

CHEMIGATION

Chemigation (or fertigation) uses a center pivot or subsurface drip irrigation system to apply agrichemicals to crops as fields are being watered.

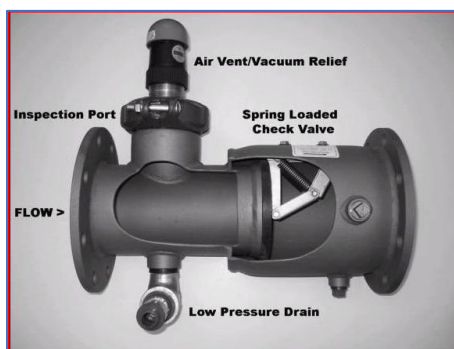
Authorized by the Nebraska Chemigation Act of 1987, the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy has developed chemigation rules and regulations to protect groundwater and surface waters.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Service has created the training program for chemigation applicator certification.

Nebraska's 23 Natural Resources Districts issue permits to chemigators who have successfully completed the training. NRDs also collect fees and conduct inspections of chemigation field sites.

Renewal Deadline
is June 1

LLNRD TECHNICIANS INSPECT MORE THAN 1,000 CHEMIGATION SITES EACH SUMMER. FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE LLNRD'S CHEMIGATION PROGRAM, CONTACT THE LOWER LOUP NRD AT (308) 728-3221 OR STOP BY THE OFFICE AT 2620 AIRPORT DRIVE IN ORD.



Sample Chemigation Setup



Typical Chemigation Injection Valve

Lower Loup NRD Technician Harold Benton inspects a chemigation site.



Chemigation applicator certification training is required before chemigation can take place. Contact your nearest UNL Extension office for information or to schedule a time to take the written examination.

Once certified, chemigators need to apply for a chemigation permit from their local NRD.

Your site(s) will be required to pass an NRD field inspection.

Chemigation sites must include an approved mainline check valve, an electrical or mechanical interlock (shuts down system if the well shuts down), a working chemigation injection valve (prevents backflow of chemicals from entering the aquifer), and a drain hose attached to the system's low pressure drain.

Chemigation renewals must be received by June 1st or the renewal application will be considered new and require a higher fee.

Frequently Asked Questions

- ***Do I need to pump water, and have the injection pump on site to pass a field inspection?***

Yes, you'll need to pump water so we can check the mainline check valve to verify that water is not passing from the irrigation system back into the well. The injection pump is not required to be on site, but the electrical plug-in is. We can use a voltage tester to check the plug-in. If the interlock is functioning properly, the plug-in will lose current when the system is shut down.

- ***When can I get a permit?***

Permits are issued on an annual basis each spring, with permits required at all injection sites. When a site is applied for initially, it will have to pass a field inspection before it can be used. If the permit is renewed annually, routine field inspections will be conducted every three years.

- ***Do I need a permit if I pump surface water?***

Yes. Nebraska law requires that a chemigation permit is required anytime water from any source is mixed with any chemical. However, not all equipment is required in all circumstances. Check with your NRD.

- ***How much do permits cost?***

For 2023, new permits will cost \$100. Renewals will cost \$30.

Questions and concerns should be directed to your area Water Resources Technician. Their contact information is listed below:



Valley, Sherman, Howard & Buffalo Counties

Harold Benton
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(308) 730-0985



Rock, Loup, Garfield & Wheeler Counties

Ken Dawson
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Boone and Greeley Counties

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Custer County

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Platte, Nance and Merrick Counties

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