

## **Conclusion**

This poster demonstrates that the water footprint of crop production in the United States must be reduced over the coming years as water resources become more threatened. With crop production accounting for 78% of the U.S. water footprint at a volume of 826 Gm<sup>3</sup>/y, the U.S. has the world's third largest water footprint of crop production, and is the world's largest net virtual water exporter. The case studies of the Ogallala Aquifer, Colorado River basin, and the California drought illustrate the key issues of overusing freshwater resources. While solutions such as setting water benchmark targets, improving crop efficiency with soft path solutions, shifting the production of water-intensive crops out of water-stressed regions, becoming net virtual water importers, altering human consumption patterns, and water footprint labeling on products do exist, they must be implemented immediately before water scarcity becomes a larger concern.