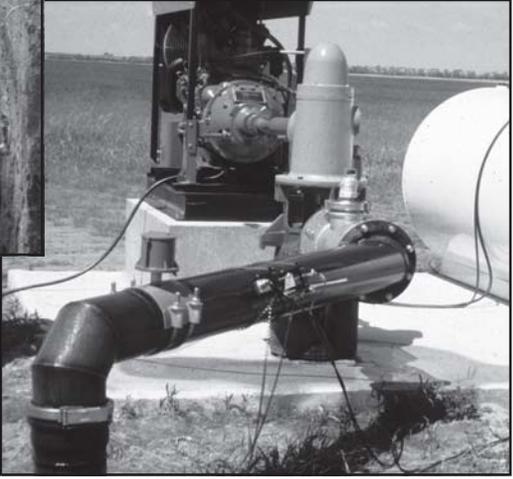


Funding Assistance Programs for Irrigation Development in North Dakota

*Financial incentives
for irrigators and
irrigation districts*



Programs for Individual Irrigators . . .



Bank of North Dakota (BND) Programs

AgPACE Program (Agricultural Partnership in Assisting Community Expansion)

- The AgPACE program is an interest rate buy-down program available to farmers to create an on-farm business integrated into the farm operation.
- The producer initiates the loan through a local lender, who requests the participation of the BND.
- The interest rate buy-down is up to 5 percent below yield rate. The maximum buy-down per borrower may not exceed \$20,000 per biennium, with a lifetime cap of \$60,000.
- To receive buy-down funds in excess of \$20,000, the applicant must have a net worth of less than \$1 million.
- For irrigation development, an additional \$20,000 is available from the North Dakota Water Commission through the BND for a total buy-down of \$40,000 for the first-time borrower.
- The program may be used only for new irrigated acres.
- The AgPACE program is limited to the interest buy-down maximums, whether it is through one or more loans.

■ **For more information,**
Brad Thompson
(800) 472-2166, ext. 5687
or visit the **Bank of North Dakota Web site**
www.banknd.com



U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Ground and Surface Water Program

- The program offers farmers and ranchers a tool to address their water-related natural resource concerns while achieving environmental benefits.
- Agricultural producers may be eligible.
- To be eligible, land must have been irrigated at least two of the last five years and meet Natural Resource Conservation Service soil/water quality compatibility standards and hold a current water permit.
- EQIP offers contracts for the reorganization of existing irrigation systems with incentive payments and financial assistance on conservation practices. Assistance is available for practices that result in a net water savings in the current water application method or for conversion to a more efficient water application method.
- Financial assistance is based on a payment schedule that accounts for a typical irrigation installation cost.
- Program participants will be required to implement an irrigation water management plan.
- The program also offers technical assistance in the design of the system.
- Applications are accepted on a continual basis for the program. Applications on hand before Oct. 15 will be considered for funding with the current year's EQIP allocation.
- Limited-resource and beginning farmers may be eligible for financial assistance 20 percent higher than typical contract holders.

■ **For more information,**
contact your local **Natural Resources Conservation Service office**. More information is available at
www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip.

Programs for Irrigation Districts . . .



State Water Commission

State Water Commission Cost-share Program for Irrigation Development

- The program is available only to political subdivisions, such as irrigation districts.
- The State Water Commission's cost-share is up to 40 percent for eligible items, depending on availability of funds.
- Eligible items are those associated with new central supply works, such as pump intakes, pumps, power units, conveyance facilities, electric power facilities, other related facilities and engineering.
- Maintenance costs are not eligible.
- Plans and cost estimates are required for a new project, along with an economic feasibility determination.

■ **For more information, contact the director of the Water Appropriations Division, State Water Commission, at (701) 328-2754.**

North Dakota Public Finance Authority

Capital Financing Program

- The program is available to qualifying organizations, including irrigation districts.
- The program may be used for equipment and water supply infrastructure that the irrigation district owns for the capture, conveyance and distribution of the irrigation water.
- The North Dakota Public Finance Authority issues the bonds.

Irrigation and Related Facilities Program

- The program is available to qualifying organizations, including irrigation districts.
- The program may be used for equipment and water supply infrastructure that the irrigation district owns, as well as storage facilities for commodities produced under irrigation.
- The North Dakota Public Finance Authority issues the bonds.
- The program requires that the irrigation district have 20 percent equity in the project.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the Guaranteed Business and Industry Loan Program, guarantees the bonds for up to 80 percent of the project cost on qualifying projects.

■ **For more information, Tim C. Porter
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**For more information
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