

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

**VIRGINIA**

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**DAM**

**CODE 402**

Land Owner/Operator \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ SWCD \_\_\_\_\_ Farm/Tract No. \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS**

A properly operated and maintained dam can be an asset to the farm. The dam was designed and installed to provide storage to runoff water for beneficial use. Estimated life span of this installation is at least 50 years. The life of the dam 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:

- The dam should be inspected at least annually and especially after heavy rains to determine whether it is functioning properly or if repairs are needed.
- The water level established by the outlet structure shall not be manipulated to raise the water level above the planned elevation.
- Appurtenances such as trash racks, outlet structures and gates shall be kept free of trash and replaced when needed. Remove debris that may accumulate at the embankment and immediately upstream or downstream from the dam. Screens and/or rodent guards shall be kept in place. If fences are installed, they shall be maintained to prevent unauthorized livestock entry.
- Erosion on the slopes of the dam and in the earth auxiliary spillway shall be filled with suitable material, compacted, seeded and fertilized as needed. Should the upstream face of the dam erode due to wave action, protection such as riprap may be needed. If seepage through or under the dam occurs, proper corrective measures shall be taken immediately.
- The vegetative cover of the dam and earth spillway shall be maintained by mowing and fertilizing when needed. Trees can cause leaks and safety hazards and should not be permitted on the embankment, in the auxiliary spillway, or within 25' of the embankment groin. When needed, fencing and water troughs will be provided to protect the pond and vegetation from livestock.
- At least twice yearly inspect the spillways and control gates for proper functioning for their ability to maintain the water level to design elevations. Immediately remove any blockage or obstructions in spillways.

