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Date:

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN **VEGETATED TREATMENT AREA**

Vegetated Treatment Areas are a component of an agricultural waste management system. The estimated life span of the installation is at least 10 years. The life of this conservation practice can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good inspection and maintenance program including the following requirements:

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Operation

- The grass area acts as an absorption area and natural filter for runoff or wastewater that has a minimum amount of solids. Remove as many solids as possible by frequent scraping of barnyard areas and/or frequent cleaning of settling basins and tanks.
- Do not apply wastewater at greater than the designed hydraulic loading rate.

Inspection and Maintenance

- Inspect treatment area frequently for proper functioning.
- Mow and harvest treatment area vegetation at least annually to maintain a dense growth of desirable species and to remove nutrients contained in plant tissue.
- Routinely de-thatch and/or aerate treatment areas to promote infiltration.
- Divert surface water away from the treatment area. Check the channels and berms of the clean water diversions frequently. Channels should be protected from erosion and berms maintained at proper height so that diversions maintain their design capacity.
- Maintain fencing installed around the treatment area to exclude livestock.
- Check settling basin or tank frequently. Empty the contents as necessary and spread in accordance with the overall management plan.
- The distribution system should be checked frequently to determine if it has become clogged with solids. Clean out and repair as needed.
- Inspect and check the grade of the distribution system. If the distribution system is not level then it should be adjusted, repaired or replaced as necessary.

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- Inspect the treatment area frequently and after major storm events to check for rills or small channels. Repairs must be made immediately to reestablish sheet flow.
- Conduct maintenance activities when treatment area is dry to prevent rutting and compaction.
- The downstream limit of the treatment area shall be monitored frequently to see if polluted effluent is leaving the area. If polluted effluent is observed, make a thorough inspection of the treatment area to insure all components are working as designed. Make repairs as necessary. Contact your local NRCS office if polluted effluent continues to discharge from the treatment area.