

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR
OPEN CHANNEL**

CODE 582

Name _____

Ident. No. _____

Legal Desc. _____

County _____

A properly operated and maintained open channel is an asset to your farm. This structure was designed and installed to provide discharge capacity required for flood prevention, drainage, other authorized water management purposes, or any combination of these purposes.

The estimated life span of this installation is at least 15 years. The life of this installation can be assured 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

- Maintain the depth, width, side slopes, and gradient of the channel.
- Immediately remove any obstructions or blockage of spillways, trash racks, inlets, or outlets.
- Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilizing, and the controlled application of herbicides when necessary. Periodic mowing may also be needed to control height.

- Remove unplanned woody vegetation from the channel.
- Remove all foreign debris that hinders system operation.
- Install and maintain fences to control livestock access when adjacent fields are used for pasture.
- Replace weathered or displaced rock riprap to the constructed grade.
- 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).