

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
WEST VIRGINIA
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS
GRASSED WATERWAY
CODE 412

Landowner/Operator _____

County _____ CD _____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Prepared By _____ Date _____

A properly operated and maintained grassed waterway is an asset to the farm. The practice was designed to stabilize an eroding area and safely convey runoff from the drainage area it serves. 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 systematic operation and maintenance program.

This practice requires periodic O&M to properly manage and keep the system in good repair. Items for consideration are:

- Establish a maintenance program to maintain waterway capacity, vegetative cover, and outlet stability. Vegetation damaged by machinery, herbicides, or erosion must be repaired promptly.
- Protect the waterway from concentrated flow by using diversion of runoff or mechanical means of stabilization such as silt fences, mulching, hay bale barriers and etc. to stabilize grade during vegetation establishment.
- Minimize damage to vegetation by excluding livestock whenever possible, especially during wet periods. Permit grazing in the waterway only when a controlled grazing system is being implemented.
 - Do not graze waterway during establishment of vegetation.
- Inspect grassed waterways regularly, especially following heavy rains. Fill, compact, and reseed damaged areas immediately. Remove sediment deposits to maintain capacity of grassed waterway.
- Avoid use of herbicides that would be harmful to the vegetation or pollinating insects in and adjacent to the waterway area.
- Avoid using waterways as turn-rows during tillage and cultivation operations.
- Mow or periodically graze vegetation to maintain capacity and reduce sediment deposition. Mowing may be appropriate to enhance wildlife values, but must be conducted to avoid peak nesting seasons and reduced winter cover.
- Apply supplemental nutrients as needed to maintain the desired species composition and stand density of the waterway.
- Control noxious weeds.
- Do not use waterways as a field road. Avoid crossing with heavy equipment when wet.
- Lift tillage equipment off the waterway when crossing and turn off chemical application equipment.

- Remove all foreign debris that may reduce capacity or hinder system operation.
- Check frequently for burrowing animals. When found, remove and replace embankment materials and re-establish vegetation.

Additional Operation and Maintenance requirements specific to this plan:

Inspection Date	Items to be Repaired and Corrective Action Taken	Repair Date
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Contact your local NRCS office for any additional technical assistance you might need for implementation of this O&M plan.

This O&M Plan was discussed and copy provided to the Landowner/Operator.

Signed _____ Date _____
Responsible NRCS Employee/ Conservation Planner

Signed _____ Date _____
Cooperator