

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**  
**VIRGINIA**  
**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS**  
**IRRIGATION PIPELINE**  
**CODE 430**

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

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

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

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS**

A properly operated and maintained irrigation pipeline is an asset to the farm. This system was designed and installed to convey water in an irrigation system. Estimated life span of this installation is at least 20 years. The life of this system can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a systematic 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 includes:

- Maintain all pipelines, check, pressure-relief, air-release, gate, and other valves and thrust blocks at their post-construction condition. Make repairs immediately.
- Maintain the design depth of cover over the pipe system. Investigate all settlement or cracks in the soil to determine their cause and immediately repair. Excessive settlement or voids in the line present a hazard to livestock and should be backfilled and compacted immediately.
- Avoid travel by heavy equipment over pipelines when the soil is saturated except at designed crossings. Limit traffic to sections that were designed for traffic loads. Avoid any sub-soiling operation that may disturb or destroy the pipeline.
- Inspect and test valves, pressure regulators, pumps, switches and other appurtenances regularly to ensure proper operation. Open and close valves slowly to prevent excessive water hammer.
- Check operating pressures often; a pressure drop (or rise) may indicate problems. Repair or replace damaged gauges.
- Check and assure proper operation of backflow protection devices.
- Conduct routine maintenance of all mechanical components in accordance with manufacturer recommendations. Repair or replace components as necessary.
- Maintain erosion protection at outlets.

