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Your Well Records

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YOUR WELL RECORDS



Cooperative Extension Service
South Dakota State University
U.S. Department of Agriculture

YOUR WELL RECORDS

LeRoy Cluever
Extension agricultural engineer

You need well records. They show how the well is performing or if its characteristics are changing. Records may reveal that your well or pump is becoming inefficient, raising your water costs. Records may also show that the static water table is dropping or that the well is in need of emergency treatment. They may also very quickly show that your well is as good as or better than when it was constructed.

In keeping well records the following tables can be used directly or can be used as a guide in developing your own records. Records should include information on the general characteristics of the well and related equipment, annual discharge and drawdown levels, maintenance performed, and the total amount of annual operation.

General Information

Some information, such as pump brand or well depth and diameter, may be obvious. But unless recorded, the information may be forgotten and not be available when needed. Recording such information in the Table may save a trip to the field when repairs are needed or some item must be ordered. Additional information which should be filed with this record includes manufacturer's maintenance information on the pump, motor, and gearhead and such additional items as the pump curve and the address of the chemical company from which you buy acid or chlorine.

Table 1 General Information

Well			
Well Number	_____		
Permit Number	_____		
Location	_____		
Date Completed	_____		
Diameter	_____		
Total Depth	_____		
Length of Screen	_____		
Screen Type	_____		
Test Holes		Number 1	Number 2
Location	_____	_____	_____
Log	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Depth To Water			
_____	_____	_____	_____
Pump			
Brand	_____	Length of Column	_____
Model	_____	Number of Bowls	_____
Serial Number	_____	Speed	_____
Power Unit			
Brand	_____	Horsepower	_____
Model	_____	RPM	_____
Serial Number	_____	_____	_____
Gearhead			
Brand	_____	Serial Number	_____
Model	_____	Ratio	_____

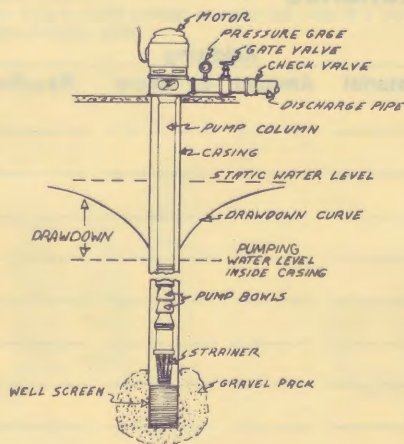


Fig. 1. Irrigation pump and well

Annual Operation

The annual hours of pumping and energy consumed are interesting in themselves and may indicate the need for maintenance on the pump or motor. The hours of pumping indicate the inches of water applied if the discharge and acres are known.

If the system discharge and pressure have not changed, a decrease in efficiency would be indicated by increased energy consumption per hour. That increase would indicate the relative increase in energy consumption if the same amount of water were pumped each year.

Table 4 Annual Operation

Date M/D/Y	Energy Consumed (Gal or Kwh)	Time Pumped (hours)	Energy Consumed Per Hour	
			Gal hr	Kwh hr
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Summary

Well records are relatively simple but they include important information. By noting the values as they are recorded you can tell when treatment is needed. Such treatment may prolong the life of the well and thus save you money.

A slow failure of the well which cannot be corrected by acidizing may be indicated. Proper records will mean that you know a well failure is coming and may allow time for you to drill a well in the off season. Well problems during the irrigation season will certainly decrease yields and may mean a complete crop failure. Records may prevent that!

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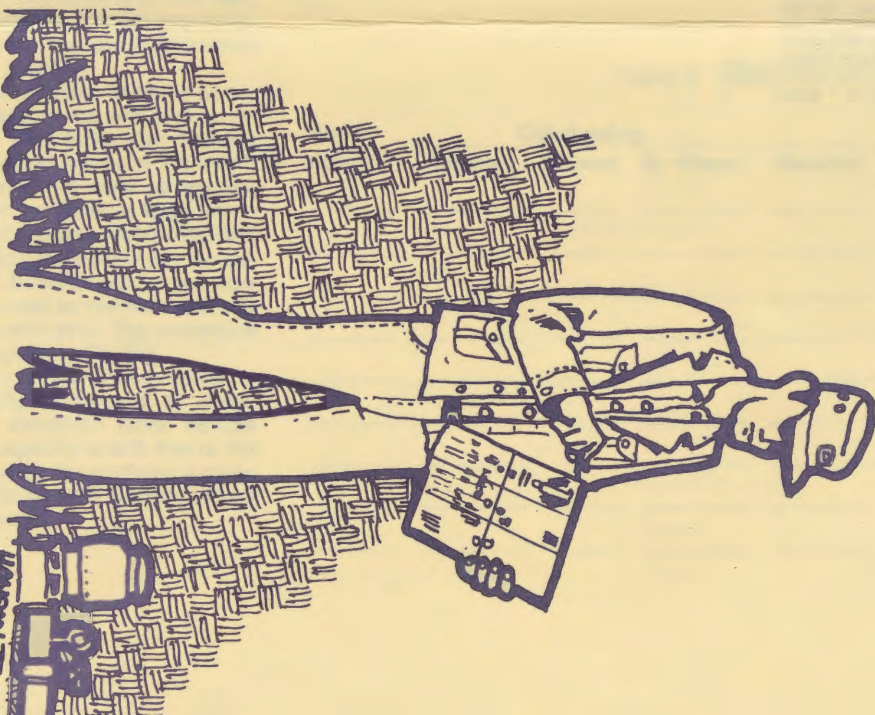
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