

**Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM16 - Harvesting Crops Using a Stripper Header**



Small grain residue remaining after harvest using a stripper header.

**Harvesting crops using a stripper header**

Crops will be harvested using a combine with a stripper header so residue of a minimum of 18 inches high will be left standing in the field.

**Land Use Applicability**

This enhancement is applicable on cropland.

**Benefits**

The traditional harvesting of small grains such as wheat usually leaves only a portion of the

stalk standing, often less than 12 inches in height. In addition, those portions of the stalk cut during the harvest are either left in a mat on the field or are baled for straw. When using a combine with a stripper header, only the seed head is cut and the entire stalk is left standing. There is no mat of vegetation on the ground that can hinder wildlife/bird movement and the standing stalks may be 24 inches or more in height. This provides winter cover to protect wildlife and birds from the elements and predators.

**Criteria for Harvesting crops using a stripper header**

This enhancement is for use on dry fields and not fields subject to flooding, including rice fields. Standing residue must not be cut or burned until the landowner is ready to plant a follow-up crop. Standing residue must be a minimum of 18 inches in height. Producers should refrain from all post-harvest chemical and tillage weed control.

**Documentation Requirements for Harvesting crops using a stripper header**

1. The landowner must provide written documentation stating which fields were harvested using a stripper header.
2. The landowner must provide a map showing which field(s) was harvested using a stripper header.



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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**Additional State Criteria:**

The intent of this enhancement is to provide potential nesting cover and winter cover and food for a wide array of wildlife species (song birds, game birds, big game, small mammals, and furbearers) that utilize small grain fields for habitat. To qualify for this enhancement the following criteria must be met:

1. A small grain crop (e.g. wheat, oats, rye, etc.) must a normal part of the crop rotation.
2. Small grain stubble must average a minimum height of 18 inches post-harvest and cannot be mowed, hayed, grazed, tilled, etc. between harvest and March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

**Documentation Required:**

1. Complete the following table documenting which fields were harvested with a stripper header.
2. Provide a map showing the location of those fields.

Tract	Field(s)	Small Grain Crop	Acres	Date Harvested	Stubble Height

**I certify that the information above meets specifications and has been provided to NRCS along with the following documentation:**

1. A map showing the location of the acres where the practice was applied.

**Certified by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_