

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program

## 2012 EQIP Signup

Minnesota Supplement for:  
Practice Standard 449 – Irrigation Water Management

### Supplemental Criteria

1. A payment is authorized on eligible acres, not to exceed 3 payments. Consult “**Irrigation Water Management Requirements for EQIP Contracts**” (**EQIP Schedule Attachment D**) for additional requirements. Review these requirements with applicants interested in irrigation water management (449) and append the requirements to contracts containing irrigation water management (449).
2. Acres must have been under center pivot irrigation for at least 2 of the past 5 years.
3. Phased-in implementation will result in all scheduled acres receiving full implementation of the practice by the end of the contract period.

## **ATTACHMENT D - IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR EQIP CONTRACTS**

- **Participants with EQIP contracts containing irrigation water management must fully implement items 1-9 the last year of the contract.**
- Implementation can be phased in over 2 years for multi-year contracts. The participant shall effectively manage the available irrigation water supply to:
  - Provide soil moisture conditions for the desired crop response
  - Minimize soil erosion, loss of plant nutrients and undesirable water loss
  - Protect water quality.
- Certify that planned irrigation water management operations have been completed to receive payment.

### **1st year of scheduled irrigation water management**

1. Perform a uniformity check on irrigation pivots under contract to determine water application efficiency.
2. Install 2 rain gauges for each irrigated field (one under the pivot and one outside the influence of the pivot).
3. Determine available water holding capacity and infiltration rate of the planning soil type(s) in field(s) to be irrigated.
4. Review and select an irrigation scheduling method to document irrigation water needs. Scheduling methods could include Irrigation Check-Book, WISDOM or SCS Scheduler 3.0 computer programs, and other scheduling techniques.
5. Apply irrigation water so as not to cause excessive runoff or soil erosion.

### **Subsequent years of scheduled irrigation water management**

Follow Provision 5 from above.

6. Correct significant application uniformity concerns.
7. During the growing season keep field specific daily records of rainfall and the quantity of irrigation water being applied (use flow meters or an alternative method).
8. Record and monitor crop growth and development, and daily evapotranspiration and crop water use.
9. Determine irrigation timing and application rates using the chosen irrigation scheduling system and information gathered above. Application timing and rates:
  - a. Will not exceed the ability of the soil to store water in the root zone
  - b. Will meet the moisture requirements for the crop for optimum production.
10. Decisions on rates and timing will be based on the scheduling system at least 90% of the time.

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