

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
IRRIGATION SYSTEM - SPRINKLER
CODE 442**

Landowner/Operator _____

Job Location _____

County _____ SWCD _____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Prepared By _____ Date _____

A properly operated and maintained sprinkler irrigation system is an asset to the farm. This irrigation system was designed and installed to apply irrigation water to meet the water requirements of the crops. The 10-year design life of this system can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require performance of periodic maintenance and also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance. A good operation and maintenance program includes:

- ⇒ Only operate the system when needed to furnish water for plant growth, for salt management, or to store moisture within the rooting depth of the plant. Monitor crops regularly, noting areas of moisture stress, and repair or adjust system operation as needed.
- ⇒ Operate the system at the pressure, discharge rate, speed, duration and frequency as designed. Periodically examine each sprinkler and spray head, etc., for proper operation. Clean plugged nozzles, and replace if defective and worn. Use shank end of steel drill bits to check diameters.
- ⇒ Promptly repair all leaks in delivery facilities by replacing valves, fittings, gaskets, and worn or damaged parts.
- ⇒ During non-seasonal use, place appurtenances in an area where they will not be damaged but are secure, if necessary.
- ⇒ Maintain all screens, filters, valves, timers and other electrical and mechanical equipment in good operating condition, following manufacturer's recommendations. Drain and protect from freezing, as necessary.
- ⇒ Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents and/or burrowing animals that have or can potentially damage any part of the delivery, or application facilities. Immediately repair any damage caused by their activity.
- ⇒ Immediately repair any vandalism, and vehicular or livestock damage. Do not allow livestock near equipment during operation.

Special Considerations: _____

(Adapted from Michigan NRCS)