

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

IA-606 Subsurface Drain

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 subsurface drain 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. Maintain an accurate map of the location of laterals, mains, surface intakes, outlet pipes, pumps, and other appurtenances to facilitate operation and maintenance of your drainage system. Using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to locate items during installation and maintenance activities will help maintain an accurate map.
2. Inspect all surface inlets, animal guards, pressure relief wells, pumping stations, and outlets each Spring and after significant storm events to identify repair and maintenance needs. Repair or replace components as needed to maintain proper function.
3. Mark all above ground components so they are visible to avoid damage by equipment. Promptly repair or replace damaged components.
4. Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular or livestock damage to any outlets or appurtenances.
5. Remove debris and trash accumulated around riser inlets that might impair water flow.
6. Promptly repair any settlement or erosion along the drain pipe. 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.