



# Colorado Cattlemen's Ag Water NetWORK



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“Helping to Keep Ag Water  
*Connected with Ag Land*”



## **2025-2026 Focus Areas:**

- Outreach and Information on Ag Water Issues
- Securing Funding and Technical Assistance for Ag Water Projects

# Funding for Agricultural Water Projects

## Issues We'll Cover:

- Challenges / Barriers
- How Do We Get Started?
- Project Examples and Funding
- Discussion and Wrap-up

**What is the greatest barrier to making progress on irrigation improvements?**

**??**

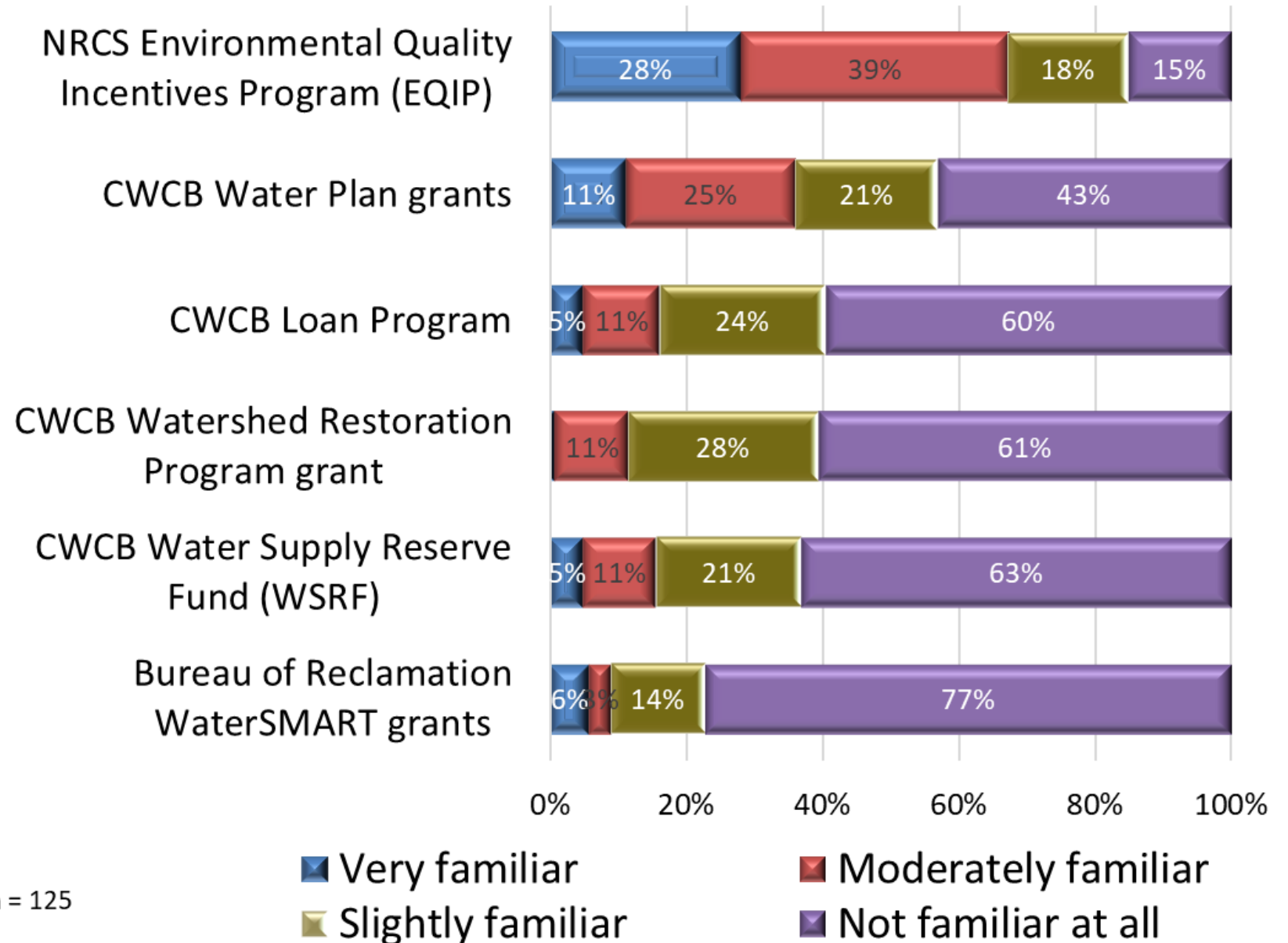
**What is the greatest barrier to making progress on irrigation improvements?**

**72%**

**“Securing Adequate Funding and/or Cost-Share Matching Funds”**

# Lack of Familiarity leads to under-utilization

## Please Rate Your Familiarity with the Following Funding Programs



# NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) –

- Tailored to individual agricultural producers
- Payment based on individual conservation practices
- Typically 65% (+/-) cost share
- Apply at USDA Service Center (NRCS and FSA)
- Conservation District work group defines EQIP priorities
- Can be matched with state and private funds
- Eligible Practice examples: Irrigation efficiency and infrastructure, soil health, cross-fencing, streambank protection, stock-watering, etc.

**Colorado Water Conservation Board  
(CWCB)  
Funding Sources**

## CWCB Water Plan Grant:

- 75% cost share for research & technical assistance.
- 50% cost share for on-the-ground projects.
- Can be matched with non-CWCB grant funds.
- Next application deadline: July 1, 2026
- Projects that can be funded: infrastructure, ditch mapping, efficiency upgrades, feasibility studies, engineering, stream / river embankment stabilization.



# CWCB Water Plan Grant – Examples

# CCA Irrigation Improvement Catalyst Grant Project\*

## 3 Conservation Districts:

- Middle Colorado
- Upper Arkansas
- White River / Douglas Creek

\* Water Plan grant



# Middle Colorado project:

Funding Amount	Source
\$22,000	CCA's Catalyst Grant (Water Plan)
\$50,000	Colorado River Cons. District
\$100,000	CDAg Drought Resilience grant
\$92,000	CWCB Loan at 2.5% for 20 years
\$24,000	Covid Ag Relief Payment (CARP)
\$103,000	NRCS EQIP
<u>\$3,000</u>	NRCS – (TSP) (design)
<b>\$394,000</b>	



# White River Projects:

Leveraged \$22,000 in CCA Ag Water NetWORK Catalyst Funding (Water Plan grant) to accomplish 3 projects.

## Project #1: Before



\$ 8,630.25 CCA Catalyst Funding  
\$12,510.25 Landowner investment  
**\$21,140.50** Total Project Cost

## Project #1: After



# White River Projects

**Project 2:** Replaced unsafe return flow gate and armoring around the structure and the adjacent flume to prevent further erosion.

\$ 8,663.50 CCA Catalyst Funding (Water Plan)

\$ 8,663.50 Ditch company investment

**\$17,327.00** Total Project Cost

Before



After



\*Administered by White River & Douglas Creek Conservation District and CCA Ag Water NetWORK

# Custer County Conservation District:

- Hired coordinator
- Irrigation infrastructure assessments and reports to landowners
- Secured 2 year WP grant funding



# Rainbow Park Water Co.

- Inventory ditch infrastructure
- Build geo-database
- Create website and pamphlet

<b>CWCB</b>	<b>Rainbow Park Water Co.</b>	
<b>Water Plan Grant</b>	<b>Cash Match</b>	<b>In-kind Match</b>
<b>\$ 9,300</b>	<b>\$ 1,200</b>	<b>\$ 3,600</b>

## CWCB Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) grant:

**Basin funds** for feasibility studies, design, infrastructure replacement or maintenance projects

- 25% match required
- Can be matched with non-CWCB funds (ex. EQIP)
- Typically 7 - 9 months to contract
- Start with Basin Roundtable

# CWCB Loan Program

## CWCB Loan Program:

Funding for design, engineering and construction (Ditches, flood control, groundwater wells, reservoirs, etc.)

- Low Interest for Ag projects (~ 2%)
- Up to 30 years loan length
- Can be used with any grant (state, federal, local, etc).
- Typically 2 – 4 months to contract
- \$100,000 minimum loan request preferred

# Wrap Up



# Take homes on obtaining funding for your project:

- Start early!
- Envision what you want to accomplish
- Are there multiple benefits?
- Identify funding sources
- Ensure you are eligible to apply
- Where will Match \$ come from?
- Be ready to invest some time and money

# ----- Questions? ---



[www.agwaternet.org](http://www.agwaternet.org)

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