

Surface Drainage - Field Ditch

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 607



DEFINITION

A field ditch installed for surface drainage is a graded ditch for collecting excess water in a field.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

The purpose (s) of a drainage ditch is to:

- Drain Surface depressions
- Collect or intercept excess surface water and carry it to an outlet
- Collect or intercept excess subsurface water and carry it to an outlet

Sites for this practice are flat or nearly flat and have the following additional features:

- Soils are slowly permeable or shallow with substrata that prevents percolation
- Surface depressions that trap rainfall

- Receive outside runoff or seepage
- Require removal of excess irrigation water
- Require control of the water table
- Have adequate outlets for disposal of the drainage water

This practice applies to small drainage ditches within a field. It does not apply to Main or Lateral ditches installed under practice 608, nor does it apply to grassed waterways or outlets, practice 412.

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