

AG 101

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- By Mark Moore

Water plays an important role in our daily lives and agriculture. From raising livestock to growing crops to fueling hydroponics systems to cleaning and protecting produce and more, water affects the food we eat in more ways than one. Consider these stats — and opportunities for your future.

212,714

Total irrigating farms
(applying water to crops
using human-created
systems) in the U.S.

8.1%

Decrease in the number of
U.S. farms that irrigated
between 2018 and 2023.

**53.1
million**

Total irrigated acres
in the U.S.

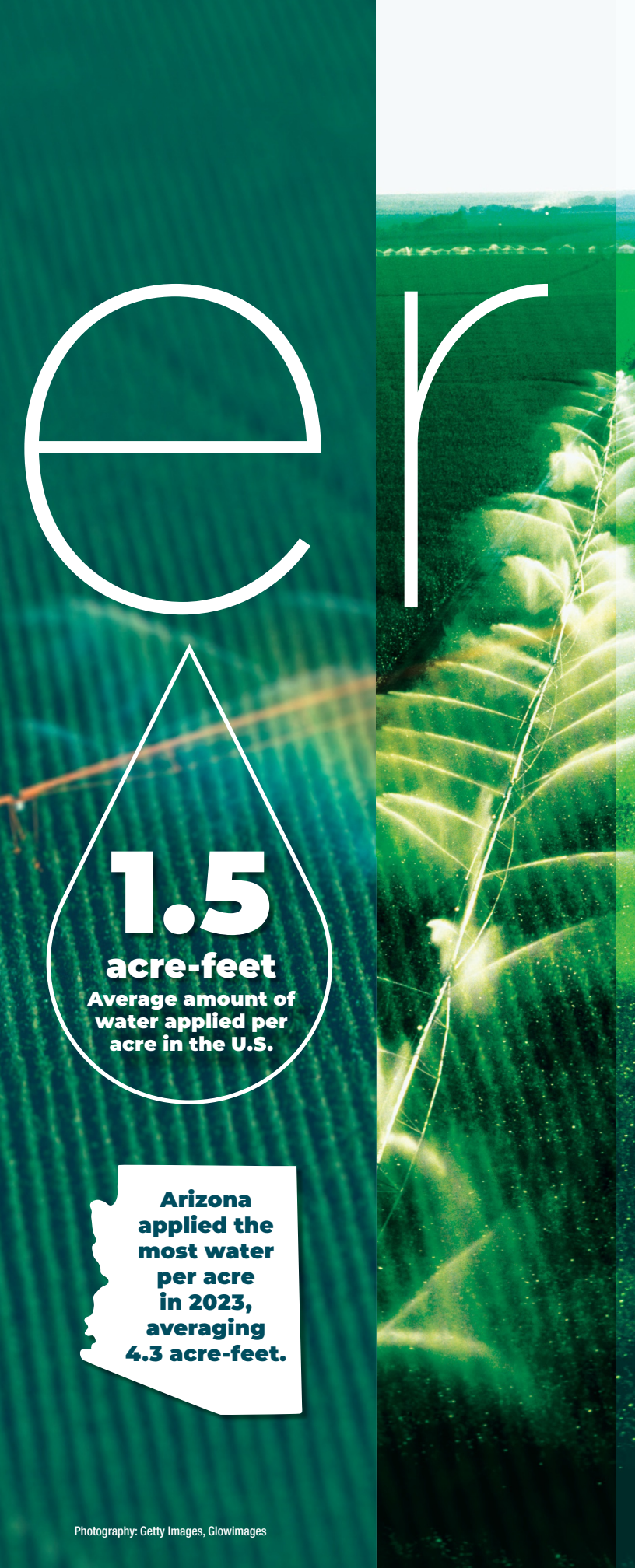
2.8%

Decrease in the total amount of
irrigated water applied by U.S.
farms between 2018 and 2023.

Top five states with the greatest number of irrigated acres.



CALIFORNIA NEBRASKA ARKANSAS TEXAS IDAHO

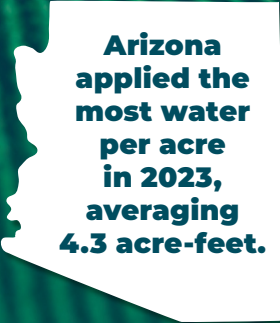


E

1.5

acre-feet

**Average amount of
water applied per
acre in the U.S.**



**Arizona
applied the
most water
per acre
in 2023,
averaging
4.3 acre-feet.**

SOAK UP OPPORTUNITIES IN FFA

If you want to continue learning about water use and explore how it relates to a potential career in agriculture, check out these awesome opportunities.

COMPETITIVE EVENTS

The following career and leadership development events (CDEs and LDEs) can help you gain skills while sharing topics and issues, such as those connected to water, with a broader audience.

- **Agricultural Communications CDE**
- **Agricultural Issues Forum LDE**
- **Agronomy CDE**
- **Environment and Natural Resources CDE**
- **Prepared Public Speaking LDE**

SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCES (SAEs) AND AGRICULTURAL PROFICIENCY AWARDS

These projects emphasize hands-on learning, and you may receive awards and recognition for your hard work. Since water touches so many areas of agriculture, the possibilities are endless. Here are some starting points.

- **Agriscience Research**
- **Diversified Crop Production**
- **Diversified Horticulture**
- **Nursery Operations**
- **Wildlife Production and Management**

CAREERS

Your future could be tied to water. There are dozens of paths available, some of which you may not have thought of.

- **Alternative energy specialist**
- **Aquaculturist**
- **Biological technician**
- **Conservation officer**
- **Saltwater husbandry technician**

Continue your search at
AgExplorer.FFA.org