AgWRAP
Water Supply Well

Definition/Purpose

A well means constructing a drilled, driven, or dug well to supply water from an underground source for irrigation including chemigation and fertigation, livestock and poultry, aquaculture, freeze protection, or on-farm processing.

Policies

1. Pumps, solar pumps, and wells must have a qualifying statement that they will be used for agricultural use only.

2. Installation of the well must include wellhead protection. The following measures should be taken where applicable:

    - Divert all surface runoff, precipitation, and drainage away from the wellhead.
    - Protect the wellhead and associated appurtenances from contamination or damage by wildlife, livestock, farm machinery, vehicle parking, or other harmful human activity.

3. An adequate covering over the well head and pressure tank must be installed to prevent freezing.

4. Cost share for pumps for wells includes all costs associated with installation including the cost of getting electricity to the pump and is based on actual cost.

5. The solar powered pump installation is limited to sites where there are site constraints, or it is cost prohibitive to provide electricity to the pump. The pump cost includes a submersible pump, photovoltaic panels, control box, support structure, pump cable, drop pipe, and fittings to make up plumbing at the pump.

6. Permits are a cost-shareable component for this practice in counties where agricultural wells are not exempt from permit fees. A copy of the permit, receipt of the permit fee, and any supporting water quality reports associated with the permit are required to be kept in the district's contract file.

7. Cooperators are encouraged to install water conservation measures and effective livestock exclusion fencing from streams.

8. Cooperators are responsible for obtaining and complying with all required permits and local requirements, including water use reporting and registration with DWR, if applicable.

9. Where there are additional water sources under the cooperator's control (i.e. pond, stream), the contract must explain why these sources are inadequate to meet the operation's needs. If the additional water sources are adequate, additional wells are not cost shareable through AgWRAP. Public water supply is not considered under the control of the producer.

10. Wells are allowed for operations served by public water systems if the well reduces dependence on the public water system.

11. Well repairs that bring unusable wells back into operation are cost shareable, including a pump if needed. “Unusable wells” are those that have structural failures that require repairs to access water.

12. Excluding repairs authorized under the Cost Share Programs Repair policy; new pumps, replacement pumps, repairs to pumps and pump components for existing wells that are in working order, are not cost shareable.

13. New wells and well repairs must be completed by a well contractor certified by the North Carolina Well Contractors Certification Commission.

14. The “Wells for Livestock Watering Site Evaluation Sheet” and/or the “Wells for Irrigation Site Evaluation Sheet” shall be used as a minimum requirement for planning and design documentation.

15. A Well Construction Record Form (GW-1) completed and signed by a well contractor certified by the North Carolina Well Contractors Certification Commission shall serve as adequate construction approval for wells.

16. Proper documentation of the information provided by a Certified Well Contractor, on the Pump Installation Information Plate shall serve as adequate construction approval for the well pump.

17. Design and construction approval for pumps not installed by a Certified Well Contractor, must be granted by NRCS or SWCD staff with appropriate JAA, a Professional Engineer, or technical specialist with Irrigation (I) designation.

18. Where the Certified Well Contractor determines alternative casing is required by 15A NCAC Subchapter 02C Well Construction Standards the additional cost is eligible for cost share assistance.

19. A well may be used as part of a system for irrigation. Cooperators may receive cost share assistance for a well or a well with an irrigation reservoir if needed to run equipment, the same cost share cap will apply.

20. A method for distributing water from the well must be available.

21. Temporary or portable generators are not an allowable source of electricity for wells. In case of emergency, cooperators may contact their district and request a temporary exception. Duration of exception will be determined by the district and supporting notes will be included in the contract file. Emergencies may be defined as power outages or solar panel repairs.

WATER SUPPLY WELL	
Maintenance Period	10 YEARS
BMP Units	EACH
Required Effects	• Acres Irrigated (annually) OR • Acres Affected (annually) (acres grown and processed annually for on-farm processing) OR • Animal type and number
JAA	• Site Evaluation Sheet, AND • Well Check-out Sheet, AND • GW-1
Supporting NRCS Standards	• ENG - 642 - Water Well ENG - 533 - Pumping Plant
Cost Information	• Average and actual cost for components on AgWRAP cost list • BMP cap of $25,000
CS2 Reference Materials	• NC-ACSP-11 Signature Page Map with BMP location, fields, and roads. • Applicable Well Site Evaluation Sheet • Conservation Plan • Cooperator Acknowledgement Form For RFP: • GW1 Well Construction Record • Well Check Out Sheet • Receipts Summary Page for Actual Cost items
Additional Spot-check Requirements	None