NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

WATER WELL
(No.)
CODE 642

DEFINITION

A hole drilled, dug, driven, bored, jetted or otherwise constructed to an aquifer.

PURPOSE

To provide water for livestock, wildlife, irrigation, human, and for general water needs of land management and farming/ranching operations.

CONDITION WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to all land uses where the underground supply of water is sufficient in quantity and quality for the intended purpose.

This practice standard applies only to production wells, and does include repairs to existing water wells. Specifically excluded are any types of wells installed solely for monitoring or observation purposes; injection wells; and piezometers. The standard does not apply to pumps installed in wells; remedial wells; above ground installations, such as pumping plants, pipelines, and tanks; temporary test wells; and decommissioning of wells (ASTM D 5299).

CRITERIA

All wells shall be constructed in accordance with criteria found in Minnesota Rules Chapter 4725. Well installation shall meet all state, local, or tribal requirements. All wells that involve NRCS assistance or funding must comply with Minnesota Rules Chapter 4725.

Wells may only be installed by a licensed well driller. Individuals, as allowed in Minnesota Rules Chapter 4725, may install drive point wells. On tribal lands, well driller qualifications may be subject to tribal approval. A well construction record that meets MDH requirements shall be submitted to document the completed practice.

CONSIDERATIONS

The potential for adverse interference with existing nearby production wells needs to be evaluated in planning.

The potential for ground water overdraft and the long-term safe yield of the aquifer needs to be considered in planning.

If practicable, wells should be located in higher ground and up gradient from sources of contamination or flooding. If flooding is a threat, the well casing should be extended at least 5 feet above the 100-year flood elevation, or the well should be made waterproof.

Potential effects of installation and operation of the well on cultural, historical, archeological, or scientific resources at or near the site need to be considered in planning.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications shall be prepared for specific field sites in accordance with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended uses.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

A plan for maintenance of a well shall be prepared. The well construction records shall be kept on file with the maintenance plan by the owner/operator.

NRCS-Minnesota
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Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.