United States Department of Agriculture

Nebraska
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Conservation Practice Overview

Filter Strip (Code 393)

A filter strip is an area of vegetation established for removing sediment, organic material, and other pollutants from runoff and wastewater.

Practice Information

Filter strips are generally located at the lower edge(s) of a field and are designed to serve as a buffer between a field and environmentally sensitive areas such as streams, lakes, wetlands, and other areas susceptible to damage by sediment and waterborne pollutants.

In addition to serving as a buffer, with proper plant selection and management, filter strips can provide additional benefits such as:

- improved fish and wildlife habitat
- improved field access
- increased livestock forage

Operate and maintain filter strips by mowing, fertilizing, controlling weeds, and reseeding (as needed) to promote dense vegetative growth. After storm events, inspect filter strips and if needed, fill in gullies and remove accumulated sediment to keep filter strips functioning effectively.

Exclude livestock and vehicular traffic from filter strips during wet periods of the year to reduce compaction that will limit infiltration.

Common Associated Practices

Filter Strips (Code 393) are commonly applied with conservation practices such as Nutrient Management (Code 590), Integrated Pest Management (Code 595), Waste Recycling (Code 633), and Residue and Tillage Management (Codes 329 and 345).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.

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