

Irrigation Field Ditch

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 388

04/02



DEFINITION

An irrigation field ditch is a permanent ditch that conveys water from the source of supply to a field (s) in a farm distribution system.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice applies to open channels and elevated ditches with a capacity of 25 cubic feet per second or less. It does not apply to canals and laterals that deliver irrigation water to a farm, nor does it apply to ditches constructed for temporary use and removed during the growing season.

Irrigation field ditches are permanent installations that require design and layout to achieve acceptable stability, capacity, velocity, and water surface elevations to

provide efficient application of irrigation water to the field surface. The ditch banks may be closed and reopened to accommodate harvest, tillage and other cultural requirements of the crops produced.

Field ditches are constructed in earth material that contains enough clay or other fine soil material to prevent excessive seepage. The sealing effect of sediment carried in the irrigation water may be considered in determining site suitability for a field ditch.

Additional information including design criteria and specifications are in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

The following pages list the conservation effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, and soil.

Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.