

The Official Publication of the Florida Irrigation Society

PIPELINE

Winter 2013
www.fisstate.org

3 FREE

SMARTIRRIGATION APPS:

CITRUS, STRAWBERRY AND TURF

WINTER WATER RESTRICTIONS REMINDER

IRRIGATION
CONTRACTOR
LICENSE EXAM PREP
CLASS SCHEDULED



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The Official Publication of the Florida Irrigation Society

PIPELINE

Vol. 12 / Issue 4 / Winter 2013
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURES

3 FREE SmartIrrigation Apps:
Citrus, Strawberry and Turf.....10
Winter Water Restrictions Reminder.....14

DEPARTMENTS

President's Message.....4
Chapter & Industry News.....6
In Memoriam.....9
Irrigation Contractor License
Exam Prep Class Scheduled.....18
Calendar of Events.....20
Membership Application.....22



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Dear Fellow
Irrigation
Professional,

I hope that this holiday season finds you with good health and prosperity! As I write this letter I cannot help but reflect back on my year as President of this great organization. It was action packed, a bit stressful at times, rewarding and a lot of fun all wrapped up together. The FIS Board accomplished voluntary state licensing, saved Appendix F, helped many contractors with issues at the local level, held a successful Water Summit and hired a new association management company.

This will be my last President's message as I conclude my term at the end of 2013. I thank each member of my Executive Board for their unselfish investment of time and resources.

I thank all of you for trusting me to be at the helm. I believe as the others have done before me that I have left the place a little better than when I got it. Jeff Davidson will take the reins on New Year's Day. I am confident that he will continue on the path to a better and stronger Society.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I look forward to continuing to volunteer my time at both the state and local level with the society, and encourage you to do the same.

Respectfully,

Tom Super CIC, CLIA
President

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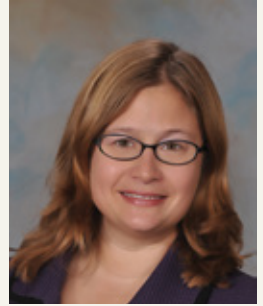
Legislative News Update

By Diana Ferguson, Esq.
Rutledge Ecenia, P.A.

As 2013 winds to a close and we look forward to 2014, I have continued to work with FIS leadership to spread the word regarding the need for mandatory regulation for irrigation contractors. Scott King, Suzanne Graham, and I met recently with Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam. We had a productive and helpful dialogue and I cannot thank the Commissioner enough for his time and valuable insights. We have also worked with Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) staff to explore various options and continue to identify issues as we move forward on our path toward mandatory regulation. We have also begun meeting with key legislators, including Representative Matt Caldwell, Chair of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee, as well as Representative Debbie Mayfield, Chair of the House Business and Professional Regulation Subcommittee.

We will continue a dialogue with those legislators and will work to spread the word to others. I have also been in close communication with the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) regarding their work and how we can use it to educate legislators and other policy makers. And I am working closely with the Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA), as it is important to keep other stakeholders that have an interest in our efforts well-informed.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I cannot stress enough the need for FIS members to show support for the voluntary certification we have achieved through the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR). The test will be offered in a paper and pencil format in February 2014




Legislative News Update

and will be offered in an electronic format beginning in April 2014. For more information, visit the Professional Testing Inc. website at www.proftesting.com. Receiving this voluntary certification will allow you to do business statewide without getting licenses in each individual local government jurisdiction that requires a license. It will also show

industry support for a statewide regulatory program, which will be critical in convincing the Legislature to proceed with mandatory licensure.

I wish everyone a safe and joyful Holiday Season and look forward to continuing our work into 2014 and beyond.



We know you work hard.
Let us work harder.

Lean on us for some of your business demands - we know we can work harder for you. This is why we've implemented the Partners Program and Business Solutions, and the Px3 Maintenance Package.

Contact your local branch to learn more about these opportunities. We are eager to help you with as many of your business challenges as possible!



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CHAPTER & INDUSTRY NEWS

Northeast Chapter

The Chapter's 5th Annual Creek Wars Tournament benefiting Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation and Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation raised a total of \$21,623 for the charities. The money donated to Firehouse Public Safety Foundation will be used to purchase portable defibrillators for the Florida Wildlife and Game Commissions boats in Northeast Florida.

In April 2013 the chapter participated in the B.E.A.M. (Beaches Emergency Assisted Ministry) project where they installed drip irrigation to garden boxes in which 100% organic produce is grown. To date the garden has produced over 11,000 pounds of produce to feed the homeless!

Tampa Chapter

The FIS Tampa Chapter held their annual Christmas Party at CDB's on December 10, 2013, in Tampa. Through the generous contributions of their members, they collected some great presents, gift cards, and a 26" boy's mountain bike.

The gifts were donated to The Spring of Tampa Bay (www.thespring.org) an organization dedicated to preventing domestic violence. This gift will bring smiles to many children's faces this time of year.

Volusia Chapter

The FIS Volusia Chapter Board and members contributed a generous donation of \$1,000 to the FIS Licensing Fund.

THANK YOU
FIS VOLUSIA
CHAPTER!

IN MEMORIAM: Ken Hendry

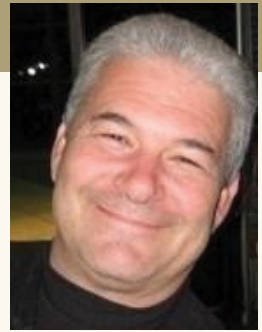
Members of FIS were saddened to hear of the passing of our friend and industry icon, Ken Hendry, on November 26, 2013 in Woodstock, GA.

Ken founded Hendry & Associates in 1988 to cater to the specific needs of the green industry. Ken realized the need for a representative company that would specialize in the irrigation industry

to assist the manufacturers, distributors, and contractors.

Prior to this, Ken was with NIBCO for ten years and served as the General Manager of Irrigation for NIBCO-Sunbelt in Atlanta before establishing Hendry & Associates.

Ken is survived by his wife Sheryl and two daughters.



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3 Free SmartIrrigation Apps: Citrus, Strawberry, and Turf

Kati W. Migliaccio (UF), Clyde Fraisse (UF), Kelly T. Morgan (UF), George Vellidis (UGA), Diane Rowland (UF), Lincoln Zotarelli (UF) and Jose Andreis (UF)



Are you interested in improving irrigation using real-time data but not interested in doing the calculations by hand? Well, if you are looking for such a real-time tool for citrus, strawberry, or turf – we have it!

University of Florida and University of Georgia have released three new irrigation apps. These apps are just the start – as more are on the way! In fact, the app development team has plans to also develop a cotton (Spring 2014), avocado, tomato, peanut, and lettuce apps (Winter 2014, Spring 2015). These apps combine university expertise, data, and technology to develop an

engaging tool for better irrigation scheduling.

These ‘apps’ are programs developed for mobile smart devices (e.g., smart-phones, tablets). As I’m sure you are aware (or at least your kids are), there are many apps available to perform a variety of functions. Apps can also be personalized to the user’s needs. Our three irrigation apps provide an easy-to-use mobile tool that delivers information to improve irrigation scheduling. The apps are applicable in Florida and Georgia and compatible with iOS (iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch) and Android devices. The apps are available to download in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.



The apps are specifically designed for users who irrigate with an automatic irrigation system or a manual system, and typically irrigate a fixed amount on certain days (such as 0.5 inch or 0.75 inch with each irrigation event) without modifying for weather changes. Using the app to modify the irrigation schedule will reduce irrigation costs, nutrient leaching, and disease, as well as conserve water.

The first step in using any of the apps is to locate the irrigation system using a drop down menu or map. This information is used by the device to link the user with the closest weather station and forecast data for their location. The apps use real-time Florida Automatic Weather Network (FAWN; www.fawn.ifas.ufl.edu) and Georgia Environmental Monitoring Network (GAEMN) data. Weather data are used to generate an evapotranspiration based irrigation schedule. The app averages the previous 5 days of ET and uses this to generate a schedule based on user inputs such as soil type, irrigation application rate, and system efficiency.

The apps are designed to be engaging so users do not have

to continually check the app for updates. Instead, notifications are sent to users every 15 days with an irrigation schedule update. The National Weather Service forecast data are also provided to users for consideration when scheduling irrigation. In addition, the turf app will send a notification if the probability of rainfall is greater than 60% the day of a scheduled irrigation event.

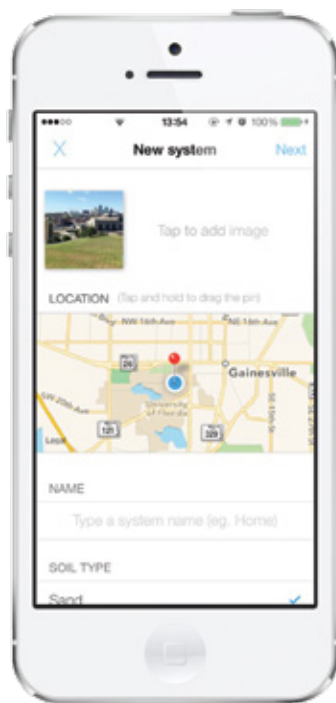


Figure 1. Screen shot of the turf irrigation app showing how to locate irrigation site location

Apps were developed with commodity specific features. For example, the strawberry app was designed for drip irrigation, the citrus app was designed for micro sprinkler irrigation, and the turf app allows the user to select irrigation sprinkler types using a description/picture format.

The apps also allow users to select specific days for irrigation. The apps then create an irrigation schedule using the number of days of the week irrigation occurs as well as the other site specific input. This is a must for turf irrigation as many users often operate under irrigation restrictions (such as 2 days a week on specific days).

Details on using the turf app can also be found in the EDIS document: SmartIrrigation Apps: Urban Turf (www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ae499). The turf app targets homeowners, commercial irrigations, and anyone else that makes irrigation scheduling decisions. Using the urban turf app instead of a set time-based schedule for irrigation, homeowners and others can provide irrigation amounts to turf that more closely match water needs. The turf app allows for multiple systems to be input and multiple zones for each system.

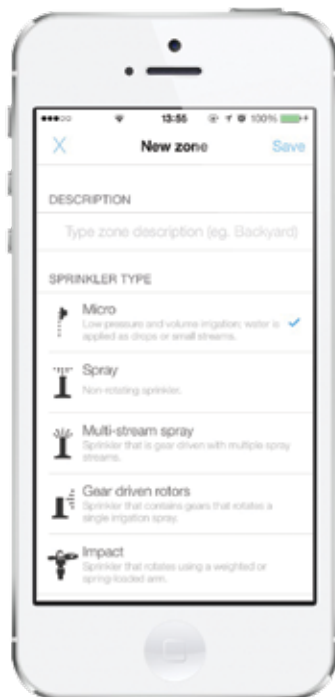


Figure 2. Screen shot of the turf irrigation app showing the different sprinkler types

Extension documentation on the citrus and strawberries app should be available soon on the EDIS system – look for it!

All the apps are easy to use and available free! For more information, visit our website at www.smartirrigationapps.org.

For more information, contact Kati Migliaccio at UF IFAS Tropical REC klwhite@ufl.edu.

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Winter Water Restrictions **Reminder**

Because of drought conditions, the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) enacted watering restrictions beginning December 26, 2013 under Water Shortage Order SWF 2013-064. Irrigating with potable, well, or surface water is restricted to once-a-week for properties in the Tampa Bay region. The Order is in place until March 1, 2014 unless modified by the SWFWMD. The City of St. Petersburg also notified its customers of their

more stringent watering restrictions triggered by this Order.

Other water districts are closely watching water supplies and could issue restrictions at some time during the dry Winter months. Help your customers stay in compliance, particularly those with irrigation controllers, by monitoring the districts where you perform work. A good way to do so is to subscribe to their email alerts if offered.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Hunter Introduces New Point Source Drip Emitters for Micro Irrigation

Hunter Industries introduced a new family of pressure-compensating drip emitters for its micro irrigation line. "Our new drip emitters are available in a wide range of flow rates to slowly deliver the right amount of water, right at the plant," said Todd Polderman, Hunter Industries Product Marketing Manager. "These emitters add flexibility to any micro irrigation system, with flow options up to 6 gallons per hour."

Hunter's emitters are available in three convenient inlets: self-piercing barb, 10/32 thread, and 1/2" female thread. The barb and 10/32 thread models are offered in .5, 1, 2, 4, and 6 GPH models; the 1/2" female threaded model is available in 1 and 2 GPH.

Designed for quick installation, the emitters are color-coded for fast flow identification with coined edges for easy gripping.



An optional diffuser cap helps gently distribute water and protects the emitter from external debris. Assembled by Hunter in the USA, these emitters enhance both water and operational efficiency in any micro-irrigation zone.

ABOUT HUNTER INDUSTRIES

Hunter Industries is a global manufacturer of products for the irrigation, landscape lighting, and custom molding sectors. Founded in 1981, the family-owned company offers over 1,000 products including a complete spectrum of water-

efficient solutions for residential and high-end irrigation systems. Hunter's core mission always has and always will remain the same: to produce innovative products of the highest quality and back them with unwavering customer support.

MEDIA CONTACT

Caitlyn Braegelmann
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caitlyn.braegelmann@
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Irrigation Contractor License Exam Prep Class Scheduled

Nervous and feeling not prepared to take the new voluntary State Irrigation Contractor Exams? FIS has a solution. The Society has arranged for a two-day workshop to prepare irrigation contractors to pass the Business and Finance exam. This exam is one of the two required to become a State licensed Irrigation Contractor. The workshop is to be held on the University of Florida's Campus February 26-27, 2014, the two days prior to the FIS Winter Board of Director's meeting.

The workshop will be taught by an experienced exam prep instructor who has passed both the trade and business/finance exams. Three comprehensive workshop study guides are provided. Topics covered are: establishing the contracting business, managing administrative duties, managing trade operations, conducting accounting functions, managing human resources, and complying with government regulations. As a bonus (and break from the 16 hours of class)

attendees will receive a guided tour of the University of Florida's Irrigation Research facilities with Dr. Michael Dukes, Interim Director of UF's Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology. Lunch will be provided during the tour courtesy of Hunter Industries, Toro and TWC Distributors.

All attendees are required to bring the reference books allowed for use during the State exam to the workshop. Books can be purchased through FIS or other sources. Books will not be available at the workshop. This class offers a Pass guarantee...anyone who fails the exam can take the workshop again with the instructor at no cost.

Registration is now open but space is limited. See the registration form for additional details regarding deadlines and cancellations. Sign-up early to insure your spot in the class by going to the FIS website (**www.fisstate.org**) or by using the registration form in the *Pipeline*.

PREPARE FOR THE NEW VOLUNTARY FLORIDA IRRIGATION CONTRACTOR LICENSURE EXAM.

FIS is sponsoring an Exam Preparation Workshop for the required State Business and Finance Examination (not the city/county exam). This is one of the two exams needed to obtain a Florida Irrigation Contractor license. Join a class designed for irrigation contractors who may have similar concerns and questions in preparing for the exam.

REGISTER EARLY: Class limited in size to allow for personalized instruction

BONUS: Scheduled tour of the University of Florida's Irrigation Research Center included in registration fee guided by Dr. Michael Dukes, Interim Director, Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology.

WORKSHOP DATES/TIMES: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, February 26, 2014
8:00 AM – 6:00 PM, February 27, 2014 (Includes scheduled tour)

LOCATION: University of Florida, Gainesville, Room 122, Frazier Rogers Hall

PARKING: Available at UF visitor center (1 block from classroom) or \$2.00 prearranged parking pass in student lots closer to classroom.

FEE: \$550. Includes: 16 hours of live instruction by experienced exam prep instructor who has passed the license exam; 3 comprehensive course workbooks; practice exams; guided tour of UF irrigation research facilities. Box lunch on February 27 courtesy of Hunter Industries, Toro and TWC Distributors. Books not included but attendees must have all books on-site for use during workshop.

NO PASS GUARANTEE: If attendee fails the exam, he/she may retake the workshop at no cost.

TOPICS COVERED IN WORKSHOP: Establishing the contracting business, managing administrative duties, managing trade operations, conducting accounting functions, managing human resources, and complying with government regulations.

OPTIONAL: The Business and Finance Exam is an open book exam. Books allowed by the State to be used during the test session, Contractors Manual, AIA 201, 401, 701, and Builder's Guide to Accounting (revised) may be purchased through FIS at the discounted price of \$279.03

SUGGESTED LODGING: Hilton UF Conference Center - contact FIS office for preferred rate and reservations. Complimentary parking and shuttle to any campus location.

REGISTRATION

ATTENDEE: _____

COMPANY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ **FAX:** _____ **EMAIL:** _____

PAYMENT METHOD: CHECK CREDIT CARD

CANCELLATION POLICY: Full fee refunded if written cancellation received by February 21. Written cancellations received after February 21 will be subject to a 50% nonrefundable fee. No refunds for no shows.



UPCOMING INDUSTRY EVENTS

Florida Green Industries Best Management Practices Certification Class - In Spanish (Clase de Certificación de las Mejores Prácticas de Manejo para la Protección de los Recursos Hídricos por parte de las Industrias Verdes)

January 17, 2014 – UF/IFAS Extension Orange County, Orlando, FL

2014 NW Florida Water Management Summit

January 22, 2014 – Niceville Community Center, 204 N Partin Dr., Niceville FL

Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association Annual TPIE

January 22-24, 2014 – Broward County Convention Center, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

FNGLA - NE Jacksonville Landscape Show

February 13 & 14, 2014 – Jacksonville, FL Fairgrounds

Irrigation Contractor Licensure Exam

February 25, 2014 – Final Written Exam (Orlando, Miami, and Tallahassee)

Florida Irrigation Society's 2014 Exam Prep Workshop

February 26 & 27, 2014 – UF, Room 122, Frazier Rogers Hall, Gainesville, FL

Florida Irrigation Society's 2014 Winter Board Meeting

February 28, 2014 – UF, Room 122, Frazier Rogers Hall, Gainesville, FL

FIS Florida Water Summit 2014

July 15 - 21, 2014 – Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South, Orlando, FL



SAVE THE DATE!

January 22, 2014
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM



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204 N. Partin Dr. Niceville, FL 32578

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Phone: Sheila (850) 689-5850 or Josh (850) 243-0911



2014 WATER SUMMIT HEADS TO ORLANDO

Mark your calendars now for the FIS 2014 Water Summit to be held July 15 – 21, 2014 at the new Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South. Planned for 2014 is an expanded educational program offering CEU credits for license renewal. All workshops, technical and management, are designed specifically for the Irrigation Contractor. Not to miss is the trade show giving attendees an opportunity to speak directly with manufacturers and distributors of irrigation products and services. Watch for announcements in 2014 offering discounted fees for early registration. Exhibitors, sponsors and persons interested in being presenters at the Summit should contact the FIS Office at 727-209-1595 or email administration@fisstate.org.

FIS thanks the following sponsors and exhibitors who contributed to the success of the 2013 Summit:

Sponsors - Christy's, Ewing, FIS Outdoor, Hunter, John Deere Landscapes, K Rain, Massey Services Inc., Oldcastle Enclosure Solutions, Vartek, Water Optimizer, Inc.

Exhibitors - Alliance Outdoor Lighting, Christy's, CMF Global, Ecologel Solutions, LLC, Ewing Irrigation Golf & Industrial, FIS Outdoors, Hunter Industries Inc, Hydro-Rain Irrigation Products, Innovative Irrigation Products Inc, Irrigation Association, John Deere, Kichler Landscape/D&M Sales of Florida, K-Rain, Lasco Fittings Inc., Oldcastle Enclosure Solutions, Rain Bird, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Toro, Water Optimizer, Weathermatic, Welty, Inc.

NEW FIS LEADERSHIP TEAM ELECTED

On January 1, 2014 the Florida Irrigation Society's newly elected officers will assume their leadership roles. Jeff Davidson, Davidson Landscape and Irrigation, moves up from FIS Treasurer to President and replaces Tom Super the 2013 President. Jeff has served on the FIS Board of Directors and been a member of the Tampa Bay Chapter since 1993 in various positions. Upon hearing the official vote, Jeff responded, "I look forward to continuing the effort for Statewide Licensing, Education, and Professionalism in the industry and for others to notice our importance

in water conservation and safety of our water supply."

Others elected by the membership are: Spencer Phillips, Vice President, Horizon Distributors; Andy Voelz, Treasurer, Toro; and Scott King, Secretary, Preferred Building Systems. Each has served a minimum of two years on the Board. Congratulations to the new FIS team! The first Board meeting is to be held in Gainesville on February 28, 2014 on the University of Florida Campus in conjunction with an FIS Contractor Exam Prep Workshop the two days prior.



Send to:
 Florida Irrigation Society
 466 94th Avenue N.
 St. Petersburg, FL 33702

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I am: A New Member

Renewing my Membership

Note: All new applications are considered pending until approved by the Board of Directors at the next scheduled meeting.

Company: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____ Fax: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____
 Voting Representative: _____ Email: _____

For new applications:

Please list sponsor or Member company:

Would you like information about your local chapter: Yes No

For renewal applications:

If you are a renewing member, please list chapter affiliation here: _____

If you are renewing, please indicate most recent membership year: _____

Please indicate your Category and enclose relevant dues

	Annual Dues
<input type="checkbox"/> A Manufacturer	\$330.00
<input type="checkbox"/> B Distributor	\$275.00
<input type="checkbox"/> C Contractor	\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> D Consultant, P.E., L.A.	\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> E Irrigation System Operator	\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> F Associate	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> G Technical	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> H Student	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> I Supporting	\$100.00

Helpful Category Information:

- *Associate Members are employees of current FIS Member firms in categories A-E.
- *Technical Members are individuals employed by educational institutions or governmental agencies.
- *Students retain all Membership rights except voting Representation.
- *Supporting Members are individuals that wish to be members that are not in the irrigation industry. (Example: Insurance Agents, Auto Dealers, etc.)

Please tell us about yourself so we can better serve your specific industry needs:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Installer of Irrigation Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Professional Engineer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dealer in irrigation equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Landscape Architect |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distributor in irrigation equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Certified IA Designer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation System Design only | <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturer | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Certifications: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Well Driller | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Operator of Irrigation Systems | _____ |

If your business is located in a county that requires an irrigation contractor license through testing, please provide your license number and county for Membership Directory listing.

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County: _____

Applicant Signature & Date _____

Sponsor Signature & Date (New Members Only) _____

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