STRIPCROPPING

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 585 07/03

STRIPCROPPING
Stripcropping is growing crops in a systematic arrangement of strips across the field to reduce soil erosion, reduce particulate emissions into the air and improve water quality.

PRACTICE INFORMATION
This practice is used on cropland and certain recreation and wildlife lands where field crops are grown. The crops are arranged so that a strip of grass or close-growing crop is alternated with a clean tilled strip or a strip with less protective cover. Generally the strip widths are equal across the field. On sloping land where sheet and rill erosion are a concern, the strips are laid out on the contour or across the general slope. Where wind erosion is a concern, the strips are laid out as close to perpendicular as possible to the prevailing erosive wind direction.

Stripcropping is a multi-purpose practice that has one or more of the following effects:

1. Reduced sheet and rill erosion.
2. Reduced wind erosion.
3. Increased infiltration and available soil water.
4. Reduced dust emissions into the air.
5. Improved water quality.
6. Improved visual quality of the landscape.
7. Improved wildlife habitat.

Additional information, including standards and specifications for this practice, are on file in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

The following pages contain the conservation effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

CONSERVATION PRACTICE PHYSICAL EFFECT WORKSHEET

NOTE: *recorded in Microsoft word 6.0 - use tabs to change cells/fields*

STATE	ANY	FIELD OFFICE	ANY	DATE	

PRACTICE: 585 Stripcropping	NOTES:
RESOURCE: SOIL **RESOURCE CONCERN: EROSION**	**Help Message: Click on form field for choice lists. Tab key to move around. "N/A" is the default.**
RESOURCE INDICATORS	**PHYSICAL EFFECTS**
SHEET AND RILL	significant reduction in sheet and rill erosion
WIND	significant reduction in wind erosion
EPHEMERAL GULLY	significant reduction in ephemeral gully erosion
CLASSIC GULLY	moderate reduction in classic gully erosion
STREAMBANK	slight reduction in streambank erosion
IRRIGATION INDUCED	N/A
SOIL MASS MOVEMENT	insignificant
ROADBANK/CONSTRUCTION	N/A
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: **SOIL CONDITION**	
SOIL TILTH	significant improvement in soil tilth
SOIL COMPACTION	slight reduction in soil compaction
SOIL CONTAMINATION	
• SALTS	slight reduction in soil salinity
• ORGANICS	insignificant
• FERTILIZERS	insignificant
• PESTICIDES	N/A
• OTHER	
DEPOSITION/DAMAGE	
• ONSITE	significant reduction/onsite deposition damage
• OFFSITE	significant decrease/offsite deposition damage
DEPOSITION/SAFETY	
• ONSITE	significantly improve onsite safety/deposition
• OFFSITE	sign. improve offsite safety hazard/deposition
OTHER	
RESOURCE: **WATER** RESOURCE CONCERN: **WATER QUANTITY**	
SEEPS	slight increase in seepage hazard
RUNOFF/FLOODING	moderate decrease in runoff/flooding
EXCESS SUBSURFACE WATER	slight increase in excess subsurface water
INADEQUATE OUTLETS	significant improvement in H20 outlet concern
WATER MGT. IRRIGATION	
• SURFACE	N/A
• SPRINKLER	N/A
WATER MGT. NON-IRRIGATED	moderate improvement in moisture use
RESTRICTED FLOW CAPACITY	
• ONSITE	N/A
• OFFSITE	N/A
RESTRICTED STORAGE	significant reduction in sedimentation of H20 storage
OTHER	

RESOURCE: **WATER** RESOURCE CONCERN**: WATER QUALITY**	
RESOURCE INDICATORS	**PHYSICAL EFFECTS**
GROUNDWATER CONTAMINANTS	
• PESTICIDES	insignificant
• NUTRIENTS AND ORGANICS	insignificant
• SALINITY	insignificant
• HEAVY METALS	insignificant
• PATHOGENS	insignificant
• OTHER	
SURFACE WATER CONTAMINANTS	
• PESTICIDES	slight reduction in SWater contam./pesticides
• NUTRIENTS AND ORGANICS	slight reduction in SWater contam./nutr.,organics
• SUSPENDED SEDIMENTS	slight reduction in SWater contam./susp. sedi.
• LOW DISSOLVED OXYGEN	slight reduction in SWater contam./low oxygen
• SALINITY	insignificant
• HEAVY METALS	insignificant
• WATER TEMPERATURE	insignificant
• PATHOGENS	slight decrease in SWater contam./pathegens
AQUATIC HABITAT SUITABILITY	significant improvement in Aqua. Hab. Suit.
OTHER	
RESOURCE: **AIR** RESOURCE CONCERN: **AIR QUALITY**	
AIRBORNE SEDIMENT AND SMOKE PARTICLES	
• ONSITE SAFETY	significant decrease in airborn sed.&smoke/safety
• OFFSITE SAFETY	significant decrease in airborn sed.&smoke part./safety
• ONSITE STRUCT. PROBLEMS	insignificant
• OFFSITE STRUCT. PROBLEMS	insignificant
• ONSITE HEALTH	insignificant
• OFFSITE HEALTH	insignificant
AIRBORNE SEDIMENT CAUSING CONVEYANCE PROBLEMS	moder. decrease in airborn sediment/convey. prob.
AIRBORNE CHEMICAL DRIFT	slight decrease in airborn chem. drift
AIRBORNE ODORS	slight decrease in airbornodors
FUNGI, MOLDS, AND POLLEN	slight decrease in airborn fungi,molds,pollen
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: **AIR CONDITION**	
AIR TEMPERATURE	N/A
AIR MOVEMENT (windbreak effect)	slight improvement in air condition/ air movement
HUMIDITY	insignificant
OTHER	

RESOURCE: **PLANT** RESOURCE CONCERN: **SUITABILITY**	
RESOURCE INDICATORS	**PHYSICAL EFFECTS**
SITE ADAPTATION	N/A
PLANT USE	N/A
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: **CONDITION**	
PRODUCTIVITY	moderate improvement in plant cond./ productivity
HEALTH, VIGOR, SURVIVAL	moderate improvement in plant health,vigor,survival
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: **MANAGEMENT**	
ESTAB., GROWTH, HARVEST	insignificant
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT	insignificant
PESTS	insignificant
THREAT/ENDANGERED PLANTS	insignificant
OTHER	
RESOURCE: **ANIMAL** RESOURCE CONCERN: **HABITAT**	
FOOD	significant improvement in animal habitat/food supply
COVER/SHELTER	significant improvement in animal habitat/cover,shelter
WATER (QUANTITY & QUALITY)	insignificant
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: **MANAGEMENT**	
POPULATION BALANCE	moderate improvement in animal mgt./pop. balance
THREAT/ENDANGERED ANIMALS	insignificant
HEALTH	moderate improvement in animal mgt./ health
OTHER	
RESOURCE: **HUMAN** RESOURCE CONCERNS**: ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS**	
PLAN / COST EFFECTIVENESS	moderately cost effective
CLIENT FINANCIAL CONDITION	moderately cost effective
MARKETS FOR PRODUCTS	N/A
AVAILABLE LABOR	insignificant
AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT	insignificant

RESOURCE: **HUMAN** RESOURCE CONCERN: **SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**	
RESOURCE INDICATORS	**PHYSICAL EFFECTS**
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY	insignificant
PRIVATE/PUBLIC VALUES	insignificant
CLIENT CHARACTERISTICS	N/A
RISK TOLERANCE	N/A
TENURE	N/A
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: **CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS**	
ABSENCE/PRESENCE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES	insignificant
SIGNIFICANCE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES	insignificant
MITIGATION OF NEGATIVE CULTURAL RES. IMPACTS	insignificant
OTHER	