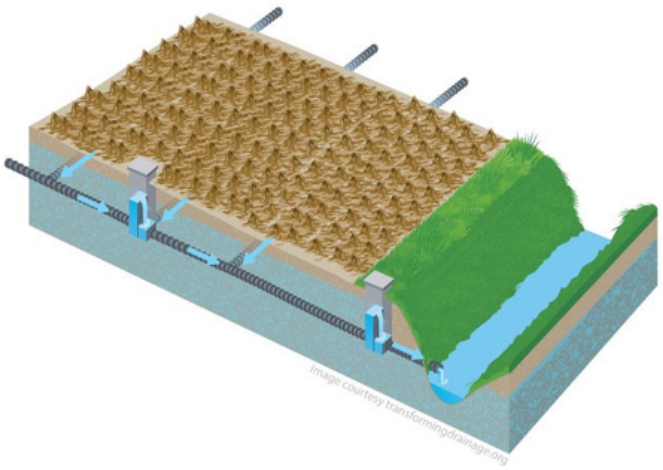
ADMC Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition

FACT SHEET

Drainage Water Management

ABOUT

Drainage Water Management (DWM) uses control structures to manage a drainage system's water level. Water table management allows the grower to control the timing and volume of water drained. Reducing the drainage volume can store water in the soil profile to increase crop yields while reducing the amount of discharged nutrients. There are automated and manual control structures available.



Drainage Water Management Schematic

BASICS

Site requirements

- Works in fields where there are management zones with slopes < 1%
- Soils with seasonal high water tables
- Management zones of at least 15 acres
- Laterals that follow the contours

Automation

- Responsive to current weather
- Monitor and control water table remotely
- Reduces labor and maintenance
- Improves field accessibility

Performance

- Controls when water leaves the field
- Increases yields by 5 -15%
- 40% reduction in nitrates lost
- Can reduce phosphorus losses

Management

- Lower water table in spring for field access
- Set your water table depth after planting
- Manage during growing season
- Raise water table to conserve water and nutrients in the fallow season

[NRCS CPS 554 Drainage Water Management]

5 - 15% yield increase

- $150 - $500/acre depending on level of automation
- Potential $50 - $95 net return with $4.50 corn

- Water storage
- Risk reduction
- Pesticide mitigation
- Nutrient reduction

INTERACT WITH ADMC

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