

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

**VIRGINIA**

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**DIVERSION**

**CODE 362**

Land Owner/Operator \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ SWCD \_\_\_\_\_ Farm/Tract No. \_\_\_\_\_

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

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS**

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

This practice will require periodic maintenance and may also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance. Your operation and maintenance program requirements include:

- Provide periodic inspections, especially immediately following significant storms. Promptly repair or replace damaged components of the diversion as necessary. All settlement or cracks in the earthfill should be investigated to determine the cause and immediately repaired.
- Maintain diversion capacity, ridge height, and outlet elevations especially if high sediment yielding areas are in the drainage area above the diversion. Redistribute sediment as necessary to maintain the capacity of the diversion.
- Remove all foreign debris that hinders system operation. Each inlet for underground outlets must be kept clean and sediment buildup redistributed so that the inlet is at the lowest point. Inlets damaged by farm machinery must be replaced or repaired immediately.
- Maintain vigorous growth of vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilization and application of herbicides when necessary. Control pests that will interfere with the timely establishment of vegetation. Periodic mowing may also be needed to control height. Vegetation shall be maintained and trees and brush controlled by hand, chemical and/or mechanical means. Maintenance of vegetation will be scheduled outside of the primary nesting season for grassland birds.
- Keep machinery away from steep sloped ridges. Keep equipment operators informed of all potential hazards. Avoid excessive travel on any portion of the system that will harm or destroy the vegetative cover.
- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage caused by their activity.

