

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN  
GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE  
CODE 410**

Landowner/Operator \_\_\_\_\_

Practice Location \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Farm/Tract No. \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared By \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Inspections and maintenance are required to achieve the intended function, environmental benefits, and life of the practice. The landowner/operator is responsible to establish and implement an inspection and maintenance program. Items to inspect and maintain during the 15-year design life of the practice include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Inspect after storm events and at least annually to identify repair and maintenance needs. Remove and dispose of accumulated debris at or in the vicinity of the structure.
2. Replace or repair broken structure components when needed.
3. Protect the structure from damage by farm equipment, trespassers and livestock. Control access to the structure as necessary. Avoid operation of farm equipment too close to the structure.
4. Maintain the proper embankment height to reduce the chances of overtopping.
5. Repair any settlement or erosion that occurs in the earthen sections along the structure, around pipes, in spillways and re-vegetate. If this problem persists, evaluate all structure components for piping, seepage, damages, etc and take the appropriate corrective action.
6. Repair any scouring that occurs directly upstream or downstream of the structure. One option is to use non-woven geotextile covered by rock riprap. Seek NRCS technical assistance as necessary.
7. Evaluate the function of all structure drains. If not functioning properly or if soil is being transported through the drain system, immediately investigate and repair.
8. Check frequently for burrowing animals. When found, remove the burrowing animals, replace embankment materials, repair damages and re-establish vegetation. Maintain rodent guards in good condition on drain pipes.
9. Maintain good vegetation on the berms and upstream waterways by regular mowing. Time the first mowing after nesting birds have hatched (about August 15). Remove excess growth. Do not burn or overgraze.
10. Control tree and bush growth by hand cutting, mowing, or herbicide treatment. Follow all laws and regulations. Avoid damaging desired vegetation with herbicide sprays.
11. Fertilize and lime grassed areas to maintain a vigorous vegetative cover. Follow University of Tennessee or soil test recommendations for the existing vegetation.
12. Operate mowing and other equipment on slopes in accordance with machinery operation manual.

Signatures

Landowner/Operator: \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_