

KSU SDI Sites for Research in Western Kansas in the Great Plains

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The research subsurface drip irrigation (SDI) system at the KSU Northwest Research-Extension Center at Colby, Kansas is probably the world's largest site devoted to small-plot research with field corn using SDI. It is composed of 7 major study areas covering approximately 21 acres with 189 separately controlled research plots. The first two study areas were developed in 1989 and the last study area was developed in 2000. The earliest study areas are still performing well after 12 cropping seasons.

There is a similar SDI system at Holcomb, Kansas managed by the KSU Southwest Research-Extension Center at Garden City, Kansas with 10 acres and a total of 86 research plots. This system was developed in 1990.

A research system devoted to SDI research with livestock wastewater was developed at Midwest Feeders Inc., Ingalls, Kansas in 1998. This 3.5 acre system with a total of 17 plots is jointly managed by the KSU Northwest and Southwest Research-Extension Centers.

An additional extension demonstration site in southwest Kansas is examining alfalfa production using SDI. This system is managed by the KSU Southwest Area Extension Office at Garden City, Kansas.