

Case Three.

### **BACKGROUND.**

This is a full circle pivot on a 150 acre field. The original cost was \$87,813 (includes pump and motor, fittings, and labor) or a cost of \$585 per acre. The producer gets 2 ac/ft of water; 1,500 hours of watering uses up that allocation.

### **ADVANTAGES.**

- Water savings
- Land value increases with pivots and electricity run to the field. (In Goshen County land value increases \$400 per acre. In addition, any farm that goes up for sale, is more readily sold with the center pivots installed for irrigation. In Natrona County the land value increases \$250 to \$400 per acre, depending on the source of the water.)
- Saves two trips across field with equipment
- Time saved not clearing ditches and adjusting dams
- The producer usually pays \$8 to \$9 per hour for wages for irrigation labor. They used 3,677 hours in 2001 and 2,808 in 2002 – or approximately 3,000 hours per year. They used three two-man crews, sometimes just two crews, doing 200 acres at a time. They usually had 600 acres at a time being irrigated
- Eliminated corrugations – can make a longer run with equipment under the pivots, saves time and effort when harvesting
- Increased yield (now gets 4 to 5 tons/acre)

### **DISADVANTAGES.**

- More weeds in the ditches, especially Canadian Thistle.
- Fuel cost (diesel) for pivot \$5,200 per year. (This system has a 3 1/8 gal/hr 63 hp pump, about 1 gal per 20 hp.)
- Line to run electricity to field - \$26,000.
- The diesel pump cost approximately \$1,600, an electric pump \$6,000 to \$8,000.
- Estimated annual operating cost of pivot (for 1,500 hours) \$6,203 (or \$41.35/ac).