

**United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Montana**

Operation and Maintenance Guide For Your Pond

Landowner/Operator _____

Job Location _____ GPS _____

Prepared by _____ Date _____

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

A properly operated and maintained Pond is an asset to your farm. This structure was designed and installed to provide storage of runoff water for beneficial use. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 20 years. The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out an effective operation and maintenance program. This practice will require you to perform periodic maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance.

Here are some recommendations for effective operation and maintenance (check that apply):

- Inspect the pond after the first significant rainfall and again after each rain until the pond is filled to the inlet elevation.
- Avoid using vegetated spillways as a travel lane for vehicles and/or farm machinery.
- Excessive erosion, settlement and/or cracks in earthen sections must be investigated (to determine the cause) and repaired.
- Periodically inspect spillways and control gates, valves and weirs for proper functioning and their ability to maintain the water level to design elevations. Remove debris or flow blockages.
- Inspect metal surfaces for rust and other damage. Especially inspect sections in contact with earthfill and/or other materials. Repair or replace damaged sections and apply a protective covering.
- Inspect concrete for accelerated weathering, spalling, settlement, misalignment or cracks. Repair defects.
- Inspect rock riprap for accelerated weathering and displacement. Repair to original grades if necessary.
- Check for unusual seepage on the backside of the dam. Check for water flowing underneath the pipe at the outlet, water flowing in the inlet but not out the outlet, and for water flowing out the outlet but not in the inlet. Make sure all structure drains are functional and soil is not being transported through the drainage system. Screens and/or rodent guards must be maintained and in place.

- Eradicate all rodent or borrowing animals and repair any damage caused by them or any other vandalism, vehicle, or livestock damage.
- Remove all woody vegetation from the embankment and adjacent areas.
- Maintain vigorous growth of vegetative grass coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and application of herbicides when necessary. Periodic mowing or short-term grazing may also be needed.
- If fences are installed, they must be maintained to prevent unauthorized entry.

Other:
