

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

GEORGIA

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

DIKE

CODE 356

Land Owner/Operator_____

County_____ SWCD_____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Prepared By_____ Date_____

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

A properly operated and maintained dike or levee is an asset to your farm. This structure was designed and installed to prevent inundation of farmland and to help control flooding. The estimated life span of this installation is at least _____ years. The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good 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 requirements include:

- All dikes must be adequately maintained to the required shape and height. All settlement or cracks in the soil should be investigated to determine the cause and immediately repaired.
- At least twice yearly inspect flap gates, control gates, valves and other appurtenances for proper function and their ability to maintain the water level to design elevations. Immediately remove any blockage or debris that could cause malfunction. At approximately three month intervals exercise gates and valves to help assure proper function.
- Maintain vigorous growth of vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and application of herbicides when necessary. Testing the soil every three years is recommended. Fertilize the established stand at the rate determined from testing. Avoid excess travel and uncontrolled grazing on any portion of the dike system that will harm or destroy vegetative cover. Periodic mowing or controlled grazing may also be needed to control height.
- Maintain installed fences to prevent unauthorized human access or uncontrolled grazing of dike surfaces. Livestock can be used to control vegetation height, providing grazing is controlled to short periods of time when damage to the dike surface and vegetation will not result.
- Check all rock riprap and erosion control matting sections for accelerated weathering and displacement of materials. Replace materials to original shape and grade if necessary.
- The maintenance of dikes must include periodic removal of woody vegetation that may become established on the embankment. Provisions for maintenance access must be provided. Remove debris that may accumulate immediately upstream or downstream from inlet and outlet facilities.

