



Conservation Practice Overview

Field Border (Code 386)

Field borders are strips of permanent vegetation (grasses, legumes, forbs, or shrubs) established on one or more sides of a field.

Practice Information

The field containing the border is usually, but not necessarily, cropland. The border is generally converted from cropland but may be created by removing large trees at the edge of woodland, leaving a transition zone of herbaceous and small woody plants.



Field borders are functional and aesthetically pleasing. They are multipurpose practices that will serve one or more of the following functions:

- reduce wind and water erosion
- protect soil and water quality
- assist in management of harmful insect populations
- provide wildlife food and cover
- provide tree or shrub products
- increase carbon storage in biomass and soils
- improve air quality

The above functions should be considered when selecting the plant species for this practice.

Common Associated Practices

Field Border (Code 386) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Conservation Crop Rotation (Code 328), any of the Residue and Tillage Management practices (Codes 329 and 345), Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (Code 647), and Upland or Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Codes 645, 644).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.