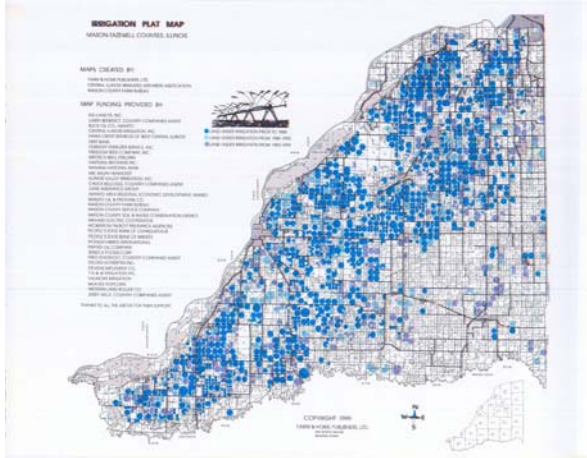


**Mason County Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**930 E. Laurel, Suite B - Havana, IL 62644 - Phone (309) 543-6075**  
**Duane Himmel, Resource Conservationist**  
**Amy Ishmael, Administrative Coordinator**



Plat map showing irrigation systems in Mason County.



View from the top of an irrigation system.

## **Irrigation Evaluation Services**

Mason County is an agricultural area nestled in central Illinois and lies on the western edge of the Mahomet Aquifer. It is comprised of a total of 360,510 acres, and out of that area 273,698 acres are cropland. Out of that area, 134,086 acres are irrigated. Our 1,700 agricultural producers are fortunate to have the water resources available to irrigate the sandy soil in order to grow a wide variety of specialty crops (potatoes, sweet corn, green beans, peas, cabbage, green peppers, etc.) and other crops (soybeans, corn, wheat, etc.). However, with the privilege of an abundant supply of water comes the responsibility to use it wisely.

Like any other piece of equipment, an irrigation system requires "tune-ups" and repairs. Since 1992 Mason County Soil & Water Conservation District has been evaluating irrigation systems and until recently, was the only district in the state to do so. Data gathered during an evaluation shows producers how efficiently and uniformly their system is working, and repairs can be made based upon this information. A properly working irrigation system uses water resources from the Mahomet Aquifer more efficiently and saves enormous amounts of energy.

Since the inception of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), irrigation evaluations provided by Mason County SWCD has qualified producers to participate in the Irrigation Water Management (IWM) portion of EQIP. Since 2005, Mason County producers have received in excess of \$98,000 through EQIP-IWM.