

# USDA FILTER STRIP

*Conservation Practice Jobsheet*

393

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

July 2009

Landowner \_\_\_\_\_



## WHAT IS FILTER STRIP

Filter strips are areas of herbaceous vegetation situated between cropland, grazing land, forest land, or disturbed land and environmentally sensitive areas. Sensitive areas include streams, lakes, wetlands, and other water bodies and areas susceptible to damage by water-borne pollutants, including sediment, particulate organics, sediment-adsorbed contaminants, and dissolved contaminants.

## PURPOSE

This practice may be applied to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Reduce suspended solids and associated contaminants in runoff.
- Reduce dissolved contaminant loadings in runoff.
- Reduce suspended solids and associated contaminants in irrigation tailwater.

## CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

Filter strips are established where environmentally-sensitive areas need to be

protected from sediment; other suspended solids and dissolved contaminants in runoff.

This practice applies;

- in areas situated down gradient from cropland, grazing land, or disturbed land (including forest land)
- where sediment, particulate organic matter and/or dissolved contaminants may leave these areas and are entering environmentally sensitive areas
- in areas where permanent vegetative establishment is needed to enhance wildlife and beneficial insects, or maintain or enhance watershed function

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Filter strips are normally established concurrently with other practices as part of a resource management system for a conservation management unit. They should be installed only below areas where sheet and rill erosion have been reduced to an acceptable level and where other practices are in place that

slow runoff and contaminant delivery. A filter strip is influenced by but is not considered part of the adjacent crop rotation.

**PRACTICE SPECIFICATIONS**

Practice specifications are provided to assure that this practice meets the resource needs and

the producer's objectives. Specifications for the establishment of this practice shall be prepared for each field or treatment unit according to the criteria and considerations described in the practice standard.

**FILTER STRIP – SPECIFICATIONS SHEET**

Landowner/Cooperator \_\_\_\_\_

Field Office \_\_\_\_\_

Plan Number \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Field Area (ac) \_\_\_\_\_ Treatment Area (ac) \_\_\_\_\_ Precipitation (inches) \_\_\_\_\_

**Purpose/Objective of the Practice (Check all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduce suspended solids and associated contaminants in runoff
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduce dissolved contaminant loadings in runoff
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduce suspended solids and associated contaminants in irrigation talwater
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____

**Site Conditions**

Plant Materials – Cultivar and Species (see note below)	Full Seeding Rate (lb/ac PLS)	Planned % of Seeding Mix	Planned Acres	Treatment Area Total lbs. of PLS Needed
<b>Totals</b>				

Note – Planner may attach copy of “Louisiana Seed Mixture Worksheet” if used to figure seed mixture.

**Filter Strip Site Preparation and Establishment**

Site Preparation Activities:	
Planting/Seeding Method:	
Nutrient and Pest Management Planned:	

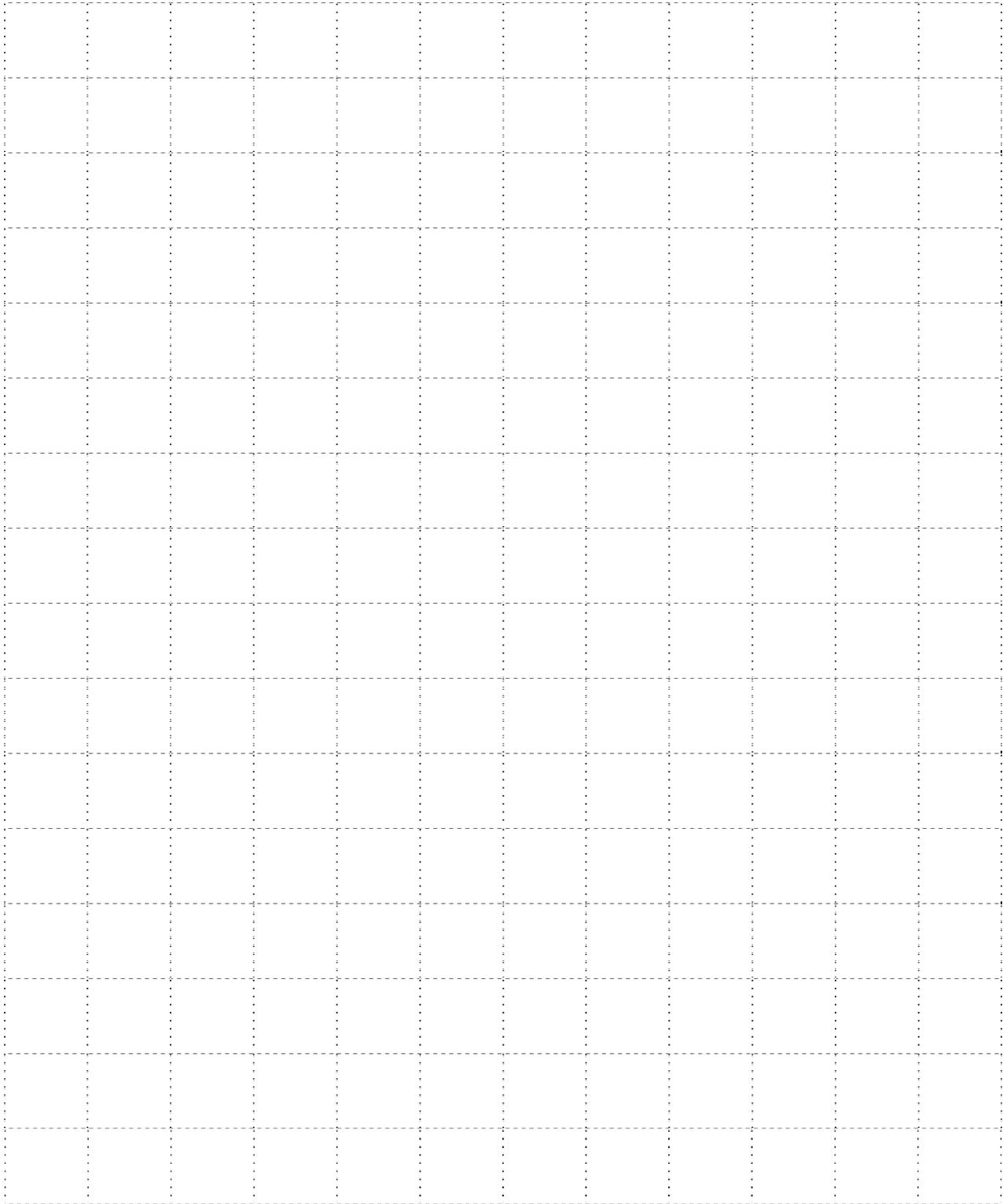
<b>Soil Amendments and Fertilization</b>			
Soil Test Taken		Soil pH from Soil Test	
Other Important Factors (i.e., salinity, iron, etc.)			
	Low	Medium	High
Phosphorus			
Nitrogen			
Potassium			

<b>Site Conditions for Planning Filter Strip Establishment</b>				
	Strip One	Strip Two	Strip Three	Strip Four
Dominant Soil Series				
Representative Slope %				
Cultivated Area Protected (acres)				
Filter Strip Width (feet)				
Filter Strip Length (feet)				
Fertility Requirements				

<b>Operation and Maintenance</b>				
<b>Item</b>	<b>Year 1 – Area Treated</b>	<b>Year 2 – Area Treated</b>	<b>Year 3 – Area Treated</b>	<b>Year 4 – Area Treated</b>
Maintain appropriate vegetative density and height – mowing				
Fertilize – as needed to maintain stand density and health				
Weed Control – chemical, mechanical				
Sediment removal				
Renovation – reseed				
Renovation – re-establish				
Control Access - fencing				

If applicable, provide a site view of the practice design and application in area below or as an attached diagram. Location of other relevant information and complimentary practices may be included.

Scale 1"= \_\_\_\_\_ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")



### Additional Specifications and Notes

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### Client's Acknowledgement (To be signed after jobsheet completed and before practice installation)

By signing below, I acknowledge that I:

- have reviewed the site specific installation, operation and maintenance requirements in this jobsheet and have an understanding of them;
- will install, operate, and maintain the conservation practice in accordance with the requirements;
- will make no changes to the requirements, without prior written approval of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS);
- will obtain all necessary permits and/or rights, and comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the installation, operation, and maintenance of the conservation practice, prior to the start of installation; and
- will assume responsibility for notifying all utilities affected by the installation, operation, and maintenance of the conservation practice.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Practice Design Certification (To be completed after jobsheet is complete and before practice installation)

By signing below, I certify that:

- the site specific requirements for the installation, operation, and maintenance of the practice on the client's treatment unit, as recorded in this jobsheet, have been prepared in accordance with the 393 Filter Strip Standard.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Practice Installation Certification (To be completed after practice installation and check out)

By signing below, I certify that:

- The practice has been installed according to the site specific installation requirements

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**NRCS, LA**  
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