

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR
IRRIGATION SYSTEM, SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE

CODE 443

Name _____

Ident. No. _____

Legal Desc. _____

County _____

A properly operated and maintained irrigation system is an asset to your farm. This system was designed and installed to efficiently convey and distribute irrigation water across the surface of an agricultural field without causing excessive water loss, erosion, or water quality impairment; to efficiently convey and distribute irrigation water for the subsurface irrigation of an agricultural field without causing excessive water loss or water quality impairment; to apply chemicals and/or nutrients in a manner which protects water quality; or to reduce energy use as part of an irrigation system.

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 - Surface

- Periodically clean and regrade the tailwater collection facilities to maintain proper drainage, capacity, and functionality.
- Inspect for damage by rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage and take appropriate corrective actions.
- Periodically remove the sediment from traps and/or storage facilities and place it as planned to maintain design capacity and efficiency.

- Inspect and/or test all ditches, pipelines, and pumping plant components and appurtenances, as applicable.
- Maintain all mechanical components in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations
- Periodically smooth or regrade surface-irrigated fields to maintain uniform field grades for application uniformity.

General Recommendations - Subsurface

- Maintain the water table at the design depth by setting the water control structure elevation.
- Observe critical dates and water table target elevations during the planned crop growing season.
- Locate and maintain the required groundwater observation wells.

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).