

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

VIRGINIA

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

IRRIGATION SYSTEM, SPRINKLER

CODE 442

Land Owner/Operator _____

County _____ SWCD _____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Prepared By _____ Date _____

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

A properly operated and maintained sprinkler irrigation system can be an asset to the farm. The system was designed and installed to distribute water through perforated pipes or nozzles operated under pressure. Estimated life span of this installation is at least 15 years. The life of the system 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:

- Periodically check, and remove debris and sediment from nozzles to assure proper operation as necessary.
- Periodically inspect or test all pipeline and pumping plant components and appurtenances, as applicable
- Maintain distribution patterns and spacing of lines at their designed orientation unless NRCS personnel are involved in their modification. Also maintain application rates at the design rates.
- Maintain the filtration system. Maintain filters and other appurtenances as necessary.
- Flush lateral lines regularly.
- Maintain the design depth of cover over the pipe system. Investigate all settlement or cracks in the soil to determine their cause and immediately repair. Because excessive settlement or voids in the line present a hazard, backfill and compact them immediately.
- Avoid travel by heavy equipment over pipelines when the soil is saturated except at designed crossings. Limit traffic to sections that were designed for traffic loads. Avoid any sub-soiling operation that may disturb or destroy the lines.
- Check applicator discharge often; replace applicators as necessary.
- Check operating pressures often; a pressure drop (or rise) may indicate problems. Repair or replace damaged gauges.

