

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM07- Extending existing field borders for water quality protection and wildlife habitat



Enhancement Description

Where existing field borders are utilized, extend them to gain more efficiency in intercepting overland flow and reducing the transport of nutrients, pesticides and agro-chemicals, and for wildlife habitat.

Land Use Applicability

Cropland, Pastureland

Benefits

Widening existing field borders can provide food and cover for native and game species as well as enhancing wildlife habitat. Extended field borders offer more surface area to filter out sediments and agro-chemicals. Field borders can also offer buffers to mitigate pesticide drift during pesticide applications and pollen drift where the mixing of plant varieties is not desired.

Wildlife species utilize transition zones between agricultural fields because they provide a unique combination of cover and often provide important travel corridors. Often times field borders are adjacent to riparian areas and are important for contributing clean water, and habitat areas nearby. Extending existing field borders not only enhances wildlife habitat but it increases the effectiveness of water quality protection if the border is next to a stream.

Conditions Where Enhancement Applies

This enhancement only applies to acres of existing field borders on crop or pasture land uses.

Criteria

1. Extend the existing field border for a total of 60 feet or more to enhance habitat and water quality functions.
2. The extended field borders must be composed of at least 5 species of non-noxious, wildlife friendly grasses, perennial forbs and /or shrubs best suited to site conditions. Include species that provide pollinator food and habitat where possible.
3. All site preparation and plant establishment shall be accomplished according to the appropriate NRCS conservation practice standard criteria and specifications.
4. Any use of the field border must not compromise its intended purpose. Vegetation from field borders can be harvested for bio-energy as long as the harvesting is done in accordance with a plan that does not compromise the water quality and wildlife benefits of the extended filter strip.



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5. To the extent possible the field border areas and extended field border areas will be vegetated to increase overland flow interception and increase water quality values if they also border a stream or water body.
6. The extension of field borders can incorporate other buffer types (filter strips, riparian herbaceous and riparian forest) where applicable to meet specific operator management goals.

Adoption Requirements

This enhancement is considered adopted when the field border has a total width of 60 feet or more for the selected land use.

Documentation Requirements

1. A map showing the location and size of enhanced field borders.
2. Documentation of the type and rates of vegetation planted in the new field borders.

North Dakota Requirements

This enhancement requires a minimum existing average buffer width of 33 ft. The maximum field border width is 150 ft. Only species noted in the "A" list may be used in the planting. Enhancement does not allow for any maintenance/management between April 15 and August 1. The buffer must meet NRCS Field Office Technical Guide standards and specifications for 386-Field Border. A wildlife management plan is also required.

ND Pasture and Hayland Species A and B Lists for CSP

List A - Pasture/Hayland species that promote wildlife conservation	
Plant Common Name	Functional Group
Basin Wildrye	Cool season grass
Beardless Wildrye	Cool season grass
Canada Wildrye	Cool season grass
Green needlegrass	Cool season grass
Slender/Awned/Bearded wheatgrass	Cool season grass
Western Wheatgrass	Cool season grass
American vetch	Legume
Canada milkvetch	Legume
Purple prairieclover	Legume
White prairieclover	Legume
Big Bluestem	Warm season grass
Blue Grama	Warm season grass
Indiangrass	Warm season grass
Little Bluestem	Warm season grass
Prairie Cordgrass	Warm season grass
Prairie sandreed	Warm season grass
Sand Bluestem	Warm season grass
Sideoats Grama	Warm season grass
Switchgrass	Warm season grass
Altai wildrye	Cool season grass
Bluebunch/quackgrass hybrid	Cool season grass
Dahurian wildrye	Cool season grass
Intermediate wheatgrass	Cool season grass
Meadow brome grass	Cool season grass
Pubescent wheatgrass	Cool season grass
Russian wildrye	Cool season grass
Siberian wheatgrass	Cool season grass
Tall wheatgrass	Cool season grass
Timothy	Cool season grass
Alfafa	Legume
Alsike clover	Legume
Hairy Vetch	Legume
Ladino clover	Legume
Red clover	Legume
Sanfoin	Legume
Strawberry clover	Legume
Sweetcover	Legume

List B - Other pasture/hayland species used in North Dakota	
Plant Common Name	Functional Group
Creeping foxtail	Cool season grass
Crested wheatgrass	Cool season grass
Hard fescue	Cool season grass
Reed canary grass	Cool season grass
Smooth brome grass	Cool season grass
Birdsfoot trefoil	Legume
Cicer milkvetch	Legume