

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

**IA-607 SURFACE DRAIN, FIELD DITCH**

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

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

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

A properly operated and maintained surface drainage system is an asset to your farm. The estimated life span of this surface drain is at least 10 years. The life of this surface drain 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 surface drain after heavy rains for damage. Inspect annually for damage due to normal use.
2. Protect the surface drain from damage by farm equipment and vehicles. Do not use the surface drain 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.
3. Avoid planting end rows along the side of the surface drain, as they often divert water from the surface drain and contribute to gully development. Avoid other farming operations which would hinder water entry.
4. Maintain cross section and gradient by controlling channel erosion and sloughing.
5. Immediately remove silt deposits, obstructions, or blockage of the drainage system that includes channel spillways, trash racks, inlets, or outlets.
6. Control the growth of vegetative materials by the use of herbicides and/or mowing. Avoid direct drainage water contact with herbicides.
7. Remove all foreign debris that hinders system operation.
8. Install and maintain fences to control livestock access when adjacent fields are used for pasture.
9. Replace weathered or displaced rock riprap to constructed grade.
10. Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular, or livestock damage.
11. Repair all broken subsurface drain lines adjacent to or in the surface drain.