

Wadena Soil and Water Conservation District

4 Alfred St. NE
Wadena, MN 56482
218-631-3195 Ext 4

The Todd, Wadena, and Hubbard Soil and Water Conservation Districts would like to inform you about the Irrigation Scheduler Program that is available to join. Irrigation Scheduler Program is designed to help you make sound, irrigation management decisions. Last year, we had twenty fields signed up for the first year of the program and it was very successful. This program is open to any farmer with center pivot irrigation. If you are converting a center pivot over to low pressure and are using NRCS's EQIP program, this program will cover their irrigation management requirements.

The following explains the program.

OBJECTIVES OF SCHEDULER PROGRAM:

- The Irrigation Scheduler Management Program is designed to give the farmer a **second opinion** on in-field soil moisture status that can assist the farmer's decision on if and when to irrigate. **(The decision to irrigate is still up to the farmer.)**
- Prevent crop loss due to insufficient moisture.
- Prevent ground water contamination due to over application of water and leaching of nutrients.
- **The success of the Scheduler Project depends on the working relationship between the farmer and the technician

SERVICES PROVIDED BY TECHNICIAN:

- Provide weekly visits to check soil moisture (includes a rain gauge for the season).
- Furnish weekly computer soil moisture graphs.
- Access to the daily crop water "ET" is available at the following website: <http://www.wadenaswcd.org/> and click on the irrigation tab or by e-mail.
- A year-end summary (graph) showing irrigation total (s), rainfall amount, and potential leaching events.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE IRRIGATOR:

- The farmer needs to notify the SWCD office of weekly irrigation and rainfall amounts before 9:00 AM each assigned day at 631-3195 ext. 109 or can be e-mailed.
- Inform technician of planting dates and crop emergence dates.
- Spraying dates (**when pesticide application may restrict re-entry**).
- Harvesting dates/Alfalfa cutting dates.

WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM COST?

- Time...for reading rain gauges and reporting rainfall and irrigation amounts to the technician (done weekly).
- Cost would be \$200.00 per field/crop or \$350.00 for 2 fields/crops for the whole growing season.
- If a 2 year contract is signed, the cost of scheduler services would be \$175.00 per year per field for the whole growing season.
- Automatic rain gauges are available for use. They do cost an extra \$50.00 per automatic rain gauge for the whole growing season. **(The farmer will still have to notify technician on which days they irrigated)**
- ** The SWCD defines a field as having only one crop on it.

QUESTIONS?

- If you have questionsCall 218-631-3195 Ext. 4, and ask for Wade Salo or stop in and visit at the office at 4 Alfred St. NE in Wadena or at your local SWCD.

If you are interested in meeting your irrigation management requirement using the Irrigation Scheduler Program, please call to make an appointment so we may discuss the upcoming 2015 production year. We need to discuss the following points:

- The location of the rain gauge
- The location where soil moisture tests should be taken
- How you would like to receive the weekly reports...snail mail, e-mail, dropped off at a location determined by you?
- The crop/crops to be grown for the 2015 crop year.
- Familiarize you with the overall concept of the program and how it will help you.
- Explain the soil moisture charts.

Please give Wade Salo a call at 218-631-3195, Ext 109 to set up an appointment. Office hours are from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.