

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

**CODE 516**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Desc. \_\_\_\_\_

Ident. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_

A properly operated and maintained livestock pipeline is an asset to your property. This practice was designed and installed to convey water from a source of supply to points of use for livestock, wildlife, or recreation areas. 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 operation and maintenance for satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

**General Recommendations**

- Ensure air vents are working or hydrants are open during the first filling or subsequent fillings, after repairs, or during winter draining operations.
- Inspect and test at least annually all valves, air vents, pressure regulators, pumps, switches, and other appurtenances. Promptly repair or replace any damaged items.
- To avoid potential water hammer problems, do not unnecessarily open and close valves.
- Drain all system components in areas that are subject to freezing. Maintain the design

depth of cover over the pipeline as needed for freeze protection.

- After rains, inspect the backfill for settlement and erosion—until permanent vegetation is established. Restore the backfill as required to match adjacent ground levels.
- If the pipeline is connected to a continuous flowing source (such as a spring), maintain flow through the pipe to avoid freezing.
- Remove any debris, minerals, algae, and other materials which may restrict system flow from ponds, cisterns, or wells.
- Maintain pipeline location markers to provide protection from future excavations.

**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).**