

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

VIRGINIA

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

SUBSURFACE DRAIN

CODE 606

Land Owner/Operator _____

County _____ SWCD _____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Prepared By _____ Date _____

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

A properly operated and maintained subsurface drainage system is an asset to the farm. This drainage system was designed and installed to remove excess subsurface water with a system of buried conduits. 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:

- Semi-annually inspect the system to ensure proper function. Promptly repair of system components (e.g. structures for water control, underground outlets, vents, drain outlets, trash and rodent guards).
- Maintain the design depth of cover over the drainage system. Investigate all settlement or cracks in the soil to determine their cause and immediately repair.
- Avoid travel over drain lines by heavy equipment or tillage equipment when the soil is saturated. Limit traffic to sections that were designed for traffic loads.
- Avoid any sub-soiling operation that may disturb the drain, its filter, and/or envelope materials.
- Remove all foreign debris that hinders system operation. Immediately remove any obstructions or blockage of trash racks, drain inlets, or drain outlets.
- Maintain all outlets, rodent guards, inlets and man-hole accesses in good operating condition.
- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents and/or burrowing animals that have damaged or can potentially damage any part of the system. Immediately repair any damage caused by their activity.
- Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular or livestock damage to any outlets and appurtenances.
- Winterization protection from freezing conditions for drainage systems in cold climates.

Additional Operation and Maintenance Requirements Specific to this Plan: _____

