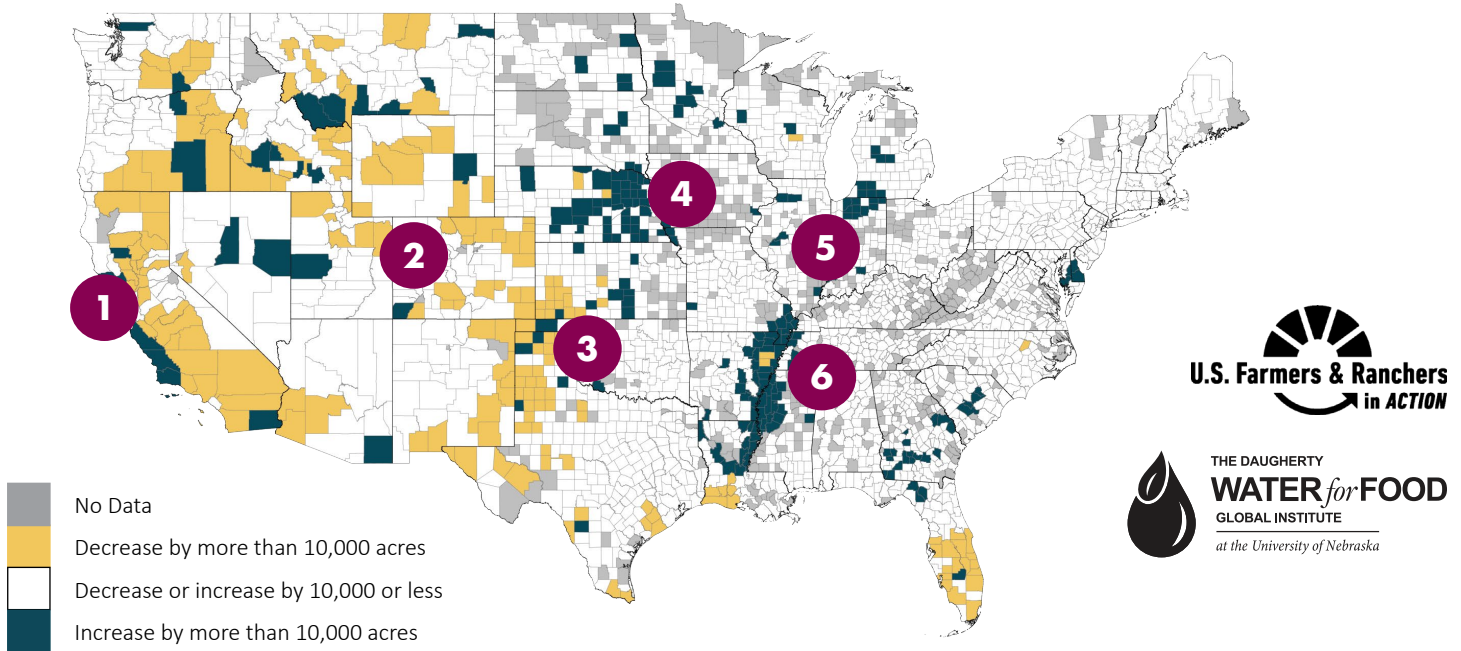


Agricultural Water Use Trends in the United States

Some areas in the US are seeing an increase in irrigation, while others are seeing a decrease. Factors that influence trends include weather patterns, groundwater availability, policy changes and changes in crop type.

County-level change in irrigated farmland, 1997 to 2017



Trend: Decrease in irrigated farmland

- 1 Long-term drought and water transfers to cities have decreased California's water availability for agriculture. Further reductions are expected to occur to meet the target goals set by the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.
- 2 Along the Colorado Front Range, water has been transferred from agriculture to cities to support the state's growing population.
- 3 In parts of the High Plains, groundwater depletion has reduced the water available to meet crop needs. As a result, there has been a decrease in irrigated farmland.



Trend: Increase in irrigated farmland

- 4 In Nebraska, which generally has ample groundwater, irrigated areas have increased in response to drought and high crop prices. Across much of the state, further expansion of irrigated acreage is currently restricted.
- 5 Across the Midwest and Eastern US, areas that have historically supported rainfed crops have been adding irrigation. This is often in response to increased variability in rainfall.
- 6 Along the Mississippi River Valley, there has been an increase in irrigation to support the production of rice and other crops.