

Groundwater Quality And Economic Impacts Of Farm Practices In
Wetland Areas: Winter 1993 Update

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Twelve wetlands located in tilled fields within three different farming systems have been evaluated and selected. Soil cores from five wetlands were initially taken to verify vegetative wetland classification with additional depth to calcium carbonate level verification of all wetlands at time of piezometer installation. Crop yields for 1992 were taken.

Piezometers were designed and manufactured by project personnel. Installation of piezometers are complete on ten of the twelve wetlands. Weather has inhibited further installation with the expectation of a March 1 completion date. Frost tubes have been installed in completed piezometers. A dielectric soil moisture probe has been purchased and received along with a field pH meter. Other equipment has been identified for purchase and will be received this winter. Atmometers and modified lysimeters have been selected for part of the evapotranspiration measurements and will be obtained or manufactured this winter. Runoff wier design is progressing.

On-site sampling of water table level began January 5, 1993. Additional soil cores will be taken beginning in March 1993 for baseline soil data and dielectric probe calibration.

The analysis of economic impact of farm practices in wetland areas will begin in February or March. Data collection and budgeting analysis of detailed farming practices by field and wetland tract will be used in the study.

Communication with farmer cooperators has been frequent and very positive. Project personnel have been present on-site a minimum of once a week since starting in September. Progress has been generally good.

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