

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR
IRRIGATION FIELD DITCH**

CODE 388

Name _____
Legal Desc. _____

Ident. No. _____
County _____

A properly operated and maintained irrigation field ditch is an asset to your farm. This structure was designed and installed to efficiently convey and distribute irrigation waters. 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

- Control growth of vegetation that reduces the capacity of earthen ditches but maintain any recommended cover on side slopes.
- Control the siltation in ditches by diverting silt-laden water or use a desilting facility prior to water entering the ditch.
- If livestock are present, fence the ditch to prevent their entry.
- Remove all debris that hinders the operation of the system.
- Investigate for excessive leakage and repair sections as necessary.

- Maintain all associated structures in sound and functional condition.
- Inspect the structure periodically and after storm events. Repair and perform maintenance as needed.
- Inspect for damage by rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage and take appropriate corrective actions to avoid further damage.
- Immediately repair any damage due to vandalism, vehicles, or livestock.

Specific Recommendations

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).