

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**  
**GEORGIA**  
**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS**  
**ANIMAL TRAILS AND WALKWAYS**  
**CODE 575**

Land Owner/Operator \_\_\_\_\_

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

Prepared By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS**

The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program. Operation and Maintenance (O & M) is necessary for all conservation practices and is required for all practices installed with NRCS assistance. The land user is responsible for proper O & M throughout the life of the practice and as may be required by federal, state, or local laws or regulations. Estimated life span for this practice is 10 years. The animal trail or walkway is designed and installed to facilitate animal movement for the purposes of providing or improving access to forage, water, working/handling facilities, and/or shelter; improving grazing efficiency and distribution; and/or protecting ecologically sensitive, erosive, and/or potentially erosive sites.

Operation is defined as operating the practice in compliance with all laws, regulations, ordinances, and easements and in a manner that is beneficial to the environment and will permit the practice to serve its intended purpose. Maintenance includes working to prevent deterioration of the practice, repairing damage, or replacing components that may fail. Necessary operation and maintenance items for this practice are as follows:

- Inspect the animal walkway annually and after significant storm events to identify repair and maintenance needs such as mending fences, replacing surfacing materials, and/or replacement of gates.
- Remove manure and wasted feed from the animal walkway area during times when land spreading equipment can traverse fields and when actively growing crops can utilize nutrients in the manure.
- Replace fine surface material when the thickness of the heavy use area is reduced to 4 inches. Any repairs to the geotextile or the concrete, if used, need to be made at this time.
- Maintain the areas immediately down slope of the heavy use area in permanent vegetation. All associated fences and filter strips will be maintained to promote vegetative growth and filter runoff.
- Grade and reshape trails or walkways to maintain the designed grade and dimensions.

