

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN
FOR
CONTOUR BUFFER STRIPS (332)**

Landowner/user:

Date:

Address:

A properly operated and maintained **Contour Buffer Strips Practice** is an asset to your farm operation and your agricultural land. Implementation of Contour Buffer Strips will help you to achieve and maintain desired resource conditions by supporting one or more of the following purposes:

- Reduce sheet and rill erosion.
- Reduce water quality degradation from the transport of sediment and other water-borne contaminants downslope.
- Improve soil moisture management through increased water infiltration.
- Reduce water quality degradation from the transport of nutrients downslope.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance. The following are some requirements of the operation and maintenance program.

Operation and Maintenance

Lifespan 5 Years

- Conduct all farming operations parallel to the strip boundaries except on headlands or end rows with gradients less than the criteria set forth in this standard.
- Time mowing or harvest 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).
- Fertilize buffer strips as needed to maintain stand density.
- Mow or harvest sod turn strips and waterways at least once a year.
- Spot seed or totally renovate buffer strip systems damaged by herbicide application after residual action of the herbicide is complete.
- Redistribute sediment that accumulates along the upslope edge of the buffer strip/crop strip interface as needed. This sediment shall be spread evenly 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 more, or stem density falls below specified amounts in the buffer strip, relocate the buffer/cropped strip interface location.
- Cultivated strips and 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. Alternate repositioning of buffer strips to maintain their relative position on the hill slope. If an

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established buffer is removed, a equipment width will be added to one crop strip and subtracted from another.

- Renovate vegetated headlands or end row area as needed to keep ground cover above 65 percent. Renovation shall only include the immediate seedbed preparation and reseeding to a sod-farming crop with or without a nurse crop.

Specific Additional Requirements for Your Practice: