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Old Tile Systems May Be Inadequate For Use Today

Tile drainage systems that were adequate 20 or 30 years ago may have deteriorated to a point of failure, says an ISU extension agricultural engineer.

Ted Willrich says the major causes of tile system failures are improper design, poor installation, inferior tile and lack of maintenance.

Old tile are small and of poor quality compared to modern products which, when properly installed, should last 50 years or longer if maintained, Willrich says.

More information is available at your county extension office. The Soil Conservation Service office will provide technical and consultative services to farmers on drainage system problems. The Extension and Soil Conservation Service offices are located in the Post Office Building, Eldora. The ASCS office at Iowa Falls offers cost-sharing help to farmers and land owners who can qualify and in line with available funds. The Farmers Home Administration at Iowa Falls also has loans available for drainage work to qualified farmers.