

## Stripcropping

### Virginia Conservation Practice Job Sheet

585



#### Definition

Growing planned rotations of row crops, forages, small grains, or fallow in a systematic arrangement of equal width strips across a field.

#### General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Strips of crops susceptible to erosion shall be alternated with strips of erosion-resistant crops. Strip orientation shall be as close to perpendicular to erosion forces as practical.

Erosion-resistant and erosion-susceptible strips shall be of approximately equal width, which shall be a multiple of the width of equipment.

At least 50% of the crop rotation shall consist of erosion resistant crops or sediment trapping cover: dense grasses or legumes, hay crops, fallow untilled small grain residue, or close grown crops that provide the needed cover.

The same crop rotation shall be grown, but rotation timing shall be staggered or offset in each adjacent strip to achieve the sediment trapping effect. No two adjacent strips shall be in an erosion-susceptible condition at the same time. Selected vegetation shall be tolerant of expected sediment deposition depth.

#### Additional Criteria to Reduce Soil Erosion from Water and Sediment Transport

A strip cropping system shall consist of two or more strips within the conservation planning

slope length or “L”. Strips shall run parallel to each other and as close to contour as practical.

Strip widths shall be based on the planning objective and the approved erosion prediction technology. The width of a strip shall not exceed the critical slope length for contouring (see VA-330 Contour Farming for details).

If a correction strip is required, that strip may vary in width but shall be no narrower than the widest field implement used in the strip.

Where contours become too sharp to keep machinery aligned with the contour during operation, establish sod turn strips wide enough to allow equipment to be lifted or turned to meet the same rows across the turn strip..

Row grades for soils with slow to very slow infiltration rates (soil hydrologic groups C or D), or for crops sensitive to ponded water, shall be designed with positive row drainage of not less than 0.2% on slopes where ponding is a concern.

The maximum row grade shall not exceed:

- One-half of the up-and-down hill slope percent used for conservation planning (“S”), or 10 percent, whichever is less.
- Up to 25% deviation from design row grade is allowed within 150 feet of a stable outlet.

When design row grade reaches the maximum allowable, a new baseline shall be established up or down slope from the last contour line and used to lay out the next contour pattern.

On fields where tillage is part of the rotation, headlands/end rows with a slope steeper than the maximum allowable row grade for that field shall be maintained in permanent sod or planted using residue management, no-till/strip-till.

**NOTE: This summary does not address all requirements and considerations in the VA Stripcropping Standard (VA-585). Consult the Standard for further details.**

General Information	
Client: _____	County: _____
Field Office: _____	Contract #: _____
Farm #: _____	Tract #: _____
Field # and acreage: _____	

Client’s Purpose(s) (check all that apply)
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce soil erosion from water and transport of sediment and other water-borne contaminants.
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce soil erosion from wind.
<input type="checkbox"/> Protect growing crops from damage by wind-borne soil particles

**Practice Specifications**

**Follow all specifications and recommendations below for practice installation & implementation.**

**Fields to be Contoured – List & Description**

*Identify fields or conservation management units (CMUs) to be contoured. Provide LS values and design row grades for each.*

Field or CMU ID or description	Field slope LS values		Planned row grades	
	Slope length (ft.)	Slope steepness (%)	Minimum row grade (%)	Maximum row grade (%)

**Detailed Map or Sketch – See Attached**

*Recommended: a map or sketch showing: (a) Location and width of crop strips; (b) Location and type of permanent row markers; (c) Location and type of stable outlets; (d) areas within 150 feet of stable outlets suitable for maximum allowable row grades.*

**Crop Management – Specifications & Recommendations**

*Specify crop rotation, residue levels, ridge heights, etc. necessary for stripcropping system to function as planned. Refer to attachments including Cropping System Description & Evaluation Spec Sheet as needed.*

**Permanent Row Markers – Establishment Plans / Designs**

*Include all specifications for establishment of sod correction strips or other permanent row markers, such as strip width, type of vegetation, planting recommendations, etc. Refer to attachments as needed.*



If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

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


<b>Additional Specifications and Notes:</b>

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