

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN
IRRIGATION CANAL OR LATERAL
CODE 320**

Landowner/Operator _____

Job Location _____ GPS _____

Prepared By _____ Date _____

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

Operation and maintenance (O&M) is necessary for all conservation practices and is required for all practices installed with the Natural Resources Conservation Service assistance. The land user is responsible for proper O&M throughout the life of the practice and as may be required by federal, state, or local laws or regulations.

Operation refers to operation of the practice 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, repairing damage, or replacing components which fail.

Necessary operation and maintenance items for this practice include:

- Maintain cross-section and gradient by controlling channel erosion and bank sloughing.
- Remove any debris, or blockage of spillways, trash racks, inlets, or outlets.
- Maintain vigorous growth of vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilizing, and application of herbicides when necessary. Periodic mowing may also be needed to control excessive growth.
- Install and maintain fences to prevent livestock access when adjacent fields are used for pasture.
- Inspect rock riprap for accelerated weathering and displacement. Repair to original grades if necessary.
- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals. Repair any damage.
- Repair any vandalism, vehicular, or livestock damage.

Other _____

