

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN**

IA-362 DIVERSION

Landowner/Operator: _____ Cost Share Program: _____

Location: Section ____ T ____ N R _____ Prepared By: _____ Date: _____

County: _____ Reviewed with Landowner/Operator: _____ Date: _____

A properly operated and maintained diversion is an asset to your farm. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 10 years. The life of this diversion can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program. For diversions it is important to maintain the capacity and vegetative cover and ensure that runoff reaches a stable outlet.

The following tasks are required to properly operate and maintain this practice to obtain good performance:

1. Inspect the diversion at least annually and after heavy rains for damage and make prompt repairs.
2. Maintain the height of the fill at the design elevation by placing earth fill in any low or eroded areas. Reestablish vegetative cover immediately on filled areas and where scour erosion has removed the established seeding.
3. Redistribute or remove sediment deposits as necessary to maintain capacity of diversion and keep any surface inlets at the low point. Revegetate as needed. Maintain effective erosion control on the contributing watershed to prevent excessive sedimentation.
4. Keep each surface inlet for underground outlets open and free from debris. Immediately repair or replace inlets damaged by farm machinery, livestock, or vandalism.
5. Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals and promptly repair any damage caused by their activity.
6. Remove all foreign debris that hinders the operation of the diversion or appurtenances.
7. Protect the diversion from damage by farm equipment, livestock, and vehicles. Do not use the diversion as a road, and practice care when crossing to prevent tillage marks or wheel tracks.
8. Do not spray the diversion with herbicides intended for adjacent crops.
9. Control pests that will interfere with the timely establishment of vegetation.
10. Fertilize diversions the first spring after seeding and thereafter as necessary to maintain a vigorous stand of grass.
11. Mow diversions as needed to maintain a healthy, vigorous sod at a nominal height of _____ inches. Remove excess growth. For wildlife benefits, delay the first mowing until after nesting birds have hatched (about _____). Cost-share program rules place the following restrictions on mowing operations: _____.
12. Control trees and brush growing in the diversion by hand, chemical, or mechanical means.
13. Do not overgraze the diversion. Do not graze diversion during establishment of vegetation or when soil conditions are wet.
14. Repair all broken subsurface drain lines adjacent to or within the diversion.