

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR
VEGETATED TREATMENT AREA**

CODE 635

Name _____

Ident. No. _____

Legal Desc. _____

County _____

A properly operated and maintained vegetated treatment area (VTA) is an asset to your farm. This structure was designed and installed to improve water quality by reducing the loading of nutrients, organics, pathogens, and other contaminants associated with livestock, poultry, and other agricultural operations.

The estimated life span of this installation is at least 10 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

- Harvest treatment area vegetation as appropriate to encourage dense growth, maintain an upright growth habit, and remove nutrients and other contaminants that are contained in the plant tissue.
- Control undesired weed species, especially state-listed noxious weeds.
- Control burrowing animals and other pests that could inhibit the VTA's proper function.
- Inspect the VTA regularly--especially following rainfall events--and make repairs as needed to fill gullies, remove flow-disrupting sediment accumulation, and re-seed disturbed areas and take other measures to prevent concentrated flow.

- Apply supplemental nutrients and soil amendments as needed to maintain the desired species composition and stand density of herbaceous vegetation.
- Maintain or restore the treatment area as necessary by periodically grading when deposition jeopardizes its function and then reestablishing herbaceous vegetation.
- Routinely de-thatch and/or aerate treatment areas used for treating runoff from livestock-holding areas in order to promote infiltration.
- Conduct maintenance activities only when the treatment area is dry and moisture content in the surface soil layer will not allow compaction.
- Remove all foreign debris that hinders the system's operation.
- Maintain the detention capacity of the settling basin by removing the solids as needed. Check the capacity and integrity of the various pipes and the intake structure.
- Inspect the flow distribution system and clean and repair as needed.
- Prevent grazing in the treatment area.

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).