

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR
IRRIGATION SYSTEM, MICROIRRIGATION**

CODE 441

Name _____

Ident. No. _____

Legal Desc. _____

County _____

A properly operated and maintained microirrigation system is an asset to your farm/ranch. This system was designed and installed to efficiently and uniformly apply irrigation water and maintain soil moisture for plant growth, to prevent contamination of ground and surface water by efficiently and uniformly applying chemicals, to establish desired vegetation, or to reduce energy use. 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

- Clean or backflush filters when needed.
- Install flow meter and monitor water application.
- Flush lateral lines at least annually.
- Check applicator discharge often and replace applicators as necessary.
- Check operating pressures often. A pressure drop (or rise) may indicate a problem.
- Check pressure gauges to ensure proper operation and repair or replace damaged gauges.

- Test the water supply every few years (or more often if a change is noted) to make sure the water is still suitable for use in a microirrigation system.
- Inject chemicals as required to prevent precipitate buildup and algae growth.
- Check chemical injection equipment regularly to ensure it is operating properly.
- Check and ensure proper operation of backflow protection devices.
- Promptly repair damage caused by farm equipment and animals.
- Inspect laterals for damage by rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage and take appropriate corrective actions to avoid further damage.

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).