

North Dakota Water Resources Research Institute (NDWRRI) Seminar Series

“Navigating South Dakota's Water Future: Agriculture, Resources, and Emerging Opportunities”

Presenter: Dr. Ryan Lefers, South Dakota State University

Date: Friday, September 18

Time: 3:30–4:30 PM (CDT)

In-person: NDSU AGHILL ROOM 110

Zoom link: <https://ndsu.zoom.us/j/98591740209>



Abstract

South Dakota's economy, environment, and agricultural productivity are closely tied to the availability and management of water resources. This seminar will provide an overview of South Dakota's water landscape, including the state's geography, climate, agricultural systems, and major water resource challenges and opportunities. Participants will learn how water is used, managed, and protected across agricultural sectors. The presentation will also examine current and emerging water issues in South Dakota, including increasing demands from industrial growth, interactions between agricultural use and water quality, drought and flood resilience, and regional water supply challenges. The seminar will conclude with perspectives on future challenges and opportunities for sustainable water management in support of South Dakota agriculture and economic development.

Speaker biography

Dr. Ryan Lefers is the Griffith Endowed Chair, South Dakota Water Resource Institute Director and State Water Extension Specialist in the Agriculture and Biosystems Engineering Department at SDSU. He holds a BS and MS in Agriculture Engineering from South Dakota State University and a PhD in Environmental Engineering from King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Saudi Arabia. Ryan is a licensed Professional Engineer with experience in farming, consulting, research and entrepreneurship. He has founded multiple companies in diverse water and agriculture settings, including fresh produce, engineering consulting, and technology development.

Ryan is an expert in water quality and management in agriculture systems and understands well the complex interactions between agriculture, water, energy and the environment. Throughout his career, Ryan has focused his efforts on researching, designing and delivering ideas, products and systems that serve to protect and enhance water resources. Ryan's passion is to serve people and steward the planet through research, extension, business and innovation. As a native South Dakotan who grew up on a multi-product farm in South Central South Dakota, Ryan loves the state, its people and the amazingly diverse natural landscapes found across the state.

LinkedIn Profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ryan-lefers/>