



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E393122Z

**CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM**

Extend filter strip to reduce excess pathogens and chemicals in surface water

Conservation Practice 393: Filter Strip

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

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Water Quality Degradation

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 10 Years

Enhancement Description

Extend existing filter strips for water quality protection (reduce excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, bio-solids or compost applications in surface waters). 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 strips for water quality protection (reduce excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, bio-solids or compost applications in surface waters).
- 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.



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- 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.
- 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.



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- Species, rates of seeding or planting, minimum quality of planting stock, such as PLS 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 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.

Documentation Requirements

- Filter Strip, 393, Implementation Requirements document must be completed per the Plans and Specifications for the planned purpose.