

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

IA-578 STREAM CROSSING

Landowner/Operator: _____ Cost Share Program: _____

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

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

A properly operated and maintained stream crossing is an asset to your farm. The estimated life span of this practice is at least 10 years. The life of this stream crossing 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 stream crossing, appurtenances, and associated fence after heavy rains for damage. Inspect annually for damage due to normal use. Repair damage immediately.
2. Remove deposits of excess sediment, organic material, and woody material to maintain capacity of the stream crossing. Maintain effective erosion control on the contributing watershed to prevent excessive sedimentation.
3. Replace surfacing stone used for livestock crossing as needed. High flow events will routinely remove some of the surfacing stone.
4. Protect stream crossing from damage by farm equipment and vehicles. Practice care when crossing to prevent tillage marks.
5. Perform grading operations adjacent to the stream crossing as needed to ensure that runoff continues to be diverted around the approaches as planned to minimize gully formation.
6. Control noxious weeds and maintain desired vegetation adjacent to the stream crossing with herbicides, mowing, or prescribed burning.
7. Prevent trees and brush from growing in and immediately adjacent to the stream crossing.
8. Use only herbicides labeled for the intended use and target species and follow all label directions.
9. Mow buffer areas adjacent to the stream crossing 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:
_____.
10. Prescribed burning may be an alternative to mowing. Follow a site-specific burning plan.
11. Repair all broken subsurface drain lines or damaged outlets adjacent to the stream crossing.
12. Additional requirements: