



## Operation & Maintenance Plan Grassed Waterway (Code 412)

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### Expected Lifespan

The minimum expected lifespan of this practice is at least 10 years.

### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

A properly operated and maintained grassed waterway is an asset to your farm. The grassed waterway is designed to stabilize an eroding area and safely convey runoff from the drainage area it serves. The life of the installation 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 requirements include—

- Establishing a maintenance program to maintain waterway capacity, vegetative cover, and outlet stability. Vegetation damaged by machinery, herbicides, or erosion must be repaired promptly.
- Protecting the waterway from concentrated-flow by using diversion of runoff or mechanical means of stabilization, such as silt fences, mulching, hay bale barriers, etc., to stabilize the grade during vegetation establishment.
- After vegetation is established, removing any temporary measures that were installed, such as diversions or silt fences, so as to not interfere with design flow.
- Minimizing damage to vegetation by excluding livestock whenever possible, especially during wet periods. Permit grazing in the waterway only when a controlled grazing system is being implemented.
- Inspecting grassed waterways regularly, especially following heavy rains. Fill, compact, and reseed damaged areas immediately. Remove sediment deposits to maintain capacity of the grassed waterway.
- Avoiding use of herbicides or pesticides that would be harmful to the vegetation or pollinating insects in and adjacent to the waterway area.
- Mowing or periodically grazing vegetation to maintain capacity, reduce sediment deposition, and maintain suitable plant composition and vigor.
- Applying supplemental nutrients as needed to maintain the desired species composition and stand density of the waterway.
- Controlling noxious weeds.
- Avoiding using waterways as turn rows during tillage and cultivation operations.
- Not using waterways as a field road. Avoid crossing with heavy equipment when wet.
- Lifting tillage equipment and turning off chemical application equipment when crossing the waterway.

## **Specific Site Requirements**