

# Irrigation Water Management



## Definition

Determining and controlling the rate, amount, and timing of irrigation water in a planned and efficient manner.

## Purpose

To effectively use available irrigation water supply in managing and controlling the moisture environment of crops to promote the desired crop response, to minimize soil erosion and loss of plant nutrients, to control undesirable water loss, and to protect water quality.

## Where used

Irrigation water management is used on all farms in order to best plan for the irrigation of crops.

## Operation and maintenance

Utilize an effective irrigation scheduling method to predict irrigation needs and timing.

Install flow meters on all pumps and wells. Maintain rate and volume records for comparison of future performance.

Perform pumping plant evaluations on any pumps

Assistance can be obtained from the local NRCS office.

Perform repairs and maintenance on pumps and/or power units with poor performance tests.

Utilize tailwater recovery system, pumps, pipelines, reservoirs, and other irrigation system components to efficiently capture, store, and utilize runoff, tailwater and any other practical water sources.

Measure static water levels in all wells in the spring prior to pumping. Maintain well records, including repair and maintenance costs, to properly evaluate total ownership costs. Minimize the use of any wells with declining static water levels.

## **Conservation management system**

Irrigation water management can be used with many irrigation conservation practices or single conservation practices.

## **Specifications**

Site-specific requirements are listed on the drawings and specifications sheets. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. See practice standards Irrigation Water Management (449).