

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR
IRRIGATION PIPELINE**

CODE 430

Name _____

Ident. No. _____

Legal Desc. _____

County _____

A properly operated and maintained irrigation pipeline is an asset to your farm. The pipeline conveys water from a source of supply to an irrigation system or storage reservoir. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 20 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 maintenance and may also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

General Recommendations

- Check to make sure all valves and air vents are set at the proper operating condition so they may provide protection to the pipeline.
- Maintain the design depth of cover over the pipeline.
- Avoid travel over pipelines by tillage equipment when the soil is saturated.
- Avoid any subsoiling operation that may disturb the pipeline.
- Remove all foreign debris that hinders system operation.

- Drain the system and components in areas that are subject to freezing. If parts of the system cannot be drained, an anti-freeze solution shall be added.
- Inspect for damage by rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage and take appropriate corrective actions to avoid further damage.
- Fill the pipeline slowly during startup to allow the air to escape and prevent excess pressure from being created. Also, gradually slow down the pumping rate before turning off the system.
- Periodically check and repair all valves, gates, and regulators to the system requirements following the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Immediately repair any damage due to vandalism, vehicles, or livestock that has been done to any outlets and appurtenances.
- Open and close valves slowly to prevent pipe or appurtenant damage caused by surge pressures.
- Use flow measuring appurtenances such as flow meters, weirs, or other means (for example, number of turns of a gate valve) to determine the rate of flow into the pipeline system.

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).