

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
VIRGINIA
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS
IRRIGATION SYSTEM, SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE
CODE 443

Land Owner/Operator _____

County _____ SWCD _____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Prepared By _____ Date _____

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

A properly operated and maintained irrigation system can be an asset to the farm. The system was designed and installed to provide efficient distribution of water by surface or subsurface means. Estimated life span of this installation is at least 15 years. The life of the irrigation 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:

- Periodically clean and re-grade collection facilities to maintain proper flow lines and functionality.
- Periodically check and remove debris as necessary from trash racks and structures to assure proper operation.
- Maintain distribution patterns and spacing of lines at their design orientation unless NRCS personnel are involved in their modification. Also maintain application rates at the design rates.
- Maintain filters and other appurtenances as necessary.
- Flush lateral lines regularly.
- 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. Because excessive settlement or voids in the line present a hazard, and compact them immediately.
- Periodically remove and plan placement of sediment from traps and/or storage facilities to maintain design capacity and efficiency.
- 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 lines.
- Inspect or test all pipeline and pumping plant components and appurtenances, as applicable.

