

Water Quality and Wildlife Enhancement Activity –ANM07- Extending Existing Field Borders for Water Quality Protection and Wildlife Habitat



Extend existing field borders.

Where existing field borders are utilized, extend them to gain more efficiency in intercepting overland flow and reducing the transport of nutrients, pesticides and agro-chemicals.

Land Use Applicability

This enhancement is applicable on cropland and pasture land.

Benefits Widening existing field borders that currently meet NRCS conservation practice standard criteria can provide food and cover for native and game species as well as enhancing wildlife habitat. Additionally, these extended field borders offer more surface area to filter out sediments and agro-chemicals.

Wildlife species utilize transition zones between agricultural fields because they provide a unique combination of cover and often provide important travel corridors. Often times field borders are adjacent to riparian areas and are important for contributing clean water, and habitat areas near by. Extending existing field borders not only enhances wildlife habitat but it increases the effectiveness of water quality protection if the border is next to a stream.

Criteria for Extending Existing Field Borders

Existing field borders must meet minimum state requirements for width. Extend the existing buffer for a total of 60 feet or more to enhance habitat and water quality functions.

The extended field borders must be composed of at least 5 species of non-noxious, wildlife friendly grasses, perennial forbs and /or shrubs best suited to site conditions. Include species that provide pollinator food and habitat where possible.

- All site preparation and plant establishment shall be accomplished according to the appropriate NRCS conservation practice standard criteria and specifications.
- Any use of the field border must not compromise its intended purpose.
- To the extent possible the field border areas and extended field border areas will be vegetated to increase overland flow interception and increase water quality values if they also border a stream or water body.

**Operation and Maintenance:**

- Once established, field borders must not be mowed, disked, grazed, or otherwise disturbed, until after the primary wildlife ground nesting period has ended.
- Field border will be regularly maintained for its intended purpose through the life of the contract. This includes any removal of vegetation, including grazing.
- Grazing is allowed if a grazing management plan is used that protects the integrity, diversity and function of the riparian area.
- Field borders will have a wildlife management plan to maintain established plant communities through the life of the contract. The wildlife plan will maintain the plant community and its structural diversity and provide habitat for intended species.

Documentation Requirements

1. A map showing the location and size of enhanced field borders.
2. Documentation of the type and rates of vegetation planted in the new field borders.



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State Criteria

Existing field border to be extended must be 20 feet wide. It is not necessary that the entire field edge under the control of the cooperator be buffered by an existing 20 foot wide field border. However, only that segment with the existing 20 foot field border in place is eligible for this enhancement. The existing field border must be extended so that the total field border is 60 feet or more wide.

Mixture planted to extend the field border must contain the following:

A minimum of 5 species of grasses and forbs or legumes used in combination to meet the (386) Field Border standard. This requires a minimum seeding rate of 10 PLS/ft² for all species combined used on non-erosive sites. If sheet and rill erosion is a concern, 20 PLS/ft² for grass species (with forb/legumes added in addition) is the recommended rate. A seeding rate of 40 PLS/ft² for grass species is to be used where the field border will function as a filter strip and receive sedimentation from adjacent cropland. When used in areas of concentrated flow, a seeding rate of 60 PLS/ft² for grass species will be used. Acceptable grass species are located on the “wildlife friendly” plant list (List A) on the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT).

All seedings must contain forbs and/or legumes at a seeding rate of 25% of the grass mixture (i.e. 5 PLS/ft² of forbs/legumes for a grass seeding at 20 PLS/ft²). Acceptable species are located on the “wildlife friendly” plant list (List A on CMT) OR the list of native forbs to be used with the pollinator enhancement (PLT01).

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 is permitted up to once per three year period (following establishment) provided it is conducted after July 15th and prior to September 1st.

Grazing is permitted up to once per three year period (following establishment) provided it is conducted after July 15th 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 and/or site-specific herbicide treatments to accommodate interseeding desired grasses, forbs, or legumes.



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Document approved operation/maintenance and management in the table below.

To be completed by NRCS and Producer during planning					To be completed by Producer during certification (if different than planned)	
Tract	Field	Acres	Approved Activity	Allowed Dates	Implemented Activity	Applied Dates
<i>100</i>	<i>2b</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>Haying</i>	<i>July 15-Sept 1 2013</i>	<i>Grazing</i>	<i>November 2013</i>

I certify that the extended field border meets these specifications including the following documentation as applicable:

1. Documentation of the O&M or management activity performed – completed table above (if applicable).
2. Completed NE-CPA-8 Grass Seeding Job Sheet and associated seed tags, and bills as required.
3. Map with extended field border clearly identified (highlighted, outlined, etc.).

Certified by: _____ **Date:** _____