Subsurface Drainage Questions

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Questions???

- Do pump stations make sense in areas with no gravity drainage?
 - No outlet for either surface water or tile water?
 - Can't gravity drain the water from tile?
- Does pattern tiling replace surface drainage?
- Where do we use whole area (pattern) tiling versus targeted drainage?

Field Drainage - Observations

When dealing with water flow from a field, whether surface and subsurface drainage:

- Every field is unique
- No "one right" way to tile
- Most important: local knowledge of field and water flow in the area

Restrictive Sub-Layer - High Water Table



How Water Flows into Tile Lines



Water Table Level in late July, August and September

How Water Flows into Tile Lines Runoff Water Table



How Water Flows into Tile Lines Runoff Water Table



Iowa State University Bulletin - 1911











Typical Pump Station



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Creating an Outlet - Pumping



Why Do We Need Field Size Pump Stations?

Topography and Outlet Conditions

Flat Ground, Shallow Ditches



Culvert through road is at a higher elevation than the tile main

Receiving Ditch Stays Full for Several Days

Tile Outlet before Rain

Tile Outlet Submerged 6 Days After Rain Event

Additional Reasons for Pump Stations

Control when water leaves the field
Gain more grade on laterals



Lift Pump Problem Areas

Low areas that can be flooded
Very near water bodies (lake, river, etc.)
Shallow aquifers or sand lenses

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	North Zone	Middle Zone	South Zone
Top Control Structure Elevation (ft)	815.2	814.5	816.0
Max Ground Surface Elevation (ft)	813.5	814.5	814.5
Target Water Table Depth (ft)	2.5	2.5	2.5
Targer Water Table Elevation	811.0	812.0	812.0
Distance from Weir to Top of Structure (ft)	4.2	2.5	4.0

Legend

 CD-SI North Zone
 CD-SI Middle Zone
 CD-SI South Zone
 cd-si_contour3
 cd-si contour2

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200 acres - Tiled 45 acres





Questions? Observations! Thoughts!!

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Lift Station Hydrology

— Tile Flow Rate — Rain Accumulation



Tile Flow June 2008



Tile Flow - Lift Station in Cass County

