

Key Drought Economic Impact Sectors in the Midwest

Water

- Comparatively abundant
- Drought episodes are usually seasonal
- Rapid swings from wet to dry
- Intense storms during drought

Agriculture

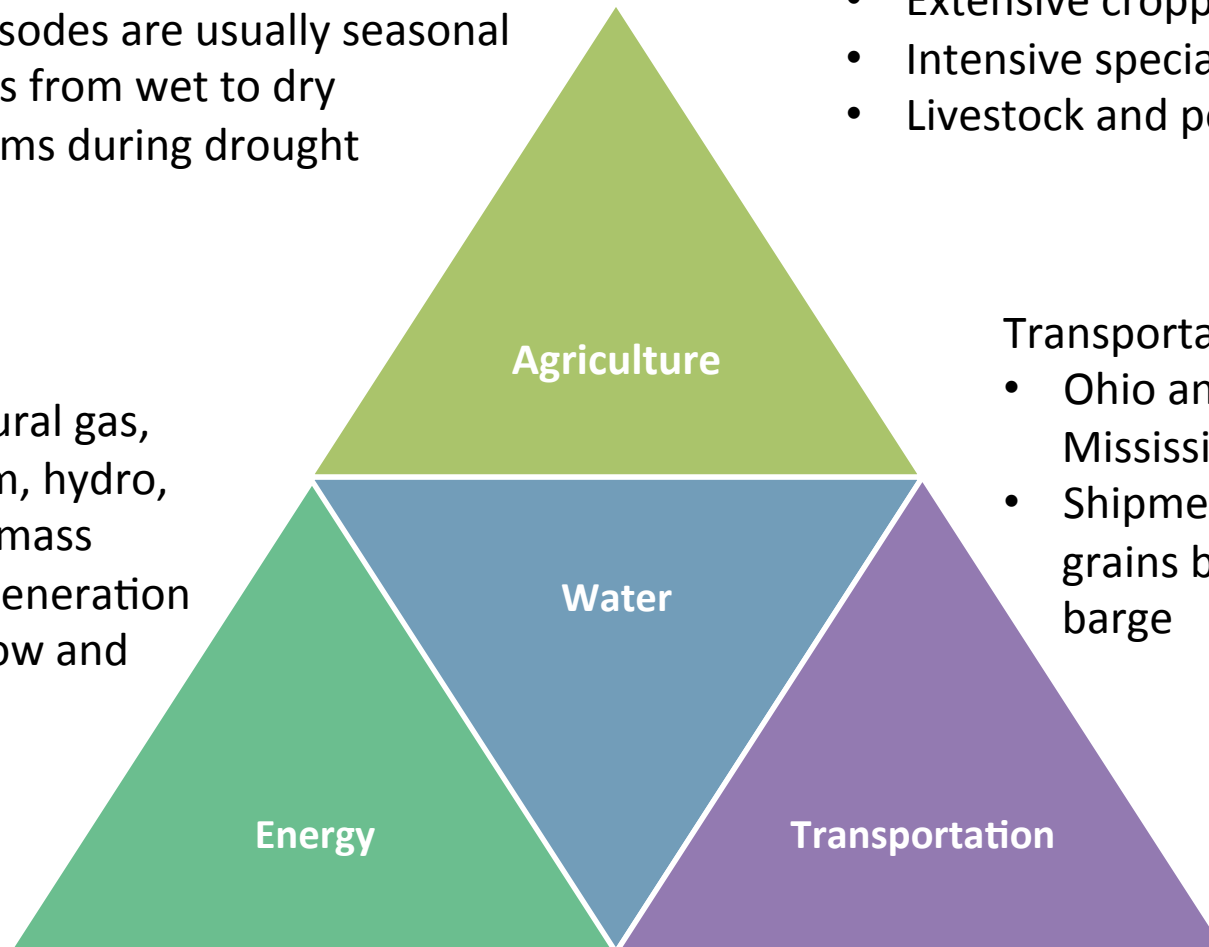
- Extensive cropping
- Intensive specialty
- Livestock and poultry

Energy

- Coal, natural gas, petroleum, hydro, wind, biomass
- Peaking generation
- Energy flow and exports

Transportation

- Ohio and Upper Mississippi River Systems
- Shipments of fuels and grains by truck, rail, and barge



Sample Midwest DEWS Engagement Opportunity



- High grain prices combined with drought over the past decade motivated investment in irrigation
- Farmers are faced with challenges related to water availability and energy consumption for irrigation during periods of peak demand
- Utilities need to optimize water treatment and energy production to meet peak demand
- Penalties for misinformed management decisions ripple throughout the economy

Note: The Kentucky Farm Bureau's Water Management Working Group met on a farm near Murray, Kentucky on March 29, 2016 to learn about challenges in managing irrigation systems.



Key Infrastructure Assets in the Midwest

- Midwest Mesonet Consortium includes operators of state-level mesonets and the Midwestern Regional Climate Center
- There is currently no RISA within the Midwest