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## TELLS HOW TO GET IRRIGATION PERMIT

Is it necessary to have permission to use water for irrigation purposes in Western Washington?

J. C. Scott, an irrigation farmer near Sequim, says this is a question that is in the minds of many farmers in western Washington who feel that supplemental irrigation is as necessary for the production of profitable crops there as it is in the Yakima and Wenatchee valleys. Scott, who is president of the western Washington Reclamation institute and first vice-president of Washington State Reclamation association, tells the law governing use of water:

### First Come First Served

"In Washington and throughout the West," he says, "all laws relating to water are based on the theory that the water belongs to the public. The person who first used water for a beneficial purpose has first right to it. But as the supply of water is limited, permits for the use of it must be obtained from the state to prevent controversies. For this purpose the water code was adopted in 1917.

### Water Code

"Under the water code," continues Scott, "a person who wants to use water for irrigation will make application for a permit to the Supervisor of Hydraulics, Olympia. For the examination of the application a fee of \$5 is required. The applicant must give a description of the land to be irrigated, the amount of water required, and any other pertinent information that may be needed. If there is sufficient water available, and other conditions are favorable, the permit is granted. If water is to be diverted from a stream, lake, drain, etc., where fish life may be endangered, the applicant must construct and install such works as may be required in compliance with instructions from the Department of Fisheries."



Permit for Well, Spring or Drain

"If water for irrigation is to be obtained from a well, an application must be made the same as for surface water. A well may be sunk without such permission when less than 5,000 gallons a day are used. Most farmers, however, are registering their wells when less than this amount of water is used in order to have their well on record and the right to use any amount of water definitely established. A permit must also be obtained to use water from a spring or drain on one's own land."

Procedure Is Easy

"The whole procedure for obtaining the use of water is not complicated, difficult, nor costly, however," said Scott. "The supervisor of hydraulics at Olympia will give detailed information to anyone who requests such information, and will also be helpful in every possible way."

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(Note: The above story is the last one of a series of five stories on sprinkler irrigation and related topics that have appeared regularly in Agricultural News. The titles of all these stories are: (1) 600 Persons in 7 Counties Attended Reclamation Tours; (2) Sprinklers are Growing Popular for Distributing Liquid Manure; (3) Sprinkler Irrigation Cost is Low, But Profit Is High; (4) 16 Inches of Water Yearly Usually Enough from Sprinklers; and (5) Tells How To Get Irrigation Permit.