

**U.S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
SOUTH CAROLINA**

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE WORKSHEET
IRRIGATION SYSTEM - SPRINKLER
CODE 442**

Landowner/Operator _____

Job Location _____

County _____ SCD _____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Referral No. _____ Prepared By _____ Date _____

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

A properly operated and maintained sprinkler irrigation system is an asset to the farm. This irrigation system was designed and installed to apply irrigation water to meet the water requirements of the crops. The estimated life span of this installation is approximately 15 years. The life of this system can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

Failure to Operate and Maintain this system could result in actions to reclaim cost share and/or loss of any future financial or technical assistance.

This practice will require performance of periodic maintenance and also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance. A good operation and maintenance program includes:

- ⇒ Only operate the system when needed to furnish water for plant growth, salt management or to store moisture within the rooting depth of the plant. Monitor crops regularly noting areas of moisture stress and repair or adjust system operation as needed.
- ⇒ Operate the system at the pressure, discharge rate, speed, duration and frequency as designed. Periodically examine each sprinkler and spray head, etc., for proper operation. Clean plugged nozzles, and replace if defective and worn. Use shank end of steel drill bits to check diameters.
- ⇒ Promptly repair all leaks in delivery facilities, by replacing valves, fittings, gaskets, worn or damaged parts.
- ⇒ During non-seasonal use, place appurtenances in an area where they will not be damaged but are secure, if necessary.
- ⇒ Maintain all screens, filters, valves, timers and other electrical and mechanical equipment in good operating condition following manufacturers' recommendations. Drain and protect from freezing, as necessary.
- ⇒ Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents and/or burrowing animals that have or can potentially damage any part of the delivery, or application facilities. Immediately repair any damage caused by their activity.

