

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE
FOR YOUR
POND**

OPERATOR: _____ DATE: _____

TAX MAP KEY OF PRACTICE LOCATION: _____

NRCS OFFICE: _____ PHONE: _____

A properly operated and maintained water impoundment structure is an asset to your farm. This structure is designed and installed to collect and provide storage of water. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 10 years. The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

OPERATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Notify NRCS of seepage or wet areas on embankment or downstream of embankment. Greener vegetation or longer vegetation than surrounding area may be indicators of wet areas.
- Notify NRCS if settlement, bulges, holes, or cracks are noticed in concrete structures or earthen embankments.
- No trees or deep rooted plants shall be in the embankment areas.
- Notify NRCS of developments above or below your pond.
- Additional operation recommendations, if applicable:

MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Inspect the embankment areas, spillways, pipes, valves, lining, concrete structures, and other items installed at your pond annually.
- Immediately remove any blockage or obstructions of spillways, trash racks and pipelines.
- Make sure all structure drains are functional and soil is not being transported through the drainage system. Notify NRCS when soil is observed discharging from drain pipes, or when discharge is higher or lower than normal.
- Immediately repair vandalism, vehicular, or livestock damage to earth fills, spillways, or other appurtenances.
- Remove woody vegetation from embankments.
- Repair eroded areas and revegetate.
- Repair spalls, cracks, and weathered areas in concrete surfaces.
- Repair or replace rusted or damaged metal and paint.
- If fences are installed, they shall be maintained to prevent unauthorized or livestock entry.
- Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetative ground covering. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and controlled application of herbicides when necessary. Periodic mowing may be needed to control vegetative height.
- Remove woody vegetation from embankments.
- Repair eroded areas and revegetate.
- Repair spalls, cracks, and weathered areas in concrete surfaces.
- Repair or replace rusted or damaged metal and paint.
- If fences are installed, they shall be maintained to prevent unauthorized or livestock entry.
- Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetative ground covering. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and controlled application of herbicides when necessary. Periodic mowing may be needed to control vegetative height.
- Additional maintenance recommendations, if applicable:

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE OFFICE FOR ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE YOU MIGHT NEED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN.