



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

CSP Job Sheet N-5, N-6, N-7

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENT

February 2006

NEBRASKA

Name: _____

The entire crop field that contains the established buffer is eligible for payment (refer to required elements). For 2005, the Conservation Security Program (CSP) offers a limited number of enhancement payments as incentives to reduce transport of sediment and other water-borne contaminants down-slope, on-site, or off-site. These enhancements are available once the applicant qualifies for CSP by meeting the program's entry requirements for soil and water quality.

This information will help landowners and managers determine if they are eligible for the offered payment(s) for nutrient management enhancement activities.

N-5, N-6, N7 – Eligible Nebraska NRCS buffer practices

Required Elements:

- Eligible buffer practices include; Contour Buffer Strips, Riparian Herbaceous Cover, Riparian Forest Buffers, Filter Strips, Grassed Waterways, and Field Borders.
- Buffers must meet the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide requirements including width, functioning adequately and properly maintained.
- Payments are based on the following percentages for each cropland field:
 - Buffers within, or directly adjacent to each cropland field count toward the percentages listed in the following bullets:
 - Buffers that are enrolled in CRP, count toward the percentages listed in the following bullets, (CRP buffers must be deducted from CSP contract),
 - When buffers border more than one field they will be prorated to each field accordingly,
 - N-5 – 5% to 10% of the acreage in each cropland field consists of eligible buffer practices,
 - N-6 – >10% to 15% of the acreage in each cropland field consists of eligible buffer practices,
 - N-7 – >15% of the acreage in each cropland field consists of eligible buffer practices.

Eligible Nebraska NRCS buffer practices – Eligible Nebraska NRCS buffer practices include: Contour Buffer Strips (Std 332), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Std 390), Riparian Forest Buffer (Std. 391), Filter Strip (Std 393), Grassed Waterway (Std 412), and Field Border (Std 386). These practices must meet the minimum standards and specifications listed in the Nebraska NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV.

Buffer areas must be a minimum width of the practice as listed in the Nebraska NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV, and Conservation Practice Standards. The buffer practice(s) must be contiguous to fields that are benefited. The percent will be based on the buffer acres divided by cropland acres. All buffers must meet the function and purpose of the

surface water quality enhancement. Operation and maintenance of all buffers must be adequate (see Practice Standards).

Operation and Maintenance – Conduct all farming operations parallel to the strip boundaries except on field borders.

Time mowing of buffer strips to maintain appropriate vegetative density and height for optimum trapping of sediment from the upslope cropped strip during the critical erosion period(s). Delay mowing until after ground nesting birds has hatched, usually after July 15.

Fertilize buffer strips as needed to maintain stand density.

Where contour row curvature becomes too sharp to keep equipment aligned with rows during field operations, establish sod turn strips on sharp ridge points. In drainage ways, establish grassed waterways at least to the point of sharp curvature. These strips shall be wide enough to allow the equipment to be lifted and/or turned and meet the same rows across the turn strip. Spot seed species that are tolerant/resistant to herbicides, or totally renovate buffer strip systems damaged by herbicide application after residual action of the herbicide is complete.

Redistribute sediment accumulations along the upslope edge of the buffer-crop strip interface upslope over the cultivated strip when needed to maintain uniform sheet flow along the buffer/cropped strip boundary. If sediment accumulates just below the upslope edge of the buffer strip to a depth of 6 inches or vegetative ground cover falls below 65 percent in the buffer strip, relocate the buffer/cropped strip interface location.

Contour buffer strips may be replaced if the grass or legume stand is poor, but should be replaced with equal sized and spaced strips the same year. Cultivated strips and contour buffer strips shall be rotated so that a mature stand of protective cover is achieved in a newly established buffer strip immediately below or above the old buffer strip before removing the old buffer to plant an erosion-prone crop.

Renovate vegetated field borders (headlands or end row areas) as needed to keep ground cover above 65 percent. Renovation shall only include the immediate seedbed preparation and reseeding (refer to Field Border (386)). Maintain adequate field border (headland or end row) width to allow farm implements room to double back on the same strip.

Documentation Required: An aerial map showing location of buffers is required prior to payment approval.

Buffers Equal 5% up to 10% Buffer/Cropland Ratio:

Tract & Field #s	Total Acres Buffer	Total Acres Cropland	Percent Cropland Acres Benefited

Buffers Greater than 10% up to 15% Buffer/Cropland Ratio:

Tract & Field #s	Total Acres Buffer	Total Acres Cropland	Percent Cropland Acres Benefited

Buffers Greater than 15% Buffer/Cropland Ratio:

Tract & Field #s	Total Acres Buffer	Total Acres Cropland	Percent Cropland Acres Benefited

Certification:

I certify that I have met the operations and maintenance requirements for the buffer practices on contiguous cropland fields as documented in the above table.

Name: _____ Date: _____