

**U.S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
OREGON**

**Operation and Maintenance Requirements  
Irrigation Ditch Lining  
CODE 428**

Landowner/Operator \_\_\_\_\_

Job Location \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ SWCD \_\_\_\_\_ Farm/Tract No. \_\_\_\_\_

Referral No. \_\_\_\_\_ Prepared By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS**

A properly operated and maintained lined irrigation ditch or canal is an asset to the farm. The lining was designed and installed to reduce water loss in the irrigation delivery and/or head ditches. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 10 years. The life of the lining can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program

This practice will require performance of periodic maintenance and may also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance. A good operation and maintenance program includes:

- ⇒ Maintain adequate drainage of foundations.
- ⇒ Maintain widths of soil berms or banks. Avoid use of tillage equipment that accelerates soil removal.
- ⇒ Drain all lined ditches and canals when not in use. Immediately repair any cracks or breaks in the lining, and if settlement is present, investigate the cause before repair.
- ⇒ If livestock are present, prevent their access to linings and provide other drinking water facilities.
- ⇒ Remove any blockage (sediments, debris, foreign material etc.) that restrict flow capacity.
- ⇒ Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular or livestock damage.
- ⇒ Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage caused by their activity.

