Irrigation Leader Magazine Interview: Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson Addresses Water Supply Issues



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Governor Asa Hutchinson is featured in the publication *Irrigation Leader* magazine ("*Irrigation Leader*") in a January 2023 issue. See Volume 14, Issue 1.

This issue also addresses two major water infrastructure projects:

- Bayou Meto Irrigation Project
- Grand Prairie irrigation Project

A subsequent post this week will discuss the magazine's interviews with Ed Swaim (Executive Director of the Bayou Meto Water Management District) and Dennis Carman (Director and Chief Engineer of the White River Irrigation District).

Irrigation Leader describes itself as dedicated to irrigators in the 17 western states and beyond and includes interviews with:

- Irrigation District Managers and personnel
- Supply representatives
- Local, state, and federal government officials

Governor Hutchinson discusses the importance of irrigation to Arkansas in view of the fact that the state is the nation's number one rice producer. He addresses topics such as:

- Need to consider strategically future water supplies
- Competing demands for water and declining groundwater levels
- Interest in shifting from groundwater use to surface water for irrigation

The Governor also discusses programs that Arkansas has in place to support the development of irrigation which involve:

- Arkansas Department of Agriculture
- University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture
- Local conservation districts
- United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service

A link to the article can be found here.