

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

**IA-574 Spring Development**

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

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

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

Site description: \_\_\_\_\_

A properly operated and maintained spring development is an asset to your farm. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 20 years. The life of this installation 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 satisfactory performance:

1. Inspect the spring box, pumps, valves, and the outlet at least 4 times a year to identify repair and maintenance needs. Promptly repair or replace components as needed to maintain proper function.
2. Remove sediment buildup in the spring box as needed to insure proper capacity and function. Place removed sediments in the uplands away from the spring box and any associated wetlands.
3. Inspect fences and other means used to exclude livestock from the source area at least annually. Promptly repair or replace damaged components.
4. Mark all above ground components so they are visible to avoid damage by equipment.
5. Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular or livestock damage to any components.
6. Promptly repair any settlement or erosion along the underground conduit. Connections are the weakest part of the system.
7. Promptly repair any erosion, damage from ice, or other problems at the outlet pipe.
8. Remove trash from the outlet and maintain the animal guard.
9. Maintain the required depth of cover over all pipes and structures.
10. Control tree and bush growth near perforated conduits by hand cutting, mowing, or chemicals. Avoid damaging grass with herbicide sprays.
11. Avoid using fire near components made of plastic.
12. Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals that may damage the system. Immediately repair any damage caused by their activity.