Yuma County Conservation District in Wray invites area irrigators to an Irrigation Water Management Field Day, five miles south of Wray on Hwy 385. The field day will be held on Wednesday, July 22, beginning at 9 a.m. No registration is required. Contact the Yuma County CD at 970-332-3173 ext. 3 with questions.

The field day will feature demonstrations of five different soil water monitoring systems. Irrigators will be able to see the systems side by side and ask questions of the product representatives. The purpose of the field day is to provide a short overview of each product—not to promote one system over the other. The plan is to be finished by noon.

The following are short descriptions of the systems that have been installed at the field day location:

—The ECH2O probe was installed and will be represented by Jerome Haaland from Simplot. It is an electrical resistance type sensor that also measures soil temperature and electrical conductivity. This sensor can be pushed directly into undisturbed soil. Depending on the type of monitor attached, the system returns minute average data.

—Chris Arnold of T-Tape Inc. will describe the CropSense system. An electrical resistance type sensor, CropSense transmits soil moisture data via satellite every 30 minutes. The probes are electrical resistance type sensors placed at multiple depths within the root zone. Sensors may also be placed below the root systems to show movement of water through the soil profile or the height of the water table.

—John Lovell with Y-W Well Testing Association will discuss gypsum blocks. The gypsum block has been around since the 1940s, making it one of the oldest methods of soil moisture measurements. Gyp blocks are read by a hand held meter which measures the electrical resistance between the electrodes in the block.

—The Watermark system, sold by the Yuma County Conservation District, will be explained by Joel Schneekloth from the Akron ARS Station. It is an electrical resistance type sensor, read by data logging equipment or a Soil Moisture Meter. The meter converts the electrical resistance

reading to a calibrated reading of Centibars of soil water tension. This system records the soil moisture every eight hours.

—OnTrac by Reinke will be described by Jim Williams of J&J Irrigation. OnTrac is a product that allows for remote monitoring and control anywhere. An OnTrac device communicates directly with low earth orbiting satellites. The data passed between the OnTrac device and satellite is transmitted to a ground station. There the user can monitor and control the device in many ways including interactive voice recognition with a telephone, text messaging, e-mail, or over the internet.