

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR
WATER AND SEDIMENT CONTROL BASIN**

CODE 638

Name _____

Ident. No. _____

Legal Desc. _____

County _____

A properly operated and maintained water and sediment control basin is an asset to your farm. This structure was established to improve the farmability of sloping land, reduce watercourse and gully erosion, trap sediment, reduce and manage on-site and downstream runoff, or improve downstream water quality.

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

- Periodically remove sediment as necessary to maintain the effectiveness of this installation. The cleanout intervals may vary depending upon the volume of sediment that has accumulated. As a general rule, the basin will lose its effectiveness when about 50 percent of the design volume is filled with sediment.
- Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetative coverings. Reseed, fertilize, and apply herbicides when necessary. Mow as needed to control height.
- If fences are installed, maintain them to prevent unauthorized human access or uncontrolled livestock grazing.

- Remove any debris that may accumulate in or immediately upstream of the basin.
- Immediately repair any damage due to vandalism, vehicles, or livestock that has been done to earthfills, spillways, or outlets.
- Inspect to ensure that all structure drains are functional and that soil is not being transported through the drainage system. Keep all screens and/or rodent guards in place.
- Inspect for damage from rodents or burrowing animals. Repair any damage. Take appropriate corrective actions to avoid further damage.
- Determine and eliminate causes of settlement or cracks in the earthen sections and repair the damage.
- Replace weathered or displaced erosion protection material to restore to the grade at which it was constructed.

Specific Recommendations for This Project

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).