



By Richard L. Elgin, PhD, LS, PE

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Crop Circles

A west Kansas farmer owns a flat, square quarter quarter section. (For you folks in the “Colonial States”, that is a flat, square 40-acre field. Yes, yes, I know there’s no such thing, but we are in academia here, not the real world.) The farmer wishes to arrange a symmetrical circular irrigation system as shown in the sketch. All circles have the same diameter. What will the radius of each circle be?

For the solution to this problem please visit our website at: www.TheAmericanSurveyor.com. Good luck! 

