United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2011 Ranking Period 1

Water Quantity Enhancement Activity – WQT01 – Irrigation system automation

Enhancement Description

This enhancement entails using GPS guided variable rate irrigation or other innovative technologies that allow irrigation water application based on variable site conditions within a field.

Land Use Applicability

Cropland and pastureland

Benefits

The advantages of using variable rate irrigation or other innovative technologies to reduce water use and runoff from irrigation include conservation of water resources and energy conservation.

Criteria

1. Implementation of this enhancement requires compliance with the requirements of the Conservation Practice Standard, Irrigation Water Management (449)
2. Development and utilization of an irrigation prescription based on soil characteristics, topography, or crops
    a. Use of a GPS guidance and control system which will provide for the variable application of irrigation water based on variations of soils, topography, or crops;

    or

    b. Use of an automated control system based on technologies other than GPS which will provide for variable application of irrigation water based on variations of soils, topography, or crops

Documentation Requirements

1. Documentation of the operation of a variable rate irrigation system which will provide for variable application of irrigation water based on variations of soils, topography, or crops.
2. Copy of the irrigation prescription and irrigation logs

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Written documentation shall include the manufacturer and model number of the control equipment.