

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

VIRGINIA

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

POND

CODE 378

Land Owner/Operator_____

County_____ SWCD_____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Prepared By_____ Date_____

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

A properly operated and maintained pond is an asset to the farm. The pond was designed and installed to provide storage of runoff water for beneficial use. Estimated life span of this installation is at least 20 years. The life of the pond 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:

- The pond should be inspected periodically and especially after heavy rains to determine whether it is functioning properly or if repairs are needed.
- The water level established by the outlet structure shall not be manipulated to raise the water level above the planned elevation.
- Appurtenances such as trash racks, outlet structures and gates shall be kept free of trash and replaced when needed. Remove debris that may accumulate at the embankment and immediately upstream or downstream from the basin. Screens and/or rodent guards shall be kept in place. If fences are installed, they shall be maintained to prevent unauthorized livestock entry.
- Erosion on the slopes of the embankment and in the earth auxiliary spillway shall be filled with suitable material, compacted, seeded and fertilized as needed. Should the upstream face of the embankment erode due to wave action, protection such as riprap may be needed. If seepage through or under the embankment occurs, proper corrective measures shall be taken immediately.
- The vegetative cover of the embankment and earth spillway shall be maintained by mowing and fertilizing when needed. Trees can cause leaks and safety hazards and should not be permitted on the embankment or in the auxiliary spillway. When needed, fencing and water troughs will be provided to protect the pond and vegetation from livestock.

