

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

VIRGINIA

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

WATERING FACILITY

CODE 614

Land Owner/Operator _____

County _____ SWCD _____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Prepared By _____ Date _____

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

A properly operated and maintained Watering Facility is an asset to the farm. This practice was designed and installed to provide storage and/or a facility to provide utilization of water by livestock. Estimated life span of this installation is at least _____ years. The life of the installation 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:

- Check periodically for debris, algae, sludge or other materials in the trough which may restrict the inflow or outflow. Check all above ground connections, valves, gates, rodent guards, inlets and outlets to make sure they are functioning properly.
- Check troughs and tanks for leaks or cracks. Check the automatic water level device, if installed, to ensure proper operation. Check to ensure the outlet pipe, if installed, is freely operating and not causing erosion problems. Repairs or replacements shall be made promptly.
- Prepare for winter weather. Maintain, where necessary, coverings and insulation to prevent damage by freezing. Consider adding material in the storage area to allow for ice expansion without damage.
- Maintain the 10' hardened surface radius around the trough. Protect with materials similar to those placed at the time of installation. Expect to add additional stone to the area periodically during the life span of the trough.
- Clean the entire system periodically and remove moss, algae growth, and/or sludge. Chemicals such as copper sulfate and chloride can be used to prevent moss and algae growth. Local rules and regulations are to be followed when using chemicals. Make sure they are safe for animals.
- If the trough use is seasonal, remove any alga growth, drain the trough, allow it to stand empty for a week or so, remove any remaining alga, and refill. The trough should be flushed at least once a year. Twice is recommended but it should be done any time algae becomes a problem. Control of algae growth in the trough is an important part of the maintenance.

