

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
\_\_\_\_\_, TEXAS

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN**  
**DRAINAGE DITCH**

Sponsor/Land user: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal description of practice location: SEC \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_

A properly operated and maintained drainage ditch is an asset to your farm. This drainage ditch was designed and installed to remove and safely convey runoff water. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 10 years. The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic maintenance and may also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

**GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Maintain cross section and gradient by controlling channel erosion and sloughing.
- Immediately remove silt deposits, obstructions, or blockage of the drainage system that includes channel spillways, trash racks, inlets, or outlets.
- Control the growth of vegetative materials by the use of herbicides and/or mowing. Avoid direct drainage water contact with herbicides.
- Remove all foreign debris that hinders system operation.
- Install and maintain fences to control livestock access when adjacent fields are used for pasture.
- Replace weathered or displaced rock riprap to constructed grade.
- Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular, or livestock damage.

