

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

**IA-587 Structure for Water Control**

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

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

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

A properly operated and maintained structure for water control is an asset to your farm. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 10 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. Operate the structure in accordance with the Management Plan provided for the associated conservation practice.
2. Inspect the structure and other components of the system after significant storm events and at least annually to identify repair and maintenance needs.
3. Avoid damage to the structure or adjacent earthfill by farm equipment. Mark structures so they are visible to prevent damage by equipment. Promptly repair or replace damaged components.
4. Remove debris and trash accumulated or in the immediate area of the structure.
5. Check all valves, gates and other appurtenances for proper functioning. If worn or damaged, repair or replace following the manufacturer's recommendations.
6. Regularly mow and fertilize desired vegetation. Time the first mowing for after nesting birds have hatched (about \_\_\_\_\_). Remove excess top growth. Use caution and avoid or remove flammable components when burning warm season grasses. Operate mowing and other equipment on slopes in accordance with machinery operation manual.
7. Check frequently for burrowing animals. When found, remove the burrowing animals, replace embankment materials and reestablish vegetation.
8. Check all timber or lumber sections for decay and other damage, especially sections in contact with earth or other materials. Repair damaged sections and apply protective coatings as needed.
9. Determine and eliminate causes of settlement or cracks in the earthen sections and repair damage.
10. Repair spalls, cracks and weathered areas in concrete surfaces.
11. Repair or replace rusted or damaged metal and paint.
12. Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular, or livestock damage to any earthfills, spillways, or outlets or other apparatuses.