

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

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE WORKSHEET
SURFACE IRRIGATION SYSTEM
CODE 443**

Landowner/Operator_____

Job Location_____

County_____ SCD_____ Farm/Tract No._____

Referral No._____ Prepared By_____ Date_____

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

A properly operated and maintained surface irrigation system is an asset to the farm. The components of this system were designed and installed to safely and efficiently convey and apply irrigation water. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 15 years. The life of this installation 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 may also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance. A good operation and maintenance program includes:

- ⇒ Maintain system components such as ditches, pipes, structures, etc.
- ⇒ Immediately remove any debris, foreign material, obstructions or blockage of ditch/pipe inlets, or outlets and from structures.
- ⇒ Maintain vigorous growth of vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and application of herbicides when necessary. Periodic mowing may also be needed to control excessive growth.
- ⇒ Install and maintain fences to prevent livestock access where excessive trampling of banks occurs.
- ⇒ Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage caused by their activity.
- ⇒ Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular, or livestock damage.
- ⇒ Refer to individual practice O&M guidance sheet(s) for general O&M pertaining to specific system components.

