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**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

**Natural Resources  
Conservation  
Service**

**Engineering  
Field  
Handbook**

**Montana  
Supplement**

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## **Chapter 52**

## **Operation and Maintenance**

Chapter 52, Operation and Maintenance, provides maintenance guides which can be used as a basis for developing maintenance plans for a specific job.

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# Chapter 52

# Operation and Maintenance

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## **650.5200 Introduction**

### **(a) Purpose and scope**

An operation and maintenance plan is required for all engineering jobs. The following operation and maintenance guides may be used in the preparation of operation and maintenance plans for practices with normal operation and maintenance requirements. They must be supplemented with additional information where the guides do not cover all requirements.

### **(b) Background**

A conservation improvement can soon fall into disrepair if it is not properly maintained. Improper operation usually results in inefficient operation and may lead to damage of the improvement. It is as important for us to provide information on procedures for operation and maintenance as it is to provide good plans and construction supervision.

## **650.52001 Operation and Maintenance Plans**

Information should be provided in the form of an operation and maintenance plan (O&M plan). O&M plans will be required by Natural Resources Conservation Service practice standards (Section IV of the FOTG).

Operation and Maintenance plans can take many forms. Our main objective is to

provide the operator with clear, concise information that he or she needs to properly operate and maintain the improvement. O&M plans can be made up from scratch for each job or standard guides can be used as a basis for the plans. There are some jobs that are so complex, or for which O&M is so critical, that a detailed plan made from scratch should be prepared.

## **650.52002 Using Operation and Maintenance Guides**

O&M plans for most recurring conservation practices will contain about the same information from job to job. For this reason standardized guides containing room for a few special items may often be used. Developing plans from standardized guides saves time and reduces the chance of leaving important information out.

The following selected Operation and Maintenance Guides have been prepared for your use when they fit the needs of the job.

**650.52103 Operation and Maintenance  
Guides**