

Early Successional Habitat Development and Management

Strip Disking Job Sheet

647

Participant Name _____

Tract #: _____ Field # _____ Acres _____

INFORMATION ON THIS JOB SHEET IS CONSIDERED TO BE PART OF THE CONTRACT AND/OR CONSERVATION PLAN.

Purpose

This job sheet will be followed when using strip disking to improve early successional habitat as part of a conservation plan. Dense sod or vegetation is detrimental to wildlife feeding and movement and can be improved with a practice known as strip disking. Strip disking reduces residue, creates bare ground, and promotes desirable broadleaf plants and grasses that produce seed and attract insects, at a much lower cost than planting food plots.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

This job sheet applies to areas with grass and/or shrubby vegetation in need of a successional setback to improve plant diversity and wildlife habitat. Disking in grassland habitats next to shrubby escape cover is even more effective.

Specifications

Option 1 – Participant shall disk $\frac{1}{2}$ of the field annually for two years. Strip disking of the field must be completed by disking strips that are a minimum of 20 feet to a maximum of 50 feet wide, then skipping an area equal to the disked area. During the second year, the strips that were not disked during the first year shall be disked. This spacing will establish a pattern whereby the disked strips are separated by an equal width of undisked strips. With this option, the same acreage in a field will not be disked more often than every 2nd year.

Option 2 – Participant shall disk $\frac{1}{3}$ of the field annually for three years. Strip disking of the field must be completed by disking strips that are a minimum of 20 feet to a maximum of



50 feet wide, then skipping an area twice the width of the disked area. During the second year of disking, the next strip equal in size to the one disked the first year shall be disked. The third and remaining strip shall be disked during the third year. This spacing will establish a pattern whereby the disked strips are separated by two undisked strips that are one and two years old. With this option, the same acreage in a field will not be disked more often than every 3rd year.

Buffers that are less than 60 feet in width may be disked in blocks rather than strips using the same patterns as in Option 1 or 2 above.

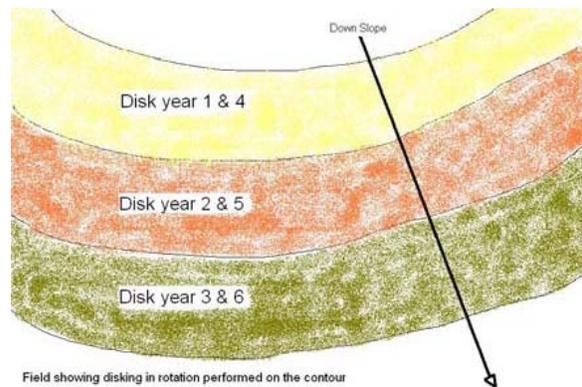


Figure 1. Disk fields in halves or thirds on the contour, creating one disked strip each year. In subsequent years, disk the adjacent strip. This

develops adjacent strips of vegetation with 2-3 different ages.

Option 3 - For buffer practices where widths are limiting, disking may be completed in blocks so that 1/2 to 1/3 of the buffers length is disked each year on a 2 year or 3 year rotation respectively. If a buffer is adjacent to a stream, wetland or water body a 20' strip next to the water feature shall be left undisked to help ensure water quality is maintained.

Other Strip Disking Requirements

Disked strips should be as long as possible and shall follow the contour of the field to prevent erosion. Don't disk in areas of concentrated flow or where soil erosion has been a problem.

The disking shall be 2 to 4 inches deep and expose 30 – 70% bare soil.

Site preparation such as burning, mowing, or haying (if allowed) shall be completed prior to disking to improve soil disturbance. Use a heavy duty hydraulic disk and/or multiple passes to disturb the soil to achieve 30 – 70% bare soil.

Disking shall occur between September 1st and April 15th. For optimal quail benefits, disk between October 1st and December 31st. Fall disking tends to favor broadleaves; spring disking tends to favor weedy grasses. Disk before December 31st to get the best response from desirable quail food plants such as ragweed. The disked areas will produce succulent forbs and legumes, which attract insects and produce abundant seed, while the adjacent undisked areas will provide nesting and roosting cover.

Maintenance

- Maintain the disking rotation.
- Use selective herbicides to control noxious or invasive weeds.
- Monitor for any soil erosion.
- If livestock have access to treated areas a prescribed grazing plan detailing how quality early successional habitat and soil and water resources will be maintained.

Additional Requirements and/or Recommendations from NRCS, KDFWR or Qualified TSP:

Certifications

Job Sheet	Prepared by:	Title:	Date:
	Approved by:	Title:	Date:
Installation	Meets NRCS standards and specifications.		
	Certification by:	Title:	Date:
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