

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN  
FOR  
SURFACE DRAINAGE**

Landowner/user: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

A properly operated and maintained **Surface Drainage (Drainage Ditch)** is an asset to your property. This surface drainage was designed and installed to dispose of excess surface or subsurface water, intercept groundwater, or to control groundwater levels. The estimated life span of this practice is at least 10 years. The life of this practice 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 to maintain satisfactory performance. The following are some requirements to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

Operation and Maintenance

1. Maintain channel cross-section and gradient by removing sediment deposits or other obstructions caused by erosion or sloughing.
2. Control the growth of brush or other undesirable vegetation by the use of herbicides and/or mowing. Avoid direct contact with drainage water by the herbicides.
3. Install and maintain fences to control livestock access when adjacent fields are used for pasture.
4. Remove all foreign debris or obstructions that may hinder the system operation.
5. Eradicate or otherwise remove all burrowing animals. Repair any damage caused by their activity.
6. Immediately repair damage to side slopes, channel bottom, outlets or other appurtenances.
7. Replace weathered or displaced riprap to its original grade.

Specific Requirements for Your Practice

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