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**Operation & Maintenance Plan  
Field Border (Code 386)**

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Landowner/Operator:

Date:

NRCS Service Center:

Conservation District:

Practice Location:

Tract/Field ID:

(Lat/Long or UTM Coord, or Sec/TS/R)

**Expected Lifespan**

The minimum expected lifespan of this practice is at least 10 years.

A properly operated and maintained **Field Border Practice** is an asset to your farm operation and your agricultural land. Implementation of Field Border will help you to achieve and maintain desired resource conditions by supporting one or more of the following purposes:

- Reduce erosion from wind and water and reduce excessive sediment to surface waters (soil erosion).
- Reduce sedimentation offsite and protect water quality and nutrients in surface and ground waters (water quality degradation).
- Provide food and cover for wildlife and pollinators or other beneficial organisms (inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife).
- Reduce greenhouse gases and increase carbon storage (air quality impact).
- Reduce emissions of particulate matter (air quality impact).

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance. The following are some requirements of the operation and maintenance program.

**O and M requirements from CPS**

- Repair storm damage.
- Remove sediment from above, within, and along the leading edge of the field border when accumulated sediment either alters the function of the field border or threatens the degradation of the planted species.
- Shut off pesticide sprayers and raise tillage equipment to avoid damage to field borders.
- Shape and reseed border areas damaged by animals, chemicals, tillage, or equipment traffic.
- Do not use the field border as a hay yard or machinery parking lot for any extended period of time, especially if doing so will damage or impair the function of the field border.
- Maintain desired vegetative communities and plant vigor by liming, fertilizing, mowing, disking, or burning and controlling noxious and invasive weeds to sustain effectiveness of the border.
- Repair and reseed ephemeral gullies and rills that develop in the border.
- Minimally invasive vertical tillage (e.g., paraploughing) may be performed in rare cases where compaction and vehicle traffic have degraded the field border function. The purpose of the tillage is strictly to relieve soil compaction and increase infiltration rates so as to provide a better media for reestablishment of vegetation and field border function.
- When managing for wildlife, maintenance activities that result in disturbance of vegetation should not be conducted during the primary nesting, fawning and calving seasons. In addition, when managing for wildlife, pollinator, and beneficial habitat, conduct any pesticide spray operations in the production area in a manner that prevents exposure of the field border to the pesticides, taking into account toxicity of the materials used to nonpest organisms, and weather conditions. Activities should be timed to allow for regrowth before the growing season ends whenever possible. The optimal vegetative successional state shall be maintained to accommodate target wildlife species' requirements.

- Periodic removal of some products such as medicinal herbs, nuts, and fruits is permitted provided the conservation purpose is not compromised by the loss of vegetation or harvesting disturbance.
- Avoid vehicle traffic when soil moisture conditions are saturated.
- Maintain records of the field border maintenance as needed by the land user.

### **Specific Site Requirements**