

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR
IRRIGATION CANAL OR LATERAL**

CODE 320

Name _____

Ident. No. _____

Legal Desc. _____

County _____

A properly operated and maintained irrigation canal or lateral is an asset to your farm. This structure was designed and installed to facilitate the efficient distribution and use of water on irrigated land. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 15 years. The life of this installation can be ensured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance for satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

General Recommendations

- Maintain cross section and gradient by controlling channel erosion and bank sloughing.
- Remove any debris or blockage of spillways, trash racks, inlets, or outlets.
- Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilizing, and applying herbicides when necessary. Periodically mow to control height.
- Install and maintain fences to prevent livestock access when adjacent fields are used for pasture.

- Inspect the canal or lateral periodically and after storm events. Repair and perform maintenance as needed.
- Inspect rock riprap for accelerated weathering and displacement. Repair to original grades as necessary.
- Inspect for damage by rodents or burrowing animals. Repair any damage and take appropriate corrective actions to avoid further damage.
- Repair immediately any damage due to vandalism, vehicles, or livestock.
- Perform prompt repair or replacement of damaged components.

Specific Recommendations for This Project

If you need additional technical assistance to implement the operation and maintenance plan for this structure, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at your local USDA Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government).