

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR
TERRACE**

CODE 600

Name _____

Ident. No. _____

Legal Desc. _____

County _____

A properly operated and maintained terrace is an asset to your farm. It was designed and installed to reduce soil erosion and to retain runoff for moisture conservation.

The estimated life span of this installation is at least 10 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 terraces regularly, especially after heavy rains. Repair damaged areas promptly.
- Perform tillage operations as close to the contour of the terrace channel as is practical. Tillage operations which cross over the terrace ridge may reduce the height of the terrace, thereby decreasing its effectiveness at controlling erosion.
- Maintain the constructed ridge height, any constructed blocks, and the channel capacity of the terrace by periodically “plowing up” each terrace.
- Remove sediment that has accumulated in the terrace channel to maintain capacity and grade.

- Remove all blockages in gradient terraces that prevent or reduce flow.
- Keep all terrace outlets free-flowing. Where underground outlets are used, remove sediment build-up so that the inlet is in the lowest place in the channel. Immediately repair or replace inlets damaged or cut off by farm equipment.
- Restrict livestock use of a field with a terrace system when the ground is wet.
- Maintain vigorous growth of vegetative coverings when used, and control trees and brush using chemical or mechanical means.
- Inspect for damage by rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage and take appropriate corrective actions to avoid further damage.
- Immediately repair any damage due to vandalism, vehicles, or livestock that has been done to any earthfill, spillway, outlet, or other appurtenance.
- Keep machinery away from steep back slopes (where constructed). Use caution when operating machinery on or near other terrace slopes.
- Where there are steep slopes, make sure that the operator is aware of the location and potential danger of the slopes.

(more)

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).