

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
_____, OKLAHOMA**

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN
TERRACE**

Sponsor/Land user: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Legal description of practice location: SEC _____ T _____ R _____

A properly operated and maintained terrace system is an asset to your farm. This system was designed and installed to reduce soil erosion and/or for water conservation. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 10 years. The life of this system 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 maintenance and may also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Check terraces regularly, especially following major runoff events; repair damaged areas.
- Perform tillage operations as close to the contour of the terrace channel as is practical. Tillage operations which cross over the terrace ridge may reduce the height of the terrace, thereby decreasing its effectiveness at controlling erosion.
- Maintain the constructed ridge height and channel capacity of terrace by periodically “plowing up” each terrace.
- Remove sediment that has accumulated in the terrace channel to maintain capacity or to maintain a positive channel grade.
- Remove all blockages in gradient terraces that prevent or reduce flow.
- Keep all terrace outlets free flowing. Where underground outlets are used, remove sediment build up so that the inlet is in the lowest place in the channel. Inlets damaged or cut off by farm equipment must be repaired or replaced immediately.
- Restrict livestock use of field with a terrace system when the ground is wet.
- Maintain vigorous growth of vegetative coverings when used.

