

Irrigation Allowance Program (IAP)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- Q1: *Who decides the year type under the new program (Typical/Wet/Dry)?*
- R1: The FCGMA will provide the year type following the end of each calendar year. The “year-type” designation will be included in the Irrigation Allowance Program (IAP) documentation (application form, allowance table, zone map, etc)
- Q2: *What is the process to finalize the irrigation allowance for the crops?*
- R2: Communication with the growers, gathered as part of our workshop efforts, along with additional data analysis, is necessary to refine the irrigation allowance for crops when necessary. The Agency has contracted with ITRC for the next twelve months (ending in August 2012) to conduct quality control of the program - including verifying the irrigation allowance is appropriate. We will make every effort to finalize all values prior to the end of December 2011; and if necessary, fine-tune the numbers by mid-year 2012.
- Q3: *In the FCGMA, the use of the calendar year as the water year actually captures the tail end of the previous year's rainfall and the beginning of the following year's rainfall and so the FCGMA water year is actually made up of two unrelated water years. Under the FCGMA water year, if the spring rainfall is low and we have a hot dry summer my crops will require a lot of water, but if we have a very wet fall (my crops are nearly harvested by now) it may result in that year being labeled as a “wet year” when in fact it really isn't. That wet year water allocation does not really fit, and has the potential to cause me to incur a surcharge. Maybe the FCGMA should shift from calendar year reporting to a July 1 through June 30 year to better capture the crop growing cycle and rain.*
- R3: Good point. We have heard similar comments and as time permits are evaluating how best to address this. In the mean time, we are working with the Irrigation Training and Research Center to make sure that the irrigation allowances are appropriate based on the year type selection.
- Q4: *Does the irrigation allowance take into account soil type?*
- R4: Yes. It also takes into account: Santa Ana winds; water necessary for leaching; uneven distribution uniformity; and includes a factor to “add-in” for frost control.
- Q5: *What is irrigated acreage?*
- R5: Irrigated acreage is only acreage that is planted. Roads, houses, barns, etc are not included.
- Q6: *Will this program make credits disappear?*
- R6: No. The Agency's efficiency based groundwater allocation system does not allow operators who achieve the efficiency allocation to earn credits. The new irrigation allowance index program is designed to make sure the water allowances for crops are appropriate. It is not a program to manage credits.