

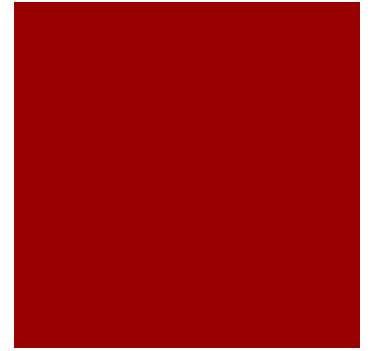


Arizona Agriculture: Worth the Water

Julie Murphree, Director of Communications & Outreach
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation
April 27, 2018

Overview

- Arizona Farm Bureau – Who We Are
- Economic Impact of Agriculture in Arizona
- How Arizona Farms and Ranches Use (and conserve!) Water
- Concerns and Challenges for the Future



Arizona Farm Bureau: Who We Are

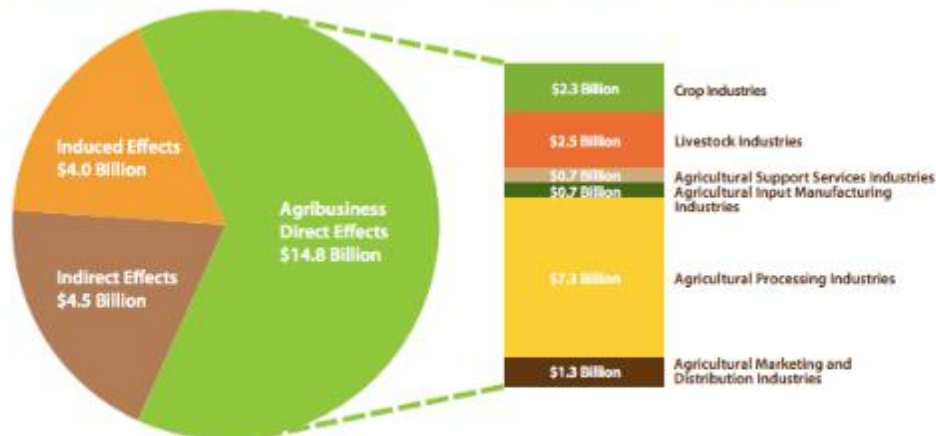
- Arizona's largest agricultural advocacy organization
 - 14 county organizations
 - 2,000+ Farm and Ranch members
- Core areas of education, public relations, and policy
- Grassroots policy development and advocacy strategy
 - County → State → National
 - Members drive it all!



Agriculture's Economic Impact

- **\$23.3 Billion** contributed to Arizona's economy
- 138,000 full- and part-time jobs
- \$5.6 billion in labor income

Figure 7. Economic Contribution of the Agribusiness System to Arizona State Sales, 2014



Source: Calculations by the authors. Data from IMPLAN Group, LLC, 2014; USDA, ERS, 2017; U.S. Department of Commerce, BEA, 2016.



Coconino County

- Total value of agricultural products sold:\$25,812,000
- Value of irrigated crops: \$2,358,000
 - Vegetables
 - Forage Crops
- Value of livestock: \$23,454,000
 - Cattle and Calves
 - Sheep, lambs, goats



Navajo County

- Total value of agricultural products sold: \$64,525,000
- Value of irrigated crops: \$5,836,000
 - Forage Crops
- Value of livestock: \$58,678,000
 - Cattle and Calves
 - Sheep, lambs, goats
 - Horses



Apache County

- Total value of agricultural products sold: \$24,194,000
- Value of irrigated crops: \$13,197,000
 - Forage Crops
 - Vegetables
- Value of livestock: \$10,998,000
 - Sheep, lambs, goats
 - Cattle and calves
 - Horses



Agricultural Water Use

Irrigated Agriculture

Flood Irrigation



Drip Irrigation



Irrigated Agriculture

Center Pivot Irrigation



Irrigation Efficiency



- Crop Rotation
 - Growing different crops on the same land during successive growing seasons
 - Increases soil fertility
 - Improves weed control
- No-Till and Minimum-Till
 - As little soil disturbance as possible
 - Increases levels of organic matter in the soil

Water and Ranching

- Rainfall and other precipitation provides the water necessary for the vegetation on which cattle feed
- Stockponds are either fed through existing surface water features, or supplied with a small well (<35 gallons per minute)

Stockponds aren't just for livestock, either! Wildlife including bears, deer, and birds often take their turn at the local watering hole.



Range Management



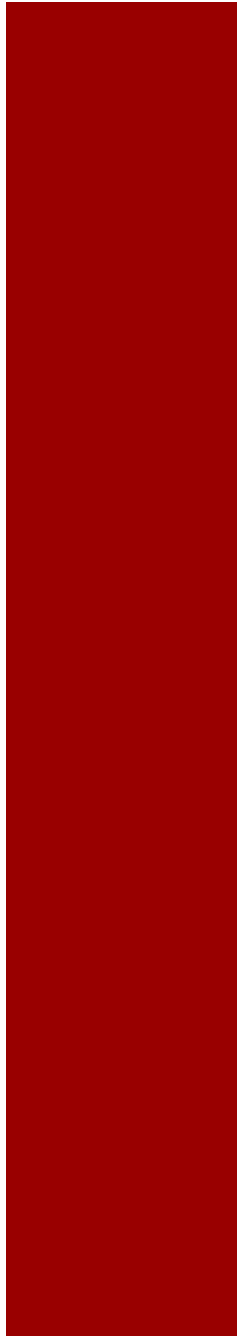
- Ranchers use all tools at their disposal to make sure that precious water is used efficiently:
 - Rotational Grazing: moving livestock to different areas of the ranch to allow recovery and regrowth of vegetation
 - Range Monitoring: scientifically based programs for tracking plant growth and populations on ranch pastures
- The vegetation control offered by grazing animals also plays a key role in preventing wildfires

Looking to the Future

- Drought
- Water Competition
- Public Disconnect from Agriculture



Thanks to the responsible,
effective, and efficient
water management of
Arizona farmers and
ranchers, Arizona
Agriculture is worth every
drop of water it uses!



Thank you!

www.azfb.org

juliemurphree@azfb.org

