

Conservation Irrigation Conversion

Definition/Purpose

A Conservation Irrigation Conversion means to modify an existing overhead spray irrigation system to increase the efficiency and uniformity of irrigation water application.

Policies

1. Minimum life expectancy is 10 years.
2. This practice is intended to convert existing center-pivot and lateral move irrigation systems to employ drop nozzles or low-pressure spray nozzles. This practice can also be used to convert an existing traveling gun system to a center-pivot or lateral move system using drop nozzles or low-pressure spray.

Where traveling guns are converted to center-pivot systems using drop nozzles or low-pressure spray, towable center-pivots are eligible, but the cost share amount will be based upon the largest single pivot area for which conversion is planned.

3. The practice can also be used to equip existing irrigation equipment with end-gun shutoff devices.
4. Flow meters are required to be installed as near to the water supply as practical to monitor flow rates, detect leaks, and clogs in the system.
5. Backflow prevention devices are required if the system is used in conjunction with fertigation or chemigation.
6. Limit one system per cooperator/farming operation.
7. Recipients or a technical representative must develop and follow an irrigation water management plan.
8. 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.

Standard

NC NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, Specification #442 (Irrigation System, Sprinkler)