

Cost

\$200.00 for the first field

\$175.00 each additional field

Includes all scheduling services, rain gauge and rain gauge installation at each field.

Economic and Environmental Incentives

20-35% savings in water, energy, pesticide, and fertilizer.

Increase in yields by timely application of water during sensitive growth stages.

Decreased leaching of nutrients and chemicals into groundwater.

E.Q.I.P.

Irrigation Management is an approved incentive practice under the current EQIP program. An operator may receive a \$2.25 per acre incentive up to 250 acres for 3 years for participating in Irrigation Management through the E.Q.I.P. Program.



For Irrigation Scheduling Services Please Contact:



For Irrigation Management EQIP Info Please Contact:



Natural Resources Conservation Service

1680 Franklin St North, Glenwood, MN 56334

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Craig Bower, District Conservationist

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Irrigation Scheduling



Irrigation Scheduling Service

When should I irrigate? How much should I irrigate? Let us take care of the "How Much & When". The Pope Soil & Water Conservation District offers Irrigation Scheduling as one of its many services. The Irrigation Scheduling Service looks at soil type, available water holding capacity, crop needs based on crop type and growth stage, irrigation amounts, rainfall amounts, and daily evapotranspiration rates. Irrigation scheduling uses a checkbook method where rainfall and irrigation amounts are subtracted from the previous day's water deficit, and crop ET is added to the previous day's water deficit (ET is a combination of the amount of water evaporation from the soil surface and transpiration from the plants leaves, also know as evapotranspiration).

The service includes: Pivot conformity tests, individual weekly field testing, and weekly updates and graphs sent directly to you telling you when and how much to irrigate.

The purpose of maximizing irrigation efficiencies by applying the EXACT amount of water needed for that crop type, growth stage, growing season, soil type and weather conditions is to maximize crop yields, save you money, and protect the environment.

Over-irrigation wastes water, energy, labor; leaches fertilizers below root zone, increases ground water contamination, reduces soil aeration and thus crop yields. An already stressed crop dealing with anaerobic conditions for prolonged time becomes susceptible to disease and fungi.

Under-irrigation stresses the plant and can cause yield reductions. Example: under irrigating by just 1 acre/inch during pollination of corn can reduce a yield 20-50%.

Irrigating at the wrong time or too early can cause stunted root growth, decreased opportunity to store rainfall when it occurs.

Pivot Uniformity



By doing an initial Uniformity test on your irrigation pivots you can ensure that all irrigation heads and end guns are properly functioning uniformly to prevent yield loss.

Weekly Field Testing for Soil Moisture



The feel method involves collecting soil samples in the root zone with a soil probe or spade. Then, the water deficit for each sample is estimated by feeling the soil and judging the soil moisture. Soil samples should be taken at several depths in the root zone and at several places in the field. Finally, use these estimated deficits to estimate the total soil water deficit in the

Check Book Method



Computer generated program automatically factors in crop, growth stage, soil type, available water holding capacity and E.T. All you have to do is call in your irrigation and rainfall amounts once a week for each field.

Weekly updates & Graphs



The day after you call in your irrigation amounts (Monday mornings), you will be sent out a graph showing the previous weeks soil water activity, and where you currently are for the fields available water holding capacity and where you should be based on growth stage and crop.