R.D. OFFUTT FARMS

# CONSERVING WATER

Irrigated agriculture is essential in meeting the country's food production needs. Efficient irrigation systems and water management practices preserve groundwater supplies and help maintain farm profitability. While our water supply in Minnesota naturally replenishes, we understand the importance of preserving this resource. We have made significant investments so we use only what the crops need.

**Custom irrigation:** We rely on a constant inquiry of weather and soil data to make sure we are irrigating each field according to what it needs. Historical and current weather conditions, along with extensive soil sampling that measures soil moisture levels, help our farm managers predict water needs, then adjust irrigation hourly, daily and monthly.

**Efficient equipment:** Precision, center-pivot irrigation systems minimize water lost to evaporation or over-watering. This irrigation system uses drop down, low-pressure nozzles to help conserve water and power. Our irrigators are well maintained to run at optimum efficiency, can be operated through smart phones and are monitored around-the-clock to ensure any breaks or blockages are immediately fixed.

**Water regulation:** R.D. Offutt Farms holds well permits from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, which means we use the specific amount of water designated for each permit. We submit reports annually to the DNR.


We are investing in new and innovative equipment. We are working with manufacturers to develop high-speed irrigators, which may be a more efficient way to apply crop protectants and allow farmers a longer window of time to apply when conditions are right. **The advantage of using the irrigator is that it drives the protectant deeper into the plant canopy for better protection, which also could result in lower product use.** The high-speed irrigator also negates aerial application, reducing noise for neighbors.

## R.D. Offutt Farms employs efficient irrigation systems and water management practices to preserve groundwater supplies.

### Moisture monitoring

- Scout crops for moisture daily
- Install and monitor field rain gauges
- Test soil for water holding capacity

### Irrigation scheduling

- Monitor historic and current weather conditions
- Exercise irrigation checkbook method
- Monitor crop growth, document soil texture in rooting zone, log daily air temperature, measure and log rainfall or irrigation applied to each field
- Use data to adjust irrigation needs hourly, daily and monthly
- Irrigate during off-peak hours only

### Efficient equipment

- Utilize precision, center-pivot irrigators to minimize water lost to evaporation or over-watering
- Install drop down, low-pressure nozzles to conserve water and power

### Maintenance

- Perform routine well maintenance for optimal efficiency
- Replace sprinkler heads routinely
- Utilize infrared technology to document usage and replace equipment as needed
- Monitor irrigators around the clock to detect leaks and repair immediately

**www.rdoffuttfarms.com**