

Water management summit at Monsanto

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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Business and political leaders from across the state will gather in Gothenburg Thursday, Sept. 23, for a water management summit.

Hosted by the Platte Institute for Economic Research, the summit will be at the Monsanto Water Utilization and Learning Center.

The schedule is as follows:

8:15 a.m.—Welcome by Pete Ricketts who is president of the Platte Institute for Economic Research and opening remarks by Sen. Beau McCoy and Jane Griffin of The Groundwater Foundation.

8:30 a.m.—Nebraska water resources by University of Nebraska-Lincoln professors R.J. Suppala and Derrel Martin.

9:15 a.m.—Water resource challenges panel discussion with McCoy, Sens. Tom Carlson, Deb Fischer, Ken Harr, Ken Schiltz and Jay Rempke of the Nebraska Farm Bureau.

12:30 p.m.—Luncheon with remarks by attorney Warren Arganbright and Nebraska athletic director Tom Osborne.

1 p.m.—Sustainable agriculture by Monsanto Learning Center manager Chandler Mazour.

1:30 p.m.—Nebraska water challenges by the Department of Natural Resources (NRD) director Brian Dunnigan.

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2 p.m.—Water supply management from 30,000 feet panel discussion with Dunnigan, Arganbright, Mike Allen of the Nebraska Well Drillers Association, Sen. Chris Langemeier of the Nebraska Water Resources advisory panel, Jim Goeke of the UNL Research Center in North Platte and Jerry Obrist who is chief engineer of Water Works of Lincoln.

3:15 p.m.—Optimizing Local Water Management Practices panel discussion with Dean Edson, of the Nebraska Association of Resource Districts, John Turnbull of the Upper Big Blue NRD, Jasper Fanning of the Upper Republican NRD, Mary Kelly who is a national water resource expert, Kent Miller of the Twin Platte NRD and John Miyoshi, Lower Platte NRD.

4:15 p.m.—Wrap up by John McCollister, Platte Institute executive director.

Tours of the learning center will be available following the summit.