

**Conservation Practice Job Sheet**

Operator: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tract Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Field ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Years Scheduled: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

**IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:**All items listed must be completed with applicable documentation of each item.**General**

- 1. Install a flow meter capable of measuring the entire irrigation season's water applied on the well or re-lift pump supplying the irrigation system. In lieu of a permanent flowmeter, a portable flow meter can be used to record the flow at the beginning and ending of the season and records kept of the irrigation times to determine the amount irrigation water applied.
- 2. Prepare and plant the fields using typical agricultural practices. Plant rice cultivators with blast resistance.
- 3. If necessary to germinate seed, "flush" the field and then allow the field to dry down and plants to grow to reach 5PthP leaf (1PstP tiller) stage before establishing full flood.
- 4. Flood the field based on typical triggers (i.e., plant growth stage, presence of weeds, soil moisture, etc.).

- 5. Deliver water to 1"- 2" below flashboards for zero grade fields. Use "multi-inlet" or "side-inlet" distribution system to deliver water just below the levee gates in individual paddies for precision graded fields.
- 6. Allow the field to "dry down" at least once for GHG reduction and preferably multiple times. Use a cyclical drying-wetting regime throughout the growing season for Irrigation Water Management as follows:
  - a. Terminate irrigation and allow the field to "dry down" to a saturated soil condition. (See Soil Moisture, #2) For sloping fields, the upper 10% of each paddy should be allowed to reach the saturated soil condition.
  - b. After dry-down, immediately resume irrigation flooding to typical levels.
  - c. Repeat the cycle throughout the growing season.
  - d. Near the end of the season, terminate irrigation based on plant growth stage as recommended by the Land Grant University personnel and allow the field to "dry down" prior to harvest.
- 7. Use a residual herbicide program.
- 8. Be prepared to use multiple broadleaf herbicides at midseason.

### **Soil Moisture**

- 1. Only precision leveled or zero graded fields may be used.
- 2. At the end of each drying cycle the fields will be mostly saturated for zero graded fields. This can be visibly determined by the field being muddy. The water level should be at a minimum of zero inches but should not be allowed to drop any lower than two inches below the leveled field surface. This shall be the case for the upper 10% of the field for precision leveled fields.
- 3. A water level measuring gauge, combining a supporting structure and a water level measuring device, must be constructed and installed in the ditch or a dug hole to use to monitor soil saturation level. Precision graded fields shall have a water level measuring gage in each paddy. This shall be placed downslope from the adjacent levee approximately 10 percent of the distance between fields for precision leveled fields.
- 4. The water level measuring gauge must be checked monthly for calibration accuracy.

## Documentation Requirements

- 1. Record irrigation data such as location, date, duration, and flow rate of all irrigation operations.
- 2. Utilize dated digital photography to document “dry down” conditions. Each photo should indicate the field and location photo was taken.

**NOTE:**

- Documentation shall be collected throughout the schedule of this activity and is the sole responsibility of the producer to collect such documentation.
- Failure to produce all required documentation upon certification will delay and/or prevent payments if applicable.

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### Practice Checkout and Certification – NRCS Use Only

Producer Name \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Number \_\_\_\_\_

Tract Number \_\_\_\_\_

Contract Number \_\_\_\_\_

Contract Item \_\_\_\_\_

Acres Certified \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_

This Irrigation Water Management practice was installed according to the IWM Specification and meets the USDA-NRCS Standard for Irrigation Water Management, Intermittent Flood.

NRCS Representative \_\_\_\_\_

Date. \_\_\_\_\_

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