

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR
SPRINKLER SYSTEM**

CODE 442

Name _____
Legal Desc. _____

Ident. No. _____
County _____

A properly operated and maintained sprinkler system is an asset to your farm. This system was designed and installed to do one or more of the following:

- Efficiently and uniformly apply water on irrigated lands.
- Improve plant condition, productivity, health and vigor.
- Prevent the entry of excessive nutrients, organics, and other chemicals in surface and groundwater.
- Improve the condition of soil contaminated with salts and other chemicals.
- Reduce particulate matter emissions to improve air quality.
- 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

- When irrigating, only operate the system when needed to furnish water for plant growth.

- Operate the system at the pressure, discharge rate, duration, and frequency as designed.
- Check to make sure that all connections are watertight and all valves are working properly.
- Promptly repair all leaks by replacing gaskets or worn parts.
- Periodically check the sprinkler heads for wear and replace the proper parts when defective or excessive wear is found.
- Remove debris and sediment as necessary from nozzles to ensure proper operation.
- Regularly check the pressure and flow rates to verify that they are within the design parameters.
- During non-seasonal use, drain and place the removable part of the system in an area where it will not be damaged.
- Maintain all pumps, agitators, piping, valves, and other electrical and mechanical equipment in good operating condition following the manufacturer's recommendations.
- As applicable, fill in and smooth the wheel tracks if they become too deep.
- When servicing the system, disconnect the electrical service (if applicable) and verify the absence of stray electrical current.

(more)

- Do not allow livestock near equipment or in the area during operation.
- 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).