

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

Operation and Maintenance Guide

For Your

Gravity Irrigation Pipeline

Operator: _____
 Project: _____
 Location: _____ Sec. _____, T. _____, R. _____
 NRCS Office _____ Phone _____

A properly operated and maintained irrigation pipeline system is an asset to your operation. This system was designed and installed as a permanent solution to irrigation delivery system deficiencies. The estimated life span of the installation is at least 20 years and can be assured and usually increased by carrying out the following recommendations. This checklist is provided for your convenience in order to help you develop a good operation and maintenance plan.

OPERATION CHECKLIST

Perform these items before opening the pipeline headgate or valve at inlet.

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- r Check that all pre-season maintenance is complete.
- r Inspect all drains to be sure that all drain valves are closed.
- r Inspect all mainline, lateral, and turnout valves. The first and last risers on each line, as well as any riser that is at a high point in the line, should be cracked open to allow air to be released from the system.
- r Open all manual air release valves.
- r Inspect all air-vac valves to see that the airway is open (stem pushed down) and the float ball and seat are in place and undamaged.
- r Visually inspect all pressure relief valves to be sure they are free to operate and have not been adjusted to a higher or lower pressure setting.
- r If there is a pressure reducer valve in your system, special operating procedures are necessary. See the attached special operation and maintenance guide.

