

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR  
SURFACE DRAIN, FIELD DITCH**

**CODE 607**

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

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

A properly operated and maintained field ditch is an asset to your farm. This structure was designed and installed to collect or intercept excess surface water and carry it to an outlet or to collect or intercept excess subsurface water and carry it to an outlet. 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 activities for satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

**General Recommendations**

- Maintain cross section and gradient by controlling channel erosion and sloughing.
- Immediately remove silt deposits, obstructions, or blockage of the drainage system that includes channel spillways, trash racks, inlets, or outlets.
- Control the growth of vegetative materials by the use of herbicides and/or mowing. Avoid direct drainage water contact with herbicides.
- 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 for This Project**

- Inspect the field ditches as least annually to determine if activities from the general recommendations are needed.
- Inspect the field ditches as soon as practical following large runoff events (rainfall in excess of 3 inches) and determine if repairs or other actions are required.

**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).**