

# Missouri Irrigators Association Holding Annual Conference Jan. 27 In Lamar

## SPRINGFIELD, MO.

The Southwest Chapter of Missouri Irrigators Association will hold their 2011 Irrigator's Conference starting at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011, in the Finley Room at the Barton County University of Missouri Extension Center, 801 E. 12th St. (Hwy 160) in Lamar.

The planned topics of discussion include energy grants and low interest loan programs, Missouri climate and wireless irrigation sensors. An organizational meeting will follow the program and will adjourn by 2:30 p.m.

MAESTRO is a new energy grant program available to livestock producers in Missouri. Other energy programs available include Energize Missouri and Rural Energy for America Pro-

gram (REAP) that offer low interest loans or grants for upgrading farm operations. Some of the energy programs might offer an opportunity to switch from diesel to electric powered irrigation systems for example.

Another presentation at the conference will focus on Missouri's changing climate. Missouri has recorded weather data since the 1890s. Can any conclusions be drawn from this data?

New technologies can also be adapted to irrigation systems to possibly reduce water use or at least allow for better efficiencies and reduced energy consumption. Wireless sensors offer the ability to keep close tabs on moisture needs.

For additional information about the conference, contact Ed Browning at the Jasper County Extension Center, (417) 358-2158. Δ



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