

Conservation Irrigation Conversion

Definition/Purpose

A Conservation Irrigation Conversion means to modify an existing irrigation system to increase the efficiency and uniformity of irrigation water application. Benefits include increased water efficiency and water availability, erosion control, and produce safety.

Policies

1. This practice is intended to convert existing irrigation systems to a more water efficient irrigation system. Allowable conversion includes:
 - a. Any irrigation system, including hand watering, to micro-irrigation system
 - b. Center-pivot and lateral move irrigation systems to drop nozzles or low-pressure spray nozzles
 - i. Traveling gun system to a center-pivot or lateral move system using drop nozzles or low-pressure spray Where traveling guns are converted to center-pivot systems using drop nozzles or low-pressure spray, towable center-pivots are eligible, but the cost share amount will be based upon the largest single pivot area for which conversion is planned.
2. The practice can also be used to equip existing irrigation equipment with end-gun shutoff devices.
3. Flow meters are required to be installed as near to the water supply as practical to monitor flow rates, detect leaks, and clogs in the system.
4. Backflow prevention devices are required if the system is used in conjunction with fertigation or chemigation.
5. Limit one system per cooperator/farming operation.
6. Recipients or a technical representative must develop and follow an irrigation water management plan and an operation and maintenance plan.
7. The following persons are eligible to sign for job approval authority: District or NRCS staff with appropriate job approval authority, a NC licensed irrigation contractor, a technical specialist with irrigation designation, a person with design certification by National Irrigation Association, a USDA NRCS Technical Service Provider with Conservation Activity Plans (CAP) 118 authorization or professional engineer.
8. Items available for cost share include backflow prevention devices, flow meters, soil moisture sensors, pressure gages and other irrigation related equipment as needed by the design.
9. A pre-installation conference including the district technical representative, irrigation designer/installer, the appropriate person for JAA, and cooperator shall be held prior to the commencement of installation. This meeting shall be used to ensure that the design meets all AgWRAP Conservation Irrigation Conversion BMP Policies.

Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program

CONSERVATION IRRIGATION CONVERSION	
Maintenance Period	10 YEARS
BMP Units	EACH
Required Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gallons of water saved (annually) AND • Acres Irrigated (annually)
JAA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENG - 442 – Sprinkler System • ENG – 441 – Irrigation System, Micro-Irrigation • NC Licensed Irrigation Contractor • Technical Specialists with Irrigation Designation • Person with design certification by National Irrigation Associate • USDA NRCS Technical Service Provider with Conservation Activity Plans (CAP) 118 authorization • Professional Engineer
Supporting NRCS Standards for Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENG - 442 - Sprinkler System • ENG – 441 – Irrigation System, Micro-Irrigation • ENG – 430 – Irrigation Pipeline • ENG – 449 – Irrigation Water Management • ENG – 436—Irrigation Reservoir
Cost Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actual costs – paid based on receipts • Maximum cost share amount \$30,000 (75%) OR \$36,000 (90%) • Additional Private Design cost share amount \$5,000 (75%) OR \$6,000 (90%)
CS2 Reference Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC-ACSP-11 Signature Page • Map with BMP location, fields, and roads. • Conservation Irrigation Conversion Check-Out Sheet • Detailed Irrigation System Map • Cooperator Acknowledgement Form • Conservation Plan

SWCC adopted 03/21/2012, revised 08/14/2012, technical correction 08/2016 (removal of cost cap, included in SWCC approved Average Cost List), updated 05/19/2021