

Part 523 – Irrigation

523.0 General

- A. Agricultural irrigation is the application of water to land for purposes of sustained crop production.
- (1) In arid regions, irrigation provides the majority of crop water requirements.
 - (2) In humid areas, it is used to supplement natural rainfall for periods of drought or to ensure crop productivity.
- B. As part of an agricultural water management system, irrigation requires careful planning, design, construction, and operation. Properly designed system components will facilitate the effective management of irrigation water supplies, to maximize production while minimizing degradation of water quality, water consumption, and energy use.

523.1 Scope

- A. Each State Conservationist must prepare a State irrigation guide, setting forth the basic design and management criteria for all irrigation methods applicable to local combinations of crops, soils, topography, water supply, water quality, and climatic conditions. As a minimum, a State may use Title 210, National Engineering Handbook, Part 652, “Irrigation Guide” with State supplements, as appropriate.
- B. State Conservationists may assign leadership responsibility to a staff member for irrigation guide development and updates. Although NRCS has the technical responsibility for preparing the irrigation guide, cooperation from partners, such as representatives from State agencies, State universities, State experiment stations, the Cooperative Extension Service, and the Agricultural Research Service, is desirable.