NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

GEORGIA

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT

CODE 449

Land Owner/Operator_____

County_____ SWCD_____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Prepared By_____ Date 09/21/2009

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

A properly executed irrigation water management plan can be an asset to the farm. The system installed on your farm was designed and installed to support crop growth by meeting crop irrigation requirements. Estimated life span of this installation is at least _____ years. The life of the system can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a sound management program and by following a systematic operation and maintenance program.

Your irrigation water management program includes:

- Follow the Operation and Maintenance plans established for the components of the system.
- The volume of water needed for each irrigation application shall be based on plant available water holding capacity of the soil for the crop rooting depth, allowed soil water depletion, irrigation efficiency, and water table contribution.
- The irrigation frequency shall be based on the volume of irrigation water needed and/or available, the rate of crop evapotranspiration, crop needs, and effective precipitation.
- The application rate shall be based on the volume of water to be applied, the frequency of irrigation applications, soil infiltration and permeability characteristics, and the capacity of the irrigation system.
- Modify plant populations, crop and variety selection, and irrigated acres to match available or anticipated water supplies.
- Consider potential for spray drift and odors when applying agricultural and municipal wastewaters.
- Equipment modifications and/or soil amendments such as polyacrylamides and mulches should be considered to decrease erosion.
- Quality of irrigation water should be considered relative to its potential effect on the soil's physical and chemical properties, such as soil crusting, pH, permeability, salinity, and structure.

- Avoid traffic on wet soils to minimize soil compaction.
- Water should be managed in such a manner as to not drift or come in direct contact with surrounding electrical lines, supplies, devices, controls, or components that would cause shorts in the same or the creation of an electrical safety hazard to humans or animals.
- Consideration should be given to electrical load control/interruptible power schedules, repair and maintenance downtime, and harvest downtime.

Additional Operation and Maintenance Requirements Specific to this Plan:_____