

# Water Quality Best Management Practices Series

# **Irrigation Management**

## What is Irrigation Management?

This best management practice (BMP) uses a well-organized system that adequately supplies water by controlling the amount, frequency and application rate to crops so that production and water use are maximized.

# What are the benefits of this practice?

- Makes best use of available water
- Efficiently delivers soluble fertilizer to crops
- Prevents unnecessary water loss and potential water quality problems
- Controls salts in crop root zones
- Establishes vegetation cover and minimizes soil erosion
- Increases crop yields

#### **Methods of Irrigation Management**

- Irrigation Storage Reservoir
- Micro-irrigation
- Irrigation Sprinkler
- Tailwater Recovery from Irrigation Water
- Irrigation Land Leveling



## Agriculture in the Arroyo Colorado Watershed

The Arroyo Colorado Watershed is 706 square miles and runs from McAllen to the Lower Laguna Madre. The water body is impaired for dissolved oxygen, bacteria and legacy pollutants. In 2007, local stakeholders developed and published A Watershed Protection Plan for the Arroyo Colorado Phase I that identifies strategies to address water quality issues. The plan is currently being implemented throughout the watershed.

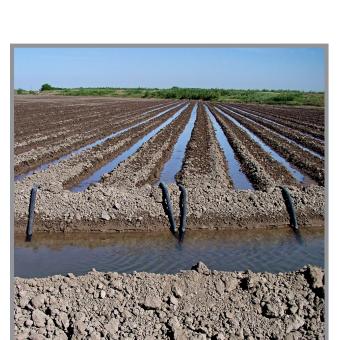
Agricultural production comprises almost half of the land within the Arroyo Colorado Watershed. A goal of the watershed protection plan is to have best management practices implemented on half of the irrigated agricultural lands by 2015. Runoff from these agricultural lands carries nutrients and sediments, which contribute to the above impairments in the Arroyo Colorado.

UNIVERSIT

Be a part of conserving this precious natural resource by adopting a BMP and lessen the impacts of agriculture on water quality.



# arroyocolorado.org



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## What can you do and who should you contact?

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have multiple programs that offer technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers to implement BMPs on their farm.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), offered by NRCS, is an annual program with specific time frames and registration periods.

TSSWCB offers assistance through its Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) Program. A WQMP is a voluntary site-specific plan developed by local Soil and Water Conservation Districts for producers that includes land and production practices as well as management measures. Both WQMPs and EQIP are designed to reduce nonpoint source pollution and provide cost share assistance.

If you have questions, you may also contact the Texas AgriLife Extension Service agent for your county.

### Contacts

Serving Hidalgo County, Texas

Edinburg Service Center 2514 S Veterans Blvd Edinburg, TX 78539 (956) 383-3002 Farm Service Agency Natural Resources Conservation Service Rural Development Southmost Soil & Water Conservation District

Texas AgriLife Extension Service – Hidalgo County Mr. Brad F. Cowan County Extension Agent-Agriculture and Natural Resources 410 N 13th Ave Edinburg, TX 78541 (956) 383-1026 b-cowan@tamu.edu

#### Serving Cameron County, Texas

San Benito Service Center 2315 W Frontage Hwy 83 San Benito, TX 78586 (956) 399-2522 Farm Service Agency Natural Resources Conservation Service Cameron Soil & Water Conservation District

Texas AgriLife Extension Service – Cameron County Dr. Enrique Perez County Extension Agent-Agriculture and Natural Resources 1390 W Expressway 83 San Benito, TX 78586 (956) 361-8236 e-perez@tamu.edu

#### Serving Willacy County, Texas

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#### Serving all counties

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