The Upper Republican Natural Resources District has been selected to receive a $100,000 grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost-share on soil-moisture probes in Perkins, Chase and Dundy counties.

The NRD is also contributing $100,000, bringing total project funding over the next two years to $200,000. The match is provided to encourage the use of soil-moisture probes in the district to help conserve water while maintaining and seeking increased yields.

The grant and NRD funds will pay for 2/3 of the costs of probe equipment and/or services. The initial limit on probes is two per person. Funding is available over a two-year period and will be capped at $3,000 for probes that are purchased; $1,500 for probes that are leased.

Funds will be allocated on a first-come basis.

Sign-up period short

The NRD just recently learned of the grant award. So with irrigation season nearly here, the initial sign-up period for the program will be relatively short.

The NRD is requesting that applications for the program be submitted to the NRD no later than May 31. Applications are available on the NRD website, www.urnrd.org, and will soon be available from area dealers of probes.

Additional sign-up periods may be established depending on availability of funds.

The grant the NRD has been selected for by the Bureau of Reclamation is one of 34 new WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency grants in 11 states. A total of 167 grant applications were submitted under the program.

Irrigators with questions can contact the NRD in Imperial at 882-5173.