

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
WEST VIRGINIA
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS
WATER WELL
CODE 642

Landowner/Operator _____

County _____ CD _____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Prepared By _____ Date _____

A properly operated, and maintained, well is an asset to the farm. This practice was designed, and installed, to provide beneficial use of subsurface water. 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:

- Prepare a plan for operation and maintenance of the water well. The owner is responsible for keeping and maintaining well construction records with the maintenance plan. The owner must ensure periodic inspection of the well for proper functioning and water quality.
 - The well construction records, well driller's certification, warranties, geological investigation, guaranties and other pertinent information.
 - Inspect annually and/or after a storm, flood or other natural disaster to ensure proper operation.
- Ensure no agricultural chemicals, such as fertilizers and pesticides, are stored or mixed or containers rinsed within a 100 ft. radius of the wellhead.
- Maintain the well cover securely in place. Protect the area from being damaged by agriculture machinery, vehicles, or livestock. Locks on well cover and fencing around the well head are strongly recommended.
- The area around the well shall be inspected and repaired as necessary to ensure that surface water is excluded.
- All fences, railings, and/or warning signs shall be maintained to provide warning and/or prevent unauthorized human or livestock entry.
- Do not allow any foreign debris to accumulate in the immediate vicinity of the well head.
- Maintain soil and vegetative covering around the well. Keep all surface water from entering or accumulating at the immediate vicinity of the well site.
- Check metal surfaces for rust and other damage, especially sections in contact with earth and with other materials. Repair, or replace, any damaged sections and apply paint as a protective covering.
- Check frequently for burrowing animals. When found, remove, and replace embankment materials and re-establish vegetation.
- Avoid spreading wastes, handling pesticides or other toxins in the vicinity of the well.
- The inspection must include conditions that affect well performance as designed for the water use. As a minimum, these conditions include:

- Declines in discharge, static level, maximum pumping level, and pressure (for artesian wells) that are outside acceptable limits for the well design;
 - Appearance of sediment that may damage the well, pump, or appurtenances;
 - Changes in water quality including odor, color, taste, and chemistry;
 - Presence of algae or iron bacteria.
- For screen wells that have blank casing installed at the bottom, periodically bail or flush the well to remove excessive, accumulated sediment.
 - In the maintenance record, include statements describing identified problems, corrective action taken and date, and specific capacity (yield per unit drawdown) of well before and after corrective action. The owner must remedy unacceptable conditions in a timely manner.
 - In the event the well becomes unserviceable, it may be decommissioned according to *NRCS CPS Well Decommissioning (Code 351)*.

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