NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR

DRY HYDRANT

CODE 432

Name _____ Ident. No. _____

Legal Desc. _____ County _____

A properly operated and maintained dry hydrant is an asset to your farm. This structure was designed and installed to provide all-weather access to an available water source for fire suppression. 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 to maintain satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

General Recommendations

- Keep the site clear of obstructions and regularly mow the dry hydrant access area to keep the area readily available for emergency use.
- Perform a pumper test of the dry hydrant at least annually to verify site usability. This test shall include backflushing, followed by a pumper test at the maximum designed flow rate. Give careful attention to silt, debris, aquatic growth, or other interference that may limit the full operation of the dry hydrant.
- Check the intake screen once every 5 years to identify any sediment buildup and to provide information for a cleanout operation or for aquatic growth control needs.
- Backflush the hydrant each spring and fall to remove any silt or debris that may have accumulated on the screen.

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).