

Groundwater Withdrawals



REPORTING

All wells with pumps in the district are required to have meters and to report meter readings. Annual reporting is outlined in the district's rules and regulations, available on our website. You may also contact the office to request a printed copy.

Paper reporting forms are mailed to all irrigators annually. However, the NRD also offers an online option for water use reporting. Each person responsible for reporting water use will receive a reporting packet along with an activation key for online reporting. That activation key can be used to create an online account. (Already have an account? Use the username and password you've selected, or click the "Forgot Password" link to reset.)

Once logged in, you will have the ability to view pertinent information about each well, along with an aerial image of the well location, and a screen to enter your ending flowmeter reading.

FAQs, reporting portal access, and troubleshooting at www.upperbigblue.org/reporting.

WHY DO WE REPORT?

The NRD board of directors set a goal of holding district water levels to the average level measured in 1978. The board set two trigger points to ensure they could meet that goal: If the average water level

dropped within three feet of the average 1978 level, it would trigger a reporting phase; if the water level dropped below the average 1978 level, it would trigger an allocation phase.

Water levels dropped in 2007, initiating the reporting phase. At that time it became mandatory for operators within the district to report water use each year for wells pumping more than 50 gallons per minute (GPM). Multiple wells with the same purpose on the same property with a combined pumping rate exceeding 50 GPM are also required to report use each year. These annual reports will still be required even if the water levels rise.

Water withdrawal reports for irrigation wells are mailed each fall and must be returned (or completed online) by December 1. Reports for all other wells (those other than irrigation) are due by March 1.

Each well has a designated person responsible for reporting the total amount of water pumped from the well that year, including water applied to properties where he/she is not the operator.

If an irrigation well is used minimally during the winter to water livestock, you may combine the total use on your irrigation report. During an allocation period, if a well is used for multiple purposes (i.e., irrigation and to fill a recreational pond), it is advantageous to report each use separately. Otherwise, all of the water use counts toward the irrigation allocation.



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HOW TO CALCULATE...

...# OF INCHES APPLIED PER ACRE FOR METERS MEASURING IN ACRE INCHES OR ACRE FEET

1. Subtract the beginning reading from the ending reading. (If your meter measures in acre feet, multiply the difference by 12.)
2. Multiply the answer from step 1 by the multiplier shown on your meter. Generally, this will be 1, .01, .001, etc. The answer will be the number of acre inches of water you pumped.
3. Divide the answer in step 3 by the number of acres irrigated with that well. This is the number of inches you applied per acre.

Example (Inches)

Ending reading	417,416
Less beginning reading	<u>-314,504</u>
	102,912
Times multiplier shown on meter	<u>x .01</u>
Equals acre inches pumped	1029.12
Divided by acres the well irrigates	<u>÷ 134</u>
Equals inches applied per acre	7.68

..# OF INCHES APPLIED PER ACRE FOR METERS MEASURING IN GALLONS

1. Subtract the beginning reading from the ending reading.
2. Multiply the answer from step 1 by the multiplier shown on your meter. (Generally, this will be 100, 1000, 10000, etc.) This sum will be the number of gallons you pumped.
3. Divide the answer from step 2 by 27,154 to convert the number of gallons to acre inches (27,154 gallons = 1 acre inch)
4. Divide the answer in step 3 by the number of acres irrigated with that well. This is the number of inches you applied per acre.

Example (Gallons)

Ending reading	558,624
Less beginning reading	<u>-269,834</u>
Equals	288,790
Times multiplier shown on meter	<u>x 100</u>
Equals gallons pumped	28,879,000
Divided by 27,157	<u>÷27,157</u>
Equals acre inches pumped	1,063.53
Divided by acres the well irrigates	<u>÷156</u>
Equals inches applied per acre	6.82

IMPORTANT NOTE

If your ending number is less than your beginning number, the meter's odometer probably reached its maximum and it has rolled over and started at one again. (For example, most McCrometer meters display six digits. When they reach 999,999, the display will roll-over and start at 000001.) You will need to adjust the difference between your beginning and ending readings if this happens.

QUESTIONS?



Dee Dee Novotny, NRD water data specialist, is here to answer your questions about AQWACAP. Contact her at water@upperbigblue.org or call the office at (402) 362-6601.

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