

# On-Farm Upgrades to Reduce Water Use and Increase Crop Yields

MB3 Farms outside Cheraw, Colorado utilized an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to upgrade the operation's irrigation to a more efficient center pivot system. This partnership has helped the operation see measurable improvements in their efficiency and input costs and expect improved crop yields in seasons to come.



**Organizations involved with this project include:** National Resources Conservation Service and MB3 Farms

## KEY PROJECT STATS



Reduced water use by half



Reduced input costs



Increased yield



Installation of the center pivot system at MB3 Farms. Photo credit Irrigation Today.

## PROJECT SUMMARY

In partnership with NRCS through EQIP, MB3 Farms upgraded its irrigation system from one that relied on flood irrigation to a more efficient center pivot system. The new system includes three center pivots, each covering 120 acres of farmland, and three ponds. Beginning construction in January 2021, the project was completed efficiently and on-time for the 2021 spring planting season.

The cost-share agreement also included participation in an NRCS program to upgrade their nutrient management plan. Soil samples from MB3 fields were analyzed in a third-party lab and the results used to create an efficient nutrient plan through collaboration between MB3 Farms and NRCS.

## KEY PROJECT BENEFIT

After only one season with the new center pivots system, this EQIP project has seen measurable improvements across the operation. According to Travis Matthew of MB3 Farms, "We are able to water the whole farm with roughly half as much water. We are able to grow the same crop and expect better yields. We didn't have near the input costs for getting the ground work done. Instead of two weeks to get it done, we were done in two days. We are able to do more with less." In a typically arid part of the country where water is precious and every drop must go further, EQIP has increased the likelihood that the farm will continue for generations all while reducing its impact on the area's natural resources.

To learn more about this project, please visit the Irrigation Today website at [irrigationtoday.org/features/success-stories/](http://irrigationtoday.org/features/success-stories/)



MB3 Farms: (L to R) Dustin Matthew, Travis Matthew, Ben Matthew, Grandpa Tuffy Matthew and Christ Matthew. Photo credit: Irrigation Today

## WACC MEMBERS

