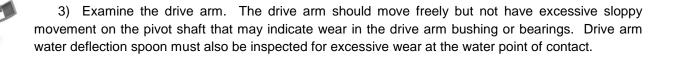# Impact Sprinkler Start-Up Guide for Spring

1) Inspect sprinklers for any visible broken Items such as drive arms, reverse trip assemblies, adjustable stops, etc. Sprinklers left outside can be subject to weather events such as falling hail stones or other windblown objects may hit and damage the sprinkler. Broken sprinkler components are also common when livestock come in contact with sprinklers that are fence top mounted.

2) Make sure the sprinkler turns freely by hand. If the sprinkler is tight to turn, check the following: 1) Sprinklers that have been sitting for a period of time where poor water quality deposits a mineral or calcium residue may simply need to be soaked in a cleaning solution and cleared of any buildup before pressurizing the system and tested. 2) It is possible that the seal rings are worn causing excessive friction or if it is a larger impact sprinkler with bearings in the lower assembly, the sprinkler may be in need of service to the lower end bearing. Replacing any worn lower end seal rings (smaller sprinklers) or lower end bearings (larger sprinklers) on older sprinklers can save money before more expensive items such as the lower end brass base or brass inner sleeves are damaged.

3) Examine the drive arm. The drive arm should move freely but not have excessive sloppy movement on the pivot shaft that may indicate wear in the drive arm bushing or bearings. Drive arm water deflection spoon must also be inspected for excessive wear at the water point of contact.

4) Check for any foreign matter in the nozzles. Many sprinklers also contain stream straighteners within the barrel that must be inspected. Typically this must be done by removing the nozzle to see the straightening vanes. A small wire may be inserted inside the sprinkler to make sure the path is clear of any debris.

5) Pressurize and test the sprinkler. Refer to the sprinkler manufacturer's optimal pressure range for the nozzle that is installed. When functioning properly, the sprinkler performance will match the manufacturer's performance chart for distance under acceptable wind and atmospheric conditions.

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