

# Workshop: Producers See How Irrigation Pump Testing Fits Into Efficient Farm Operations



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## STUTTGART, ARK.

**F**armers never take water for granted and shouldn't take their pumps for granted either. Chris Henry, assistant professor and water management engineer for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, hosted a two-day workshop, Aug. 6-7, on conducting irrigation pumping plant performance tests. Sixty-five engineers and pump experts from around the South attended the workshop at the Rice Research and Extension Center.

"Producers and pump owners are often in the dark about the performance of pumping plants, and pump testing is a way of assessing a plant and justifying the expense of replacement, maintenance or upgrades," he said.

"Pump evaluations are useful to determine the

feasibility of upgrading an irrigation pumping plant, sometimes the results indicate that maintenance or upgrading is necessary and sometimes the cost can be recovered in as little as one year," Henry said.

Testing can also demonstrate well efficiency issues that should be addressed to profitability.

"We hope the workshop will create awareness of the large potential energy savings that can be captured by proper irrigation pump testing," he said.

Producers interested in having their irrigation pumps tested can contact Henry at 870-673-2661 or [cghenry@uark.edu](mailto:cghenry@uark.edu) for a list of private companies planning to provide this service in the near future in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. △



**Nearly five dozen attended an irrigation workshop Aug. 6-7 in Stuttgart, where workshop participants learned about how to conduct an irrigation pumping plant performance test using two units a diesel and electric on at the Rice Research and Extension Center.**

U of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture photos by Chris Henry