



CROSS WIND RIDGES (588)

CROSS WIND RIDGES

Ridges formed by tillage, planting or other operations and aligned perpendicular to prevailing wind direction during critical wind erosion periods.



PURPOSE

This practice supports one or more of the following purposes:

- Reduce soil erosion from wind,
- Protect growing crops from damage by windblown soil particles, and
- Reduce soil particulate emissions affecting air quality.

PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

This practice applies to cropland with soils that are stable enough to sustain effective ridges and cloddiness, such as loamy and clayey soil materials. Cross wind ridges are most effective when used in combination with other practices in a conservation management system to reduce wind erosion.

The ridge orientation, height, spacing, and time period that ridges are established must be maintained during the critical erosion period.

Orientation of ridges during critical erosion periods shall not exceed 45 degrees from perpendicular to erosive wind direction.

Cross wind ridges are established and maintained by normal tillage and planting equipment such as chisel plows, drills with hoe openers, and similar implements that form effective ridges.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each field or group of fields and the following design criteria shall be recorded:

1. Conservation plan map showing practice location
2. Crop rotation and tillage operation used to create ridges
3. Critical erosion periods of the prevailing wind direction, ridge orientation, and installation date of ridges, ridge height, and ridge spacing
4. Soil loss computations

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The ridges must be maintained through the major wind erosion season or until growing crops provide enough cover to protect the soil from wind erosion.

Ridges shall be established or re-established by equipment such as chisel plows, drills with hoe openers, or other implements that form effective ridges.

If ridges become ineffective they shall be re-established unless doing so would damage a growing crop.

588 CROSS WIND RIDGES DOCUMENTATION WORKSHEET

Client Name: _____

Tract and Farm Number: _____

Practice Purpose: _____

Critical Erosion Period: _____ Erosive Wind Direction: _____

Tract/Field No.	Soil Map Unit	Crop	Soil Loss T or Crop Tolerance ¹	Ridge Operation ²	Ridge Time Period ³	Ridge Height (inches) ⁴	Ridge Spacing (inches) ⁵

¹List map unit T soil loss tolerance or crop tolerance to wind

²List the operation that will create ridges

³List the erosive time period that ridges are present

⁴List the planned ridge height

⁵List the design ridge spacing

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COST SHARE DOCUMENTATION FOR CASE FILE

Before payment is made, the following information is required to be in the case file:

- Plan or location map, and photograph of the field and documentation of practice layout according to plans and specifications is present in the client case file.

- Field verification is documented and a certified planner verified “as installed” this practice meets NRCS standards and specifications.

Practice Certification (NRCS USE ONLY)

I certify that the practice as installed is complete and meets the applicable Wisconsin NRCS Conservation Practice Standard and all applicable practice specifications. Any changes to the original practice design have been approved and are documented on the original practice design “as installed.”

Certified Planner (print)

Certified Planner (sign)

Date