NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

GEORGIA

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

IRRIGATION SYSTEM, SPRINKLER

CODE 442

Land Owner/Operator_____

County_____ SWCD_____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Prepared By_____ Date 01/03/2013

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

A properly operated and maintained sprinkler irrigation system can be an asset to the farm. The system was designed and installed to distribute water through perforated pipes or nozzles operated under pressure. Estimated life span of this installation is at least 15 years. The life of the system can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a systematic operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require periodic maintenance and may also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance. Your operation and maintenance program includes:

- Distribution patterns and spacing of lines shall be maintained at their design orientation unless NRCS personnel are involved in their modification. Application rates shall also be maintained at the design rates.
- Maintain the filtration system. Maintain filters and other appurtenances as necessary.
- Flush lateral lines regularly.
- Maintain the design depth of cover over the pipe system. All settlement or cracks in the soil should be investigated to determine their cause and immediately repaired. Excessive settlement or voids in the line present a hazard and should be backfilled and compacted immediately.
- Avoid travel by heavy equipment over pipelines when the soil is saturated except at designed crossings. Limit traffic to sections that were designed for traffic loads. Avoid any sub-soiling operation that may disturb or destroy the lines.
- Check applicator discharge often; replace applicators as necessary.
- Check operating pressures often; a pressure drop (or rise) may indicate problems. Repair or replace damaged gauges.
- Check and assure proper operation of backflow protection devices.

- Conduct routine maintenance of all mechanical components in accordance with manufacturer recommendations. Repair or replace damaged components as necessary.
- Maintain vigorous growth of vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and application of herbicides when necessary. Fertilize as needed to maintain a uniform vigorous stand. Periodic mowing may also be needed to control height.
- Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular, or livestock damage to pipes, pumps, outlets or other appurtenances.
- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals and repair any damage caused by their activity.

Additional Operation and Maintenance Requirements Specific to this Plan:_____