

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR  
IRRIGATION DITCH LINING**

**CODE 428**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Desc. \_\_\_\_\_

Ident. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_

A properly operated and maintained irrigation ditch lining is an asset to your farm. This structure was designed and installed to improve conveyance of irrigation water, prevent waterlogging of land, maintain water quality, prevent erosion, or reduce water loss.

The estimated life span of this installation is at least 20 years. The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance for satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

**General Recommendations**

- Maintain adequate drainage of the foundation.
- Maintain the widths and heights of soil berms adjacent to the lining.
- Drain all lined ditches when not being used.
- Immediately repair any cracks or breaks in the lining. Investigate the cause before repair and take measures to prevent reoccurrence.
- Avoid the use of tillage equipment adjacent to the lining.
- If livestock are present, prevent their access to the lining.

- Remove sediment, debris, or blockage that restricts capacity.
- Remove woody vegetation and perennials from areas adjacent to the lining.
- Repair spalls, cracks, and weathered areas in concrete surfaces.
- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage caused by their activity.
- Immediately repair any damage due to vandalism, vehicles, or livestock that has been done to the structure, earthen areas surrounding the structure, or any appurtenances.
- Avoid crossing with equipment or vehicles (except at designated areas).

**Specific Recommendations for This Project**

**If you need additional technical assistance to implement the operation and maintenance plan for this structure, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at your local USDA Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government).**