

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
Grassed Waterway (412)
Tennessee

Landowner/Operator: _____

Practice Location: _____

County: _____ Farm/Tract Number: _____

Prepared By: _____ Date: _____

Inspections and maintenance are required to achieve the intended function, 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 10-year design life of the practice include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Establish a maintenance program to maintain waterway capacity, vegetative cover, and outlet stability. Vegetation damaged by machinery, herbicides, or erosion must be repaired promptly.
2. Protect the waterway from concentrated flow by using diversion of runoff or mechanical means of stabilization such as silt fences, mulching, hay bale barriers and etc. to stabilize grade during vegetation establishment. Using practices such as no-till and cover crops on adjacent lands can help reduce runoff.
3. Minimize damage to vegetation by excluding livestock whenever possible, especially during wet periods. Permit grazing in the waterway only when a controlled grazing system is being implemented.
4. Inspect grassed waterways regularly, especially following heavy rains. Fill, compact, and reseed damaged areas immediately. Remove sediment deposits to maintain capacity of grassed waterway. Remove all foreign debris in the waterway and structures that affects the design flow and system operation.
5. Avoid use of herbicides that would be harmful to the vegetation or pollinating insects in and adjacent to the waterway area.
6. Avoid using waterways as turn-rows during tillage and cultivation operations.
7. Mow or periodically graze vegetation to maintain capacity and reduce sediment deposition. Mowing for management/maintenance should be done outside the primary nesting season (April 15th – August 15th) when there's a wildlife interest.
8. Apply supplemental nutrients as needed to maintain the desired species composition and stand density of the waterway.
9. Control noxious weeds.
10. Do not use waterways as a field road. Avoid crossing with heavy equipment when wet.
11. Lift tillage equipment off the waterway when crossing and turn off chemical application equipment.
12. Maintain all structures such as subsurface drains, rock riprap outlets, etc.
13. Maintain effective erosion control on the contributing watershed to prevent sedimentation and the resulting loss of capacity.

SIGNATURES

Landowner/Operator: _____ Date: _____

Reviewer: _____ Date: _____