



Water Quality Enhancement Activity – ANM06 – Extending existing riparian herbaceous cover for water quality protection and wildlife habitat

State Criteria (same as NATIONAL CRITERIA)

Additional Criteria for Nebraska

Existing riparian herbaceous cover to be extended must be 20 feet wide measured outward and perpendicular to the stream from a point at the top of the bank adjacent to the stream. It is not necessary that the entire stream segment under the control of the cooperators be buffered by an existing 20 feet wide buffer. However, only that segment with the existing 20 feet buffer in place is eligible for this enhancement. The existing riparian herbaceous cover must be extended so that the total buffer is 60 feet or more wide.

Mixture planted to extend the filter strip must contain the following:

A minimum of 5 species of grasses and forbs or legumes used in combination to meet the [\(393\) Filter Strip](#) and the [\(390\) Riparian Herbaceous Cover](#) standards. This requires a minimum seeding rate of 40 PLS/ft² for grasses and 60% of the grass mixture shall consist of sod-forming, stiff-stemmed species. Acceptable grass species are located on the [“wildlife friendly” plant list](#).

All seedings must contain forbs and/or legumes at a seeding rate of 10% to 25% of the grass mixture (4 PLS/ft² to 10 PLS/ft²). Acceptable species are located on the [“wildlife friendly” plant list](#).

Document recommended site preparation, planting method, seed mixture, seeding rates and other pertinent information on the [Grass Seeding Job Sheet \(NE-CPA-8\)](#).

The following activities are allowed for operation/maintenance and management:

Haying (including harvest for biomass) is permitted up to one time per three year period (following establishment) provided it is conducted after July 15 and prior to September 1.

Grazing is permitted up to one time per three year period (following establishment) provided it is conducted after July 15 and does not exceed a 30 day period during the growing season OR a 60 day period during the dormant season.

Specific management practices approved by NRCS and intended to improve plant diversity and vigor are allowed but are not required during the CSP contract period. These activities include prescribed burning, tillage and interseeding (on areas outside of the 20 feet zone closest to the stream), and/or site-specific herbicide treatments to accommodate interseeding desired grasses, forbs, or legumes.

