

Water Control Structure Maintenance and Management Agreement

Addendum to NC-ACSP-2

This is an agreement between _____ and the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District for the purpose of managing the water level in a drainage system with a water control structure(s). Contract number: _____. Structure location: see attached map.

The objective for installing and managing water control structure(s) is to reduce the amount of agricultural pollutants leaving the farm through the drainage system. Controlled drainage may also improve crop yields and reduce short-circuiting through riparian buffers. In order to protect water quality and to ensure that the structures are being maintained and performing the function for which they were originally designed, the requirements listed below must be met.

1. Under cropped conditions, maintain the water level within 30 inches of the ground surface along at least 50% of the ditch reach immediately upstream of the structure all year in order to reduce nitrate losses and maximize water quality benefits. Short-term adjustments shall be permitted to accommodate field access (trafficability) and unusually high rainfall.

The chart below gives recommended depths from ground surface to water level for typical crops. Other crops may require a different schedule.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Corn	12-18"		24-36"		18-24"			24-36"		12-18"		
Wheat	12-24"		24-36"		18-24"			24-36"				
Soybeans							24-36"	18-24"			24-36"	

2. When used to minimize short circuiting of a drainage system through a riparian buffer, the objective is to raise the water table as high as physically possible and make the riparian buffer as wet as possible in order to reduce drainage through the buffer and encourage denitrification within the buffer. Under this objective, the control level should be as near the surface as possible without elevating the water level in the upslope cropped fields above the values given in the above table.

3. An operation and maintenance plan shall be developed and included with this contract that defines the intended purpose(s) of this practice and describes the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose(s). At a minimum, the operation and maintenance plan shall include:

- a. Maximum, minimum, and normal water control elevations.
- b. Guidelines on structure inspection.
- c. Guidelines for clean out of the ditch as it fills with sediment.
- d. Use of vegetated borders to reduce the input of sediment.

- e. Guidelines covering removal of boards so as to not develop excessive head losses near drain tiles or ditch banks in unstable soils that would result in bank sloughing.

I agree to manage the water level in my drainage system as stated above, and as outlined in the attached operation and maintenance plan, and in accordance with recommendations and specifications outlined in NRCS Conservation Practice Standard #554. With the exception of maintenance and repairs, there will always be ____ inches of boards in the flashboard riser above the sediment level in the bottom of the ditch or ____ inches of boards in the in-line structure above the top of the subsurface drain pipe. The zone of influence for my water control structure extends _____ feet upstream of the structure

Applicant Name _____

Date _____

Applicant Signature

Date _____

Landowner Name _____

Date _____

Landowner Signature

Date _____

Chairperson Name _____

Date _____

Chairperson Signature

Date _____