS THAN
300,000
ACRES
IRRIGATED TODAY

➔

COULD BE IRRIGATING
1.5 MILLION
ACRES
BASED ON SOIL SUITABILITY
AND WATER AVAILABILITY



\$\$

NORTH DAKOTA MISSED OUT ON \$9.7 BILLION
IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY FROM 1970-2024
BECAUSE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DIDN'T DEVELOP PROMISED IRRIGATION

THAT MISSED OPPORTUNITY GROWS EVERY YEAR

NORTH DAKOTA MISSED OUT ON \$421.9 MILLION
IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN 2024 ALONE



IRRIGATION RESULTS IN ECONOMIC RETURNS



Some of that Return is Realized at the Farm Level and Some at the State Level



SOYBEANS

Converting 1,000 acres of soybeans from dryland to irrigated

NET INCREASE
\$139,814
FOR THOSE ACRES

FARM REALIZES
\$131,846

BROADER ECONOMY REALIZES
\$7,968

CORN

Converting 1,000 acres of corn from dryland to irrigated

NET INCREASE
\$111,614
FOR THOSE ACRES

FARM REALIZES
\$92,267

BROADER ECONOMY REALIZES
\$19,347

POTATOES

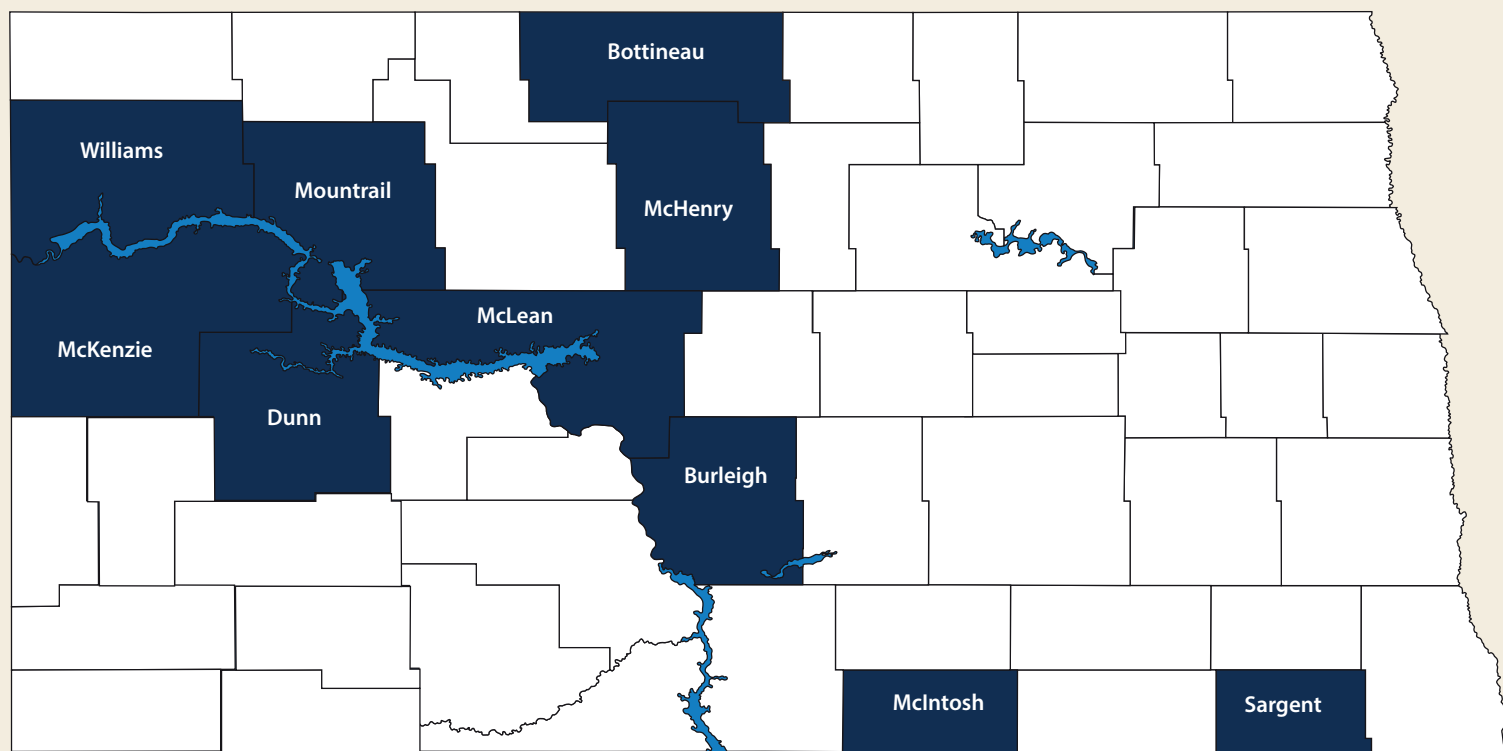
Converting 1,000 acres of potatoes from dryland to irrigated

NET INCREASE
\$2,484,107
FOR THOSE ACRES

FARM REALIZES
\$1,613,274

BROADER ECONOMY REALIZES
\$870,833

Counties with Highest Potential for Irrigation



DRAINAGE

This study looked at the impact of legal drains in **12 North Dakota counties**. These drains contribute **\$87.9 million annually** to the state economy.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION OF LEGAL DRAINS BY COUNTY				
County	Total Employment	Total Labor Income (\$ Million)	Total Value Added (\$ Million)	Total Output (\$ Million)
Cass	48	\$ 5.9	\$ 10.4	\$ 16.9
Richland	47	\$ 6.5	\$ 9.8	\$ 15.7
Traill	43	\$ 4.2	\$ 9.8	\$ 15.6
Pembina	29	\$ 3.0	\$ 6.7	\$ 11.3
Grand Forks	34	\$ 3.5	\$ 5.7	\$ 9.3
Walsh	29	\$ 2.6	\$ 5.0	\$ 8.5
Sargent	11	\$ 2.0	\$ 2.3	\$ 3.7
Wells	7	\$ 1.1	\$ 1.7	\$ 2.7
Dickey	6	\$ 1.1	\$ 1.3	\$ 2.0
Ransom	4	\$ 0.6	\$ 0.8	\$ 1.3
Cavalier	2	\$ 0.2	\$ 0.3	\$ 0.6
Foster	1	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.2	\$ 0.2
Total	260	\$ 30.7	\$ 54.0	\$ 87.9

This report was made possible thanks to the **69th North Dakota Legislative Assembly** and these **Valuable Partners**



Cass County Electric Cooperative

