



Stripcropping

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

(Code 585)

For:	Farm #:
Field(s):	Tract #:

Definition

Growing row crops, forages, small grains, or fallow in a systematic arrangement of equal width strips on or near the contour of the field slope.

Purposes (check all that apply)

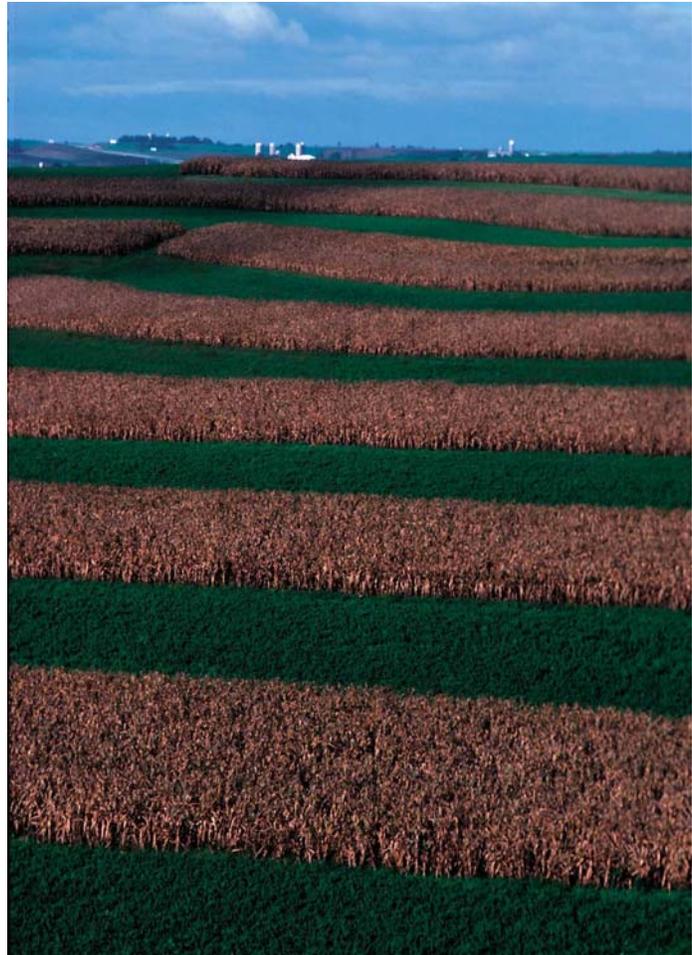
- To reduce sheet and rill erosion
- To reduce transport of sediment and other water-borne contaminants

Condition where practice applies

This practice applies on sloping land where crops are grown. This practice is less effective in achieving the purpose(s) on slopes exceeding 15 percent.

The practice has the greatest impact where cropped or fallow strips having less than 10 percent cover are alternated with close grown and/or grass/legume strips, or strips of *residue management, no/till/strip-till* with 75 percent or greater surface cover.

The practice is not well suited to rolling topography having a high degree of slope irregularity.



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Rotation and Type of Tillage			
Crop	Type of Tillage Planned	% and Type Ground Cover	Ridge Height
Baseline(s) "Start Lines"			
<p>A baseline is the "start line(s) laid out in the field to establish where to begin to the layout of the field strips and the planted row patterns. Assistance to establish the baseline(s) and strip layout will be provided by the NRCS/SWCD local field office. Once established maintain the field strips along the baseline(s).</p>			
Fields	Maximum Strip Width	Maximum In-Row Grade for Contour Strip	
Headland, End Rows, Field Edges			
<p>Maintain the headlands, end row areas, and field edges in permanent vegetative cover (grasses or grass/legume mix) unless the end rows or field edge is relatively flat or not an erosion concern.</p>			
Operation and Maintenance			
<p>Conduct all farming operations parallel to the field strip baselines. Farming operations should start on the field strip baselines and proceed both up and down the slope in a parallel pattern to the top or bottom of the strip. Odd areas, if any will be placed between the parallel field strips. Alter tillage patterns to avoid creating low areas that will redirect surface water flow patterns.</p> <p>Follow the planned rotation to ensure alternating strips contain the grass or a close growing crop.</p> <p>Maintain the headlands, end rows, field edges, etc. in permanent vegetative cover. Mow or harvest the field borders as necessary to maintain the desired cover. When wildlife nesting cover is a concern delay mowing of the field borders until after July 15th each year.</p> <p>Renovate field borders as needed to keep ground cover above 65% cover. Renovation shall only include the immediate seedbed preparation and reseeding to a sod-forming crop with or without a nurse crop. Maintain a sufficient field border width to allow farm equipment room to turn and double back on adjacent rows.</p>			
<p>Comments:</p>			

Questions concerning this practice specification or operation and maintenance: contact your local SWCD or NRCS- phone .