Irrigation Methods

To determine suitable irrigation methods, sound planning should consider:

- Cost and ease of installation
- Maintenance required
- Labor and skill required for operation
- Ease with which it can be fitted into the farm enterprise
- Considerations for the water quantity and timing of deliveries from the existing irrigation supply system
- Economic comparisons/considerations

The following is a listing of web sites with irrigation system descriptions, methods, limitations, and research papers.

- The NRCS Water and Climate Center; 
  [www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov)
- The Irrigation Training and Research Center; 
  [http://www.itrc.org](http://www.itrc.org)
- The California Agricultural Technology Institute; 
  [http://www.cati.csufresno.edu/](http://www.cati.csufresno.edu/)
- The Irrigation Association; 
- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) training manual number nine, *Drainage of Irrigated Lands*, discusses system selection and other considerations at length. The web site is: 
- This site has a number of papers on irrigation. The listed paper - *Irrigation System Selection*, has descriptions for systems, capabilities, limitations, labor, energy, and economic factors,
North Dakota State University, Extension Service has a number of papers available. One very helpful paper is *Selecting A Sprinkler Irrigation System*, and can be found at:

http://www.ext.nodak.edu/extpubs/ageng/irrigate/ae91w.htm

Colorado State University, Extension Service has a number of papers available. These can be found at:

Microirrigation for Orchard and Row Crops
http://www.ext.colostate.edu/

Subsurface Drip (SDI)
http://www.ext.colostate.edu

Center-Pivot Irrigation Systems
http://www.ext.colostate.edu