

Middle Republican NRD  
Guidelines  
For the Certification of  
Irrigated Acres in 2003

The State of Nebraska and the new Management Area rules and regulations for the Middle Republican NRD will require that all use of ground water be certified. The purpose of this guideline is to assist you in determining the certified irrigated acres to be reported. Similar guidelines will be used to identify municipal and industrial uses. Completion of this certification will allow the district to determine total ground water use in our portion on the Republican River Basin and to determine the future allocation per certified use. If it were possible to summarize this process into one statement it would be that "whatever you are irrigating now, you may continue to irrigate". We will also need to know what new acres were developed for the 2003 crop year. If new acres were brought into production or an old use was revived we must have those acres identified to make our calculations correct. Changes in your operation in the future may cause changes in the location of your certified acres and those changes must be identified at that time to make your allocation correct.

In the future all certified uses must be measured by a flow meter or by some other approved method of measurement. Many of you are already metered and have been reporting irrigated acres when you turn in your meter reports at the end of the year. While this information has been valuable it does not take the place of this certification. What we ask is that you report your current operation. Your county assessor records and FSA certification records will help with this process. What you have certified to the NRD should compare with those two sources. For an operator with one well and one irrigated field this process will be easy. But most operations have more than one well and more than one field. Our forms will enable most of you to identify your acres and in some cases additional information may be needed to make your certification correct for your farming operation. While this process may be time consuming and appear to be difficult, it is important to have this information.

The information we send will identify the wells that belong to you. This will be based on the State of Nebraska records and other information we have available. If ownership has changed or not been updated, we may have incomplete records. You must report changes of ownership to the Department of Natural Resources since the NRD is not allowed to make those corrections. In some cases more than one well provides water to a single field. Most of those situations have been identified over the last few years while meters were being installed. Changes to your farming operation may result in a few more of these situations.

Those operations with surface water diversions through an irrigation district or individual appropriation will need to identify those uses also. We will not be determining your water use if that is the only source, but if you use ground water wells to supplement those acres they will have to be identified.

There will be situations where water is applied to crops on rented ground and or a landlords well is used to irrigate crops on your ground. Those situations can continue as long as they are identified. Of course if rented ground changes, certification may have to change. We realize

that farming operations change from year to year and that some acres are not irrigated every year. If you have an established rotation of irrigated ground, that situation can be identified and the certification can reflect that rotation.

The enclosed forms include:

- Forms identifying each of your registered wells with a drawing to locate irrigated acres
- Locate wells with an "X"
- Sketch approximate field locations
- Number fields and identify which wells provide water to which fields
- Be sure to identify new acres for 2003

We would prefer that you use FSA farm photos to identify your irrigated acres. Clearly identify the field boundaries on the photo and mark the well location. If you have multiple wells please try to identify which fields are irrigated by which wells. These forms should be returned to the NRD by August 1, 2003. You should provide County Assessor records to verify your acres.

Use the following example as a guide to completing your forms if you do not use FSA farm photos. Be sure to mark well locations with an "X" and include well registration number if known.

EXAMPLE

Section	T	N R	W	Field	No. of Acres Irrigated
NW 1/4 (160 acres)		NW (40 acres)	NE	1	130
			NE 1/4	2	36
		SW	SE ② X G 456789		
		SW 1/4 X G-123456 ①	SE 1/4		