

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR  
IRRIGATION SYSTEM, SPRINKLER**

**CODE 442**

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

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

A properly operated and maintained sprinkler irrigation system is an asset to your farm. This structure was designed and installed to do one or more of the following:

- Efficiently and uniformly apply irrigation water to maintain adequate soil water for the desired level of plant growth and production without causing excessive water loss, erosion, or water quality impairment
- Control and/or modify the climate
- Apply chemicals, nutrients, and/or wastewater
- Leach to control or reclaim saline or sodic soils
- Reduce particulate matter emissions to improve air quality

The estimated life span of this installation is at least 15 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**

- Only operate the system when needed to furnish water for plant growth.
- Operate the system at the pressure, discharge rate, duration, and frequency as designed.

- Check to make sure that all connections are watertight and all valves are working properly.
- Periodically check the sprinkler heads for wear and replace the proper parts when defective or excessive wear is found.
- Remove debris and sediment as necessary from nozzles to ensure proper operation.
- Promptly repair all leaks by replacing gaskets or worn parts.
- Regularly check the pressure and flow rates to verify that they are within the design parameters.
- During non-seasonal use, drain and place the removable part of the system in an area where it will not be damaged.
- Maintain all pumps, agitators, piping, valves, and other electrical and mechanical equipment in good operating condition following the manufacturer's recommendations.
- When servicing the system, disconnect the electrical service (if applicable) and verify the absence of stray electrical current.
- Do not allow livestock near equipment or in the area during operation.
- Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicle, or livestock damage.

**Specific Recommendations for your 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).**