

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR  
SPRING DEVELOPMENT**

**CODE 574**

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

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

A properly operated and maintained spring development is an asset to your property. This structure was designed and installed to improve the quantity and/or quality of water for livestock, wildlife, or other agricultural uses. 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**

- Check for sediment buildup in the spring box at least annually. Remove sediment deposits when the level reaches the inlet elevation.
- On systems with a riser instead of a spring box, open the flush valve after installation and at least once a month during the watering season to remove stored sediment. The watering facility should not be filled until all sediments are removed from the system.
- Check for clogging of the outlet or overflow pipes at least annually. Remove any floating debris or other items that may clog these pipes.

- Check for erosion at the outlet of the overflow pipe from the spring box if one is installed. Provide erosion-resistant material such as rock or gravel if needed.
- Inspect and maintain any installed diversions used to prevent surface water from flowing over the collection area or around the spring box.
- Inspect for damage by rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage and take appropriate corrective actions to avoid further damage.
- Maintain installed fences to prevent unauthorized human access or uncontrolled livestock grazing.
- 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).**