

# Yearly Pond Inspection

Date \_\_\_\_\_ (best to do same month of each year during growing season)

Pond Name \_\_\_\_\_ Inspected by \_\_\_\_\_

Note any problems or changes. Use flagging to mark potential problems. Take photos. Confer with NRCS or other knowledgeable professionals as needed.

## The Dam

### Crown (top)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Flat rather than higher in middle to shed water
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ruts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Grass cover thin and open to erosion
- \_\_\_\_\_ Animal burrows – mounds, tunnels, collapsed areas

### Shoulders

- \_\_\_\_\_ Slumping or eroding

### Slopes

- \_\_\_\_\_ Wave erosion on inside face
- \_\_\_\_\_ Animal burrows or vegetation signs (pathways for beaver and muskrats)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Trees or woody plants
- \_\_\_\_\_ Grass cover thin and open to erosion
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cattle trails or other bare soil
- \_\_\_\_\_ Animal burrows – mounds, tunnels, “slides” in grass due to beaver or muskrats
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cracking or slumping – Flag it and take photo. Beware of the possible danger if a section of the dam face breaks loose and slides
- \_\_\_\_\_ Damp or wet spots – Flag it. A new wet spot should not be ignored – seek advice

### Primary spillway (overflow pipe or tower)

- \_\_\_\_\_ No trash rack to prevent floating debris from clogging intake and risk of floating debris is present
- \_\_\_\_\_ Signs of damage to the pipe or tower – corrosion, collapse etc.

### Auxiliary spillway (Emergency overflow)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Grass cover thin and open to erosion
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rutting – by vehicles or cattle trail
- \_\_\_\_\_ Erosion – check entire spillway, especially the outside toe
- \_\_\_\_\_ Blockages or other changes

## The Watershed

- \_\_\_\_\_ Grass cover thin and/or bare areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dirt roads and any eroding areas that will create muddiness in ponds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Oil field activity. Describe: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Excess fertilizer use - More than needed as determined by a soil test
- \_\_\_\_\_ Improper storage or overapplication of animal manure – corrals, storage piles, and application to land in excess of soil test recommendations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Trash Dumps – may release toxic substances
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ponds higher in the watershed may be a source of undesirable fish species