



## CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

### E393A

# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

## Extend existing filter strip to reduce water quality impacts

### Conservation Practice 393: Filter Strip

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed); Crop (Perennial); Associated Ag Land**

**RESOURCE CONCERN: Water**

**ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 10 Years**

#### Enhancement Description

Extend existing filter strips for water quality protection. Extend the existing buffer for a total of 60 feet or more to enhance water quality functions. The extended buffers must be composed of at least 5 species of non-noxious, wildlife friendly grasses and/or perennial forbs best suited to site conditions. Include species that provide pollinator food and habitat where possible.

#### Criteria

- Extend existing filter strip for water quality protection.
- Extend the existing buffer for a total of 60 feet or more to enhance water quality functions.
- Overland flow entering the filter strip shall be uniform sheet flow. Concentrated flow shall be dispersed before it enters the filter strip.
- The maximum gradient along the leading edge of the filter strip shall not exceed one-half of the up-and-down hill slope percent, immediately upslope from the filter strip, up to a maximum of 5%.
- Filter strips shall not be used as a travel lane for equipment or livestock.

E393A - Extend existing filter strip to reduce water quality impacts	August 2019	Page   1
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## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- The filter strip will be designed to have a 10-year life span, following the procedure in the Agronomy Technical Note No. 2 (Using RUSLE2 for the Design and Predicted Effectiveness of Vegetative Filter Strips (VFS) for Sediment), based on the sediment delivery in RUSLE2 to the upper edge of the filter strip and ratio of the filter strip flow length to the length of the flow path from the contributing area.
- The filter strip shall be located immediately downslope from the source area of contaminants.
- The drainage area above the filter strip shall have a slope of 1% or greater.
- The extended buffers must be composed of at least 5 species of non-noxious, wildlife friendly grasses and/or perennial forbs best suited to site conditions. Include species that provide pollinator food and habitat where possible. State-listed noxious or invasive plants will not be established in the filter strip.
- The filter strip shall be established to permanent herbaceous vegetation. Species selected shall be:
  - able to withstand partial burial from sediment deposition and
  - tolerant of herbicides used on the area that contributes runoff to the filter strip.
- Species selected shall have stiff stems and a high stem density near the ground surface.
- Species selected for seeding or planting shall be suited to current site conditions and intended uses.
- Selected species will have the capacity to achieve adequate density and vigor within an appropriate period to stabilize the site sufficiently to permit suited uses with ordinary management activities.
- Species, rates of seeding or planting, minimum quality of planting stock, such as pure live seed or stem caliper, and method of establishment shall be specified before application. Only viable, high quality seed or planting stock will be used.
- Site preparation and seeding or planting shall be done at a time and in a manner that best ensures survival and growth of the selected species. What constitutes successful



## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

establishment, e.g. minimum percent ground/canopy cover, percent survival, stand density, etc. shall be specified before application.

- Planting dates shall be scheduled during periods when soil moisture is adequate for germination and/or establishment. Seeding shall be timed so that tillage for adjacent crop does not damage the seeded filter strip.
- The minimum seeding and stem density shall be equivalent to a high-quality grass hay seeding rate for the climate area or the density of vegetation selected in RUSLE2 to determine trapping efficiency, whichever is the higher seeding rate.



# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

## Documentation and Implementation Requirements

### Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, prepare the planned acres for vegetation establishment. Refer to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Filter Strip (Code 393). (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.) Total planned amount of filter strip extension = \_\_\_\_\_ feet

- Prior to implementation, select at least 5 species of non-noxious, wildlife friendly grasses and/or perennial forbs best suited to site conditions. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

Species	Seeding Rate (lb/ac pure live seed)	Note specific species characteristic(s)

- Prior to implementation, select planting technique and timing appropriate for the site and soil conditions. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

Planting Date	
Planting Technique	

- During implementation, install and maintain erosion control measures as needed for the site. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)
- During implementation, notify NRCS of any planned changes to verify changes meet NRCS enhancement criteria.
- During implementation, protect the planting from plant and animal pests and fire.
- After implementation, maintain and protect the planting from plant and animal pests and fire.
- After implementation, verify the total amount of filter strip implemented. Total implemented amount of filter strip extension = \_\_\_\_\_ feet



## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

**NRCS will:**

- Prior to implementation, verify the enhancement is planned for cropland.
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Filter Strip (Code 393) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, verify the enhancement is planned for acres that have been appropriately prepared for filter strip establishment. Total planned amount of filter strip extension = \_\_\_\_\_ feet
- Prior to implementation, verify no plants on the Federal or state noxious weeds list are included.
- As needed, prior to implementation, NRCS will provide technical assistance:
  - Planning site preparation meeting NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Filter Strip (Code 393).
  - Selecting the wildlife friendly grasses and/or perennial forbs best suited to site conditions.
  - Selecting planting techniques and timing appropriate for the site and soil conditions.
  - Planning the use of additional erosion control, as needed for the site.
  - Preparing specifications for applying this enhancement for each site using approved state implementation requirements, national technical notes, appropriate state technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.
- During implementation, evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.
- After implementation, verify the vegetation was established to specifications developed for the site.
- After implementation, verify the planting is protected from pests and fire.



# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- After implementation, verify all erosion control needed for the site is functioning and is maintained to specifications developed for the site.
- After implementation, verify the total amount of filter strip implemented. Total implemented amount of filter strip extension = \_\_\_\_\_ feet

### **NRCS Documentation Review:**

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contract Number \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Applied \_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Year Completed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

## SOUTH DAKOTA (SD) SUPPLEMENT TO CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

### E393A

#### **Additional Criteria for SD:**

In addition to the criteria specified in the national job sheet E393A the following additional criteria apply in SD:

- Acceptable Rhizomatous species include: Indiangrass, bluestem (big or sand), prairie sandreed, switchgrass, western wheatgrass, and prairie cordgrass. Inland saltgrass and bluejoint reedgrass may be used but availability is extremely limited.
- Acceptable Bunch species include: wildrye (Canada and Virginia), needleandthread, green needlegrass, little bluestem, and alkali sacation. Porcupine grass maybe used but availability is extremely limited.
- Native (to SD) forb/legumes, particularly those from the following list, are acceptable:

American Licorice  
 American Vetch  
 Annual Gaillardia  
 Blacksamson  
 Blackeyed Susan  
 Blanket Flower  
 Blue Vervain  
 Boneset  
 Milkweeds  
 Canada Trickclover  
 Canada Milkvetch  
 Compass Plant  
 Culver’s Root  
 Cup Plant  
 False Bonset

False Sunflower  
 Hyssops  
 Gayfeathers  
 Golden Alexander  
 Goldenrods  
 Grayhead Coneflower  
 Groundplum Milkvetch  
 Asters  
 Hoary Vervain  
 Illinois Bundleflower  
 Illinois Ticktrefoil/Tickclover  
 Indian Breadroot Scurfpea  
 Lewis Flax  
 Sunflowers  
 Penstemons

Prairie Ironweed  
 Prairie Spiderwort  
 Purple Prairie Clover  
 Rocky Mountain Bee Plant  
 Blazing Stars  
 Round-Headed Bush Clover  
 Scarlet Globemallow  
 Showy Partridgepea  
 Spotted Joe-Pye Weed  
 Tall Cinquefoil  
 Tall Meadow Rue  
 Western Yarrow  
 White Prairie Clover  
 Wild Bergamont  
 Yellow Coneflower