



# REGIONAL DISTRICT NORTH OKANAGAN

## MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES:

CITY OF ARMSTRONG

CITY OF ENDERBY

DISTRICT OF COLDSTREAM

VILLAGE OF LUMBY

CITY OF VERNON

TOWNSHIP OF SPALLUMCHEEN

## ELECTORAL AREAS:

"B" – SWAN LAKE

"C" – BX DISTRICT

"D" – LUMBY (RURAL)

"E" – CHERRYVILLE

"F" – ENDERBY (RURAL)

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## Off Season Agricultural Water Use Fee

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Agricultural customers who use water outside of the regular irrigation season are charged the *Off Season Agricultural Water Use Fee* per the *current Greater Vernon Water Rates Imposition Bylaw*. This fee is a water consumption fee – the charge is based on the volume of water used in the off season. Water used outside of the irrigation season is not considered part of the property's annual Agricultural Water Allocation. The irrigation season is set by the water utility from approximately April 15<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup>. If turn-on starts before or after the 15<sup>th</sup>, the end of season will be adjusted similarly. For example, if turn-on started April 18<sup>th</sup>, turn-off would begin September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Customers may apply for early turn-on, to ask that their irrigation service be activated anytime prior to the regular April start date, or for late turn-off. If approved, water consumption used within 30 calendar days of the regular turn-on or turn-off dates in addition to the regular irrigation season (i.e. water use from mid-March to mid-October) shall be considered part of the property's annual Allocation. You can use water earlier than March and later than October but water use outside of this period (i.e. mid-October to mid-March) would be charged at the *Off Season Agricultural Water Use Fee* rate.

The *Agricultural Early Turn-On / Late Turn-Off Application Form* can be found online at [www.rdno.ca/water](http://www.rdno.ca/water) and clicking on the '[Agricultural Customers](#)' link in the grey box on the left side or by visiting the Regional District of North Okanagan office. There is a fee for this application. Late applications are charged the Operator Service Fee (in addition to the application fee) to have the water turned back on. These fees can be found in the *current Greater Vernon Water Rates Imposition Bylaw*.

Ways to avoid or reduce *Off Season Agricultural Water Use Fees*:

- **Regularly read your meter, even when the water should be off** - record the numbers on the register along with the date and subtract that amount from the numbers recorded the next time you read the meter a month later – that will tell you your monthly water use volume.
- **Fix leaks** - a leaking pipe joint, hose, nozzle, or dripping tap add up. If you suspect there's a leak, turn off all fixtures and see if your meter is still recording flow – either the digital numbers will be changing or the red dial or triangle will be spinning on older meters.
- **Secure water bowls/troughs** - to prevent shifting and water from overflowing.
- **Pay attention when filling tubs or tanks** - a water tub that is left to spill over while filling could be responsible for the loss of 5 gallons (19 litres) per minute. Or install a float with a shut-off.
- **Collect rainwater from the barn roof** - if used for livestock consumption, this water should be tested and the appropriate treatment process should be added if needed.
- **Investigate more efficient watering systems** - for example, Saskatchewan hog operators have found that ball-bite water drinkers are more efficient and can reduce liquid manure volume. Poultry producers have found that nipple-style watering devices reduce water waste.