

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE
FOR YOUR
GRASSED WATERWAY**

OPERATOR: _____ DATE: _____

TAX MAP KEY OF PRACTICE LOCATION: _____

NRCS OFFICE: _____ PHONE: _____

A properly operated and maintained grass waterway is an asset to your farm. This grass waterway is designed and installed to stabilize an eroding area and to safely convey runoff from the drainage area. The estimated 10-year life of this installation can be assured and will be increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

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

OPERATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Limit traffic on the waterway.

Do not use extensively as a roadway.

Do not operate equipment in waterway when ground is wet.

Seeding shall be protected from concentrated flow and grazing until vegetation is established.

Minimize damage to vegetation by excluding livestock whenever possible, especially during wet periods.

Avoid using waterways as turn-rows during tillage and cultivation operations.

Prescribed burning and mowing may be appropriate to enhance wildlife values, but must be conducted to avoid peak nesting seasons.

MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

A good stand of vegetation must be kept between 6 inches and 12 inches in length. Mow or periodically graze vegetation to maintain capacity and reduce sediment deposition.

Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilization and controlled application of herbicides as necessary.

Maintain waterway capacity, vegetative cover, and outlet stability.

Replace weathered or displaced rock riprap to constructed grade.

Vegetation damaged by machinery, herbicides, livestock, or erosion must be repaired promptly.

Inspect grassed waterways regularly, especially following heavy rains. Bare or damaged areas will be filled, compacted, and seeded immediately.

Remove earth ridges or swales that occur between the field and the waterway.

Remove sediment deposits and foreign debris to maintain capacity of grassed waterway.

Control noxious weeds.

Avoid areas where forbs have been established when applying herbicides.

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