

Incentives for responsible water use

Soil Moisture Monitoring for More Efficient Crops

Soil moisture sensors aid good irrigation management. Good irrigation management gives better crops, uses fewer inputs, and increases profitability. Soil moisture sensors also help irrigators to understand what is happening in the root zone of a crop.

Prevent Nitrogen from Leaching into our Water Supply

Nitrogen will leach when soil water content becomes greater than the maximum soil water holding capacity. This means excess water will drain below the root zone, carrying nitrates down with it. The nitrates will then reach the water supply, creating problems for those managing it. Using a soil moisture meter will let you keep an eye on how deep the water is draining to prevent nitrogen leaching.

How Hastings Utilities Can Help

The Hastings Utilities Department is offering an Irrigation Management Incentive Program. It is designed to provide cost assistance for the purchase of equipment to assist in irrigation scheduling and water management. It is designed for the protection of groundwater by reducing overwatering and decreasing the potential for nitrogen leaching.

This incentive program covers equipment during the program year in which it is purchased and installed. Hastings Utilities will rebate 50% up to \$100 dollars for one rebate per applicant.

The program can be used for equipment like soil moisture monitors and readers and evapotranspiration gauges.

How to Apply

Applications can be found online at hastingsutilities.com by clicking the “Rebates and Incentives” button. Questions about the applications can be directed to 402-463-1371.