

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

**ILLINOIS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

**SATURATED BUFFER**

**Follow the operation and maintenance plan below to keep your saturated buffer functioning as intended:**

- For saturated buffers that are designed to be kept at the same setting year round, the settings are:

Upstream (DWM) structure (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ inches below the top of the structure

Downstream (buffer) structure: \_\_\_\_\_ inches below the top of the structure

- For saturated buffers that are designed for seasonal operation, manage water control levels according to the following plan. Use the recordkeeping table on the last page of this O&M plan to keep track of the operation.

Mode	Begin Date	Stoplog settings	
		Upstream (DWM) structure	Downstream (buffer) structure
Fallow	_____ <i>(After fall harvest activities)</i>	____ inches below the top of the structure	____ inches below the top of the structure
Open	_____ <i>(or 2 weeks before spring planting)</i>	Fully open	Fully open
Crop	_____ <i>(or 2 weeks after the end of spring planting activities)</i>	____ inches below the top of the structure*	____ inches below the top of the structure*
Open	_____ <i>(Two weeks before fall harvest)</i>	Fully open	Fully open

*\* During extremely wet periods in the growing season, lower the stoplogs to the Open mode to prevent the water table from rising into the crop root zone.*

- When water is released from a water control structure, high velocity flow has the potential of damaging the tile line. To prevent damage, lower the water level in the structure gradually.
- Inspect after significant storm events and at least twice a year to identify repair and maintenance needs.
- Check the valves for proper functioning. Lock structures when not in use to prevent tampering and/or vandalism. Promptly repair or replace damaged or inoperable components.
- Remove debris that may accumulate on, around or immediately upstream or downstream from the installed structure.

- Remove debris from any surface inlets to the drainage system, to prevent excessive clogging of the saturated buffer flow path.
- Repair any settlement or erosion that occurs along buried pipes. If this problem persists, evaluate the pipe for leakage and erosion of the fill material into or along the pipe.
- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage caused by their activity.
- Protect the water control structure and distribution lines from damage by farm equipment and livestock.

Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and mowing, as needed. When applying fertilizer to vegetative cover, use caution to prevent degradation to water quality.

Additional Details:

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