



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E449G

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Intermediate IWM— Years 2-5, Soil Moisture or Water Level monitoring

Conservation Practice 449: Irrigation Water Management

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed); Crop (Perennial); Pasture

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Insufficient Water

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description

Intermediate irrigation water management involves monitoring soil moisture or water levels within an irrigated field by utilizing technological equipment to gather field specific data concerning weather, soil moisture or water levels throughout the irrigation season. The equipment was bought in year one and is utilized to log data through the season to be retrieved periodically so irrigation decisions can be made based on scientific data. Maximum time between data retrieval is weekly.

Monitoring will be for the entire irrigation season and data gathered will be used to make sound decisions on irrigation water use.

Criteria

General

- Equipment may include: soil moisture sensor with data collection systems; weather stations that collect solar radiation, wind speed and direction, rainfall, temperature; water level sensor with data collection system

E449G - Advanced Automated IWM – Year 1, Equipment and soil moisture or water level monitoring	March 2020	Page 1
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CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- Data to be monitored includes: irrigation water applied, crop water use, status of heat and/or frost conditions to permit the producer to make informed irrigation decisions.
- Irrigation water management plan from year one is followed in accordance to the NRCS Conservation Standard Practice Irrigation Water Management (Code 449):
 - An irrigation system layout map showing the main pipeline(s), irrigated area, soil moisture sensor/water level sensor locations (if used) and soils.
 - Method used to measure or determine the flow rate or volume of the irrigation water applications
 - Measurement records showing the amount of water used to irrigate as it comes on to the farm and goes into each field
 - Documentation of the scientific method used to schedule the timing and amount of irrigation application
 - Irrigation water management plan explaining:
 - How irrigation meets crop needs while maximizing irrigation water efficiency
 - Seasonal or annual planned water application volumes by crop
 - Management allowable depletion (MAD) and depth of the managed crop root zone or water level for each crop and stage of growth
 - Evaluation of irrigation system distribution uniformity and necessary changes to ensure uniform irrigation
 - Information on how to recognize irrigation induced erosion and how to mitigate it
 - Indicate how data from the sensor location and depths will be considered to make field-wide irrigation decisions
 - Water application scheduling based on soil moisture or water level monitoring and/or evapotranspiration monitoring from the weather station
 - Recordkeeping documents for the irrigator to use during the operation and management

Additional Criteria of soil moisture devices

- Each year re-install the soil moisture set to collect data at a minimum of 2 approved

E449G - Advanced Automated IWM – Year 1, Equipment and soil moisture or water level monitoring	March 2020	Page 2
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CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

depths based on crop and soil characteristics of the region

- Number of soil moisture sets will be installed based on the irrigation water management plan designed per water source using the following criteria: field topography, crop rotation and the soils throughout the field.

Additional Criteria of water level devices

- Re-install sensor/gage each year in a basin field with a data logger with the ability to capture an image of the movement of the gauge. Images are captured at a minimum of twice a day.





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Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

Prior to implementation

- Review the irrigation water management plan to make any necessary adjustments from the previous year.
- Ensure the irrigation water management plan continues to meet the NRCS Conservation Practice Irrigation Water Management (Code 449) requirements.

During installation or implementation

- Ensure each irrigation water management device is re-installed to manufacturer recommendations
- Record irrigation data such as location, date, duration, and flow rate of all irrigation operations, rainfall, evapotranspiration, and soil moisture or water level data
- Monitor the devices during the growing season to determine timing and amounts of water to apply based on soil moisture/water level sensor, field checks and weather data

After implementation

- Make the following items available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement:
 - Irrigation water management plan is followed, and records kept
 - Changes made to address distribution uniformity deficiencies
 - Utilization documentation of any sensor used throughout the growing season as well as certification of their proper installation

NRCS will:

Prior to implementation

- Provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Irrigation Water

E449G - Advanced Automated IWM – Year 1, Equipment and soil moisture or water level monitoring	March 2020	Page 4
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CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Management (Code 449) as it relates to implementing this enhancement

- Provide additional assistance to the participant as requested After Implementation
- Verify re-installation of all irrigation water management equipment each year
- Verify implementation of the irrigation water management plan by:
 - Reviewing records kept during each year of enhancement implementation

NRCS Documentation Review:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name _____ Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____ Fiscal Year Completed _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

Date