

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

**IA-468 LINED WATERWAY or OUTLET**

Landowner/Operator: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Share Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: Section \_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_ N R \_\_\_\_\_ Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed with Landowner/Operator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

A properly operated and maintained lined waterway or outlet is an asset to your farm. The estimated life span of this practice is at least 10 years. The life of this waterway can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

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

1. Inspect the waterway after heavy rains for damage. Inspect annually for damage due to normal use. Repair areas damaged by erosion or machinery operations immediately.
2. Remove sediment deposits to maintain capacity of the lined waterway. Maintain effective erosion control on the contributing watershed to prevent sedimentation.
3. Repair all broken subsurface drain lines adjacent to or in the waterway.
4. Protect waterway from damage by farm equipment and vehicles. Do not use the waterway as a road, and practice care when crossing to prevent tillage marks or wheel tracks. Maintain constructed width by lifting or disengaging tillage equipment before crossing the waterway.
5. Avoid planting end rows along the side of the waterway, as they often divert water from the waterway and contribute to gully development. Avoid other farming operations which would hinder water entry.
6. Avoid using the waterway as turn-rows during tillage and cultivation operations.
7. Perform grading operations adjacent to the waterway as needed to ensure that runoff enters as planned rather than being diverted parallel to the waterway causing gully formation.
8. Control noxious weeds and maintain desired vegetation adjacent to the waterway or outlet with herbicides, mowing, or prescribed burning.
9. Prevent trees and brush from growing in the waterway.
10. Use only herbicides labeled for the intended use and target species and follow all label directions.
11. Mow buffer areas adjacent to the waterway as needed to maintain a healthy, vigorous sod at a height of \_\_\_\_\_ inches. Remove excess top 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. Prescribed burning may be an alternative to mowing. Follow a site-specific burning plan. Repair all broken subsurface drain lines adjacent to or in the waterway.
  13. Additional requirements: