



## 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

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 and 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 15th to September 15th. If irrigation turn-on starts before or after the 15th, the end of season will be adjusted similarly. For example, if turn-on started April 18th, turn-off would begin September 18th.

Customers may apply for their service to be activated prior to the regular April start date; or remain on after the regular September turn off date by completing the *Extended Irrigation Season Application* form. If approved, water consumption used within 30 calendar days of the regular turn-on (mid-April) or turn-off dates (mid-September) in addition to the regular irrigation season will be considered part of the property's annual allocation. You can use water earlier than mid-March and later than mid-October, but you will be charged the *Off Season Agricultural Water Use Fee* rate.

The *Extended Irrigation Season Application Form* (which includes an application fee) 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 column or by visiting the Regional District of North Okanagan office. Applications for Late Turn Off received after the advertised deadline are charged the Late Application Fee **in addition to** the Application Fee. 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. Installing a float with a shut-off is the most efficient way to prevent water loss.
- **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.