



A properly operated and maintained shallow water pond is an asset to your farm. This shallow water pond was designed and installed to collect and provide storage of runoff water for beneficial use, as well as provide habitat for wildlife and wetland flora and fauna. The practice must be maintained for the lifespan of the practice which is 20 years. The life of the structure can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This conservation practice will require you to perform periodic maintenance and may also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance. The following actions shall be carried out to insure that the practice functions as intended throughout its life span.

1. Periodically check the elevation of the earthfills and restore to grade, if necessary.
2. Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, liming, fertilization and controlled application of herbicides when necessary. Periodic mowing will be needed to control height.
3. All fences, railings, and/or warning signs shall be maintained to provide warning and/or prevent unauthorized human or livestock entry.
4. Immediately remove any blockage or obstructions of spillways, trash racks and pipelines.
5. Remove debris that may accumulate in the pond and immediately upstream or downstream from the pond.
6. Determine and eliminate causes of settlement or cracks in the earthen sections and repair damage.
7. Check all rock riprap, if applicable, for accelerated weathering and displacement. Replace to original grades if necessary.
8. Repair or replace rusted or damaged metal.
9. Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals and repair any damage caused by their activity.

¹ This O & M plan is only for use with small excavated or embankment ponds. For embankment ponds, the depth of water impounded against the embankment must be 3 feet or less measured from the lowest point in the embankment to the bottom of the auxiliary spillway.

10. Immediately repair any vehicular or livestock damage to any earthfills, spillways and outlets.
11. Make sure all structure drains are functional and soil is not being transported through the drainage system; repair if not functioning. The screens/ rodent guards shall also be kept in place.
12. Control undesirable vegetation in the pool area, i.e. cattails and phragmites. Contact your local office for technical assistance if needed.
13. Prevent the growth of woody vegetation on embankments by mowing. Tree growth on the berm will create leaks.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR INSTALLATION

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE OFFICE FOR ANY ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE YOU MIGHT NEED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR YOUR STRUCTURE.

New Castle Field Office
(302) 832-3100

Kent Field Office
(302) 741-2600

Sussex Field Office
(302) 856-3990

Landowner Signature: _____ Date: _____

Operator Signature: _____ Date: _____

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