

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
NEBRASKA

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN
WATER & SEDIMENT CONTROL BASIN**

Landowner/Operator: _____ Cost Share Program: _____

Job Location: _____ GPS Coordinates: _____

County: _____ NRD: _____ Farm/Tract No: _____

Prepared By: _____ Date: _____

The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program. Basins designed by the NRCS are based on the best available technology, but their actual lifespan still depends on proper maintenance. Well-maintained basins should last a minimum of ten years.

This practice must be operated in compliance with all laws, regulations, ordinances and easements; and in such a manner that will result in the least adverse impact on the environment and will permit the practice to serve the purpose for which it was installed. Maintenance includes work to prevent deterioration of the practice, such as repairing damage or replacing components that fail. Operation and maintenance (O&M) is required for all practices installed with NRCS technical assistance.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

The following tasks are required for all basins:

- Inspect at least twice a year; once in the spring and once in the fall after harvest.
- Inspect the basin embankment, inlet, drain pipe and outlet after every significant rainfall event, particularly the first rain after construction.
- Remove debris and trash accumulated around the inlet as soon as possible. Clear debris from the orifice plate in the riser as needed.
- Avoid damage to riser inlets. Mark risers so they are visible to prevent damage by equipment. Promptly repair or replace damaged risers.
- Remove accumulated sediment in the channel periodically to maintain capacity and grade and to ensure that the inlet remains the lowest point. Removed sediment can be used to maintain the ridge height on basins with farmable slopes.
- Repair any erosion in the basin channel and on the embankment as soon as possible.
- Repair all damage due to center pivots and washouts as soon as possible.
- Regularly inspect basins in fields where livestock have been allowed to graze and repair any damage immediately.
- Check frequently for burrowing animals. When found, remove the burrowing animals, replace embankment material and reestablish vegetation.
- Repair any settlement or piping along the drain pipe route.

- Inspect established vegetation annually and fertilize or reseed as necessary. When applying cropland herbicides, consider the effects on the basin vegetation and use caution to prevent damage.
- Remove trash from the outlet and maintain animal guard.
- Control weeds by mowing or with appropriate herbicides that will not damage established grass. Time the first mowing of the season for after nesting birds have hatched.
- Control tree and shrub growth by hand cutting, mowing or chemical control.
- Maintain proper width, depth and shape of auxiliary spillways, if present. Fill and reseed any eroded areas that occur as soon as possible.