

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS**

**IRRIGATION LAND LEVELING**

(ac.)

**Code 464**

**1. Scope**

*Work shall consist of reshaping the land surface to a planned grade.*

**2. Location**

*The planned location of the area to be land leveled shall be as shown on furnished drawings or as staked in the field.*

**3. Public and Private Utilities**

*Utilities are defined to be overhead and underground power or communication lines, and pipelines. All utilities discovered to be in the work area are shown on the drawings or sketches. However, the absence of indicators on the drawings or sketches does not assure the nonexistence of utilities in the work area. The contractor is alerted to conduct his/her own search and discovery for utilities in order to lessen or avoid potential damages. The owner/operator shall complete TX-EN-80B, "Cooperator Confirmation of the One Call Utility Safety System", prior to layout or any ground disturbance and return it to an NRCS representative.*

**4. SITE PREPARATION**

The land to be leveled shall be cleared of brush, crop residue, trash, and vegetative material that can materially reduce the effectiveness of leveling operations. *The land should be smoothed or floated to firm the soil to permit an accurate design survey.*

**5. BORROW LOCATION**

Soil for the leveling operations shall be obtained from the designated cut areas in the field or other designated borrow areas as specified in the plan.

**6. LEVELING OPERATIONS**

The land shall be leveled to the designed grade or grades. Fills of more than 6 inches (152 mm) shall be constructed by placing the soil in successive layers. Leveling operations shall not be performed if the ground is frozen or if soil moisture conditions will excessively damage soil structure, which could result in poor growth or detrimental settlement.

Construction operation shall be done in such a manner that erosion and air and water pollution are minimized and held within legal limits.

After cuts and fills have been completed, the land shall be smoothed to remove minor irregularities. *If the land should be plowed prior to check-out/certification then it shall be disked and the surface smoothed with land levelers, graders, or similar earthmoving equipment.*

## **7. REMOVAL OF WATER**

*It will be the contractors responsibility to perform work required for the removal of surface or ground water as needed to perform the required construction in accordance with the specifications and drawings.*

## **8. CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS**

*Construction operations shall be carried out in such a manner that erosion and air and water pollution will be minimized.*

## **9. FINISHED GRADE**

All leveling work shall be finished according to the design and to the tolerances specified. The completed job shall be workmanlike and present a good appearance. *As long as there is a positive grade in the direction of watering, permissible variation of the finished grade from the planned grade, or a plane paralleling the planned plane, shall be 0.10 foot, plus or minus, providing such variations will not affect water distribution or cause drainage problems.*

## **10. MEASUREMENT:**

*(Method 1) When land leveling is performed on an acreage basis, the leveled area will be measured to the nearest 0.1 acre. Sufficient profiles will be taken to determine that designed grades have been obtained. Sufficient checks will be made to ensure that the area leveled equals or exceeds the area planned to be leveled.*

*(Method 2) When land leveling is performed on a yardage basis, measurement will be of the designed yardage computed to the nearest cubic yard. Sufficient profiles will be taken to determine that designed grades have been obtained. Sufficient checks will be made to ensure that yardage and area leveled equals or exceeds planned quantities.*

## **11. CONSTRUCTION DETAILS:**