

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

IA-608 SURFACE DRAIN, MAIN OR LATERAL

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 (ditch) 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 (O&M) program.

The following tasks are required to properly operate and maintain this practice to obtain good performance:

1. Inspect the ditch and appurtenant structures annually and after heavy rains for damage.
2. Repair damage to grade control structures, outlet pipes, and crossings as needed to ensure proper functioning and minimize erosion.
3. Remove all foreign debris that hinders system operation. Immediately remove silt deposits, obstructions, or blockage of the drainage system.
4. Maintain the cross section and gradient by controlling channel erosion and sloughing.
5. Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and controlled application of herbicides when necessary. Avoid direct drainage water contact with herbicides.
6. Control the growth of brush and trees and other undesirable vegetation on the ditch banks.
7. If burning is used to control undesirable vegetation, protect bridges, plastic pipes, fences, and other property from damage.
8. Install and maintain fences to control livestock access when adjacent fields are used for pasture. Limit livestock access to water to minimize erosion and water quality degradation.
9. Replace weathered or displaced rock riprap to constructed grade.
10. Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular, or livestock damage.
11. Operate vehicles and machinery a safe distance from the edge of the ditch bank.