

## Micro-Irrigation System

### Definition/Purpose

A Micro-irrigation System means an environmentally safe system for the conveyance and distribution of water, chemicals and fertilizer to agricultural fields for crop production. A micro-irrigation system is for frequent application of small quantities of water on or below the soil surface: as drops, tiny streams or miniature spray through emitters or applicators placed along a water delivery line.

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to support one or more of the following purposes.

- To efficiently and uniformly apply irrigation water and maintain soil moisture for plant growth.
- To efficiently and uniformly apply plant nutrients in a manner that protects water quality.
- To prevent contamination of ground and surface water by efficiently and uniformly applying chemicals and fertilizers.
- To establish desired vegetation.

### Policies

1. Operation and Maintenance Plan Statement (NC-ACSP-OMP) is required.
2. BMP soil and phosphorus impacts are required on the contract. Include the planted acreage as well. Refer to the Minimum NCACSP Effects Requirements table later in this section for the correct methods of calculation.
3. Minimum life expectancy is ten (10) years.
4. This practice is intended to be implemented to replace and/or reduce the use of other types of irrigation and fertilization such as the traveling gun, center-pivot and furrow irrigation systems unless agronomic necessity (e.g., frost/freeze protection, soil settling) suggest alternate or temporary methods of irrigation.
5. Backflow devices and flow meters are required.
6. Limit one system per cooperator/farming operation.
7. Cost Share will be based on actual cost with receipts required not exceeding that listed amount in the NCACSP average cost list, including the cost of backflow prevention. Other water quality BMPs needed are in addition to the micro-irrigation cost.
8. This practice must be used in conjunction with other necessary practices (e.g., conservation cover, filter strips) to control soil erosion and improve water quality.
9. The following persons are eligible to sign for job approval authority: District or NRCS staff with appropriate job approval authority, a NC licensed irrigation contractor, a technical specialist with irrigation designation, a person with design certification by National Irrigation Association or professional engineer.

## Agriculture Cost Share Program

### Standards

N. C. NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, Standard #441 (Irrigation System, Microirrigation).