United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Field Border (386)

Field borders are strips of permanent vegetation (grasses, legumes, forbs, or shrubs) established the edge or around the perimeter of a field

Practice Information

The field border practice is applied around the inside perimeter of fields. Its use can support or connect other buffer practices within and between fields. This practice applies to cropland and grazing lands

Field borders are functional and aesthetically pleasing. They are multipurpose practices that will serve one or more of the following functions:

- reduce wind and water erosion
- protect soil and water quality
- provide wildlife food and cover and pollinator or other beneficial organism habitiat.
- increase carbon storage
- improve air quality

The above functions should be considered when selecting the plant species for this practice.

Common Associated Practices

Field Border (386) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Conservation Crop Rotation (328), any of the Residue and Tillage Management practices (329, 345), Early Successional Habitat Development/ Management (647), and Upland or Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (645, 644).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.