

NRCS - Irrigation Training Toolbox, What it is

The USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS, formally the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) historically has conducted formal irrigation training for its field employees at a centralized location. This training frequently was not timely to meet training needs and reached only a limited audience. It was frequently expensive and often inadequate in meeting specific state or localized irrigation needs.

An NRCS national irrigation team consisting of a representative from each of the NRCS six regional administrative areas met to design a procedure and process for the development and delivery of irrigation training in a tailored and timely manner. The result of this effort was development of an Irrigation Training Toolbox. The Box is broken into eight distinctive sections, containing resource information specific to the topic area. The resource information was gathered from within NRCS as well as through an assessment of information existing through Universities, Extension Service, private industry, and state and other federal agencies.

The principle behind the packaging of the resource information is to allow specific states, or units with the state, the opportunity to tailor the development of irrigation training sessions to meet their specific needs. Resource information is provided to furnish materials frequently not available for adequate training session development. Where available, existing training outlines were provided for guidance.

The Irrigation Training Toolbox is constantly evolving. As additional irrigation resource information is encountered, NRCS's intent is to incorporate it into the Toolbox. Comments or suggestions are gladly sought. Please send them to [<tspofford@wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>](mailto:tspofford@wcc.nrcs.usda.gov)