

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
WEST VIRGINIA
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS
SUBSURFACE DRAIN
CODE 606

Landowner/Operator _____

County _____ CD _____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Prepared By _____ Date _____

A properly operated and maintained subsurface drainage system is an asset to the farm. This practice was designed, and installed, to remove excess subsurface water with a system of buried conduits. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 20 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:

- Necessary periodic inspection and prompt 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 them.
- Surface drainage shall be maintained.
- Outlets shall be maintained in their original condition.
- Cover shall be replaced over drain lines as needed.
- Damaged drain lines shall be repaired or replaced promptly as needed.
- 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.
- Remove woody vegetation from the vicinity of subsurface drains. Remove woody vegetation within 5 feet of a subsurface drain outlet. The outlet must be fire resistant if burning is used to remove vegetation. Herbicide applications to remove vegetation must be applied according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals and 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.
- Follow OSHA trench safety requirements during repairs of the subsurface drain.

