

AG. WATER QUALITY ACT



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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

FUNDING ASSISTANCE

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

GRASSED WATERWAY

CROPS BMP #14



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Description:

A natural or constructed channel, usually broad and shallow, covered with erosion-reducing grasses, used to safely carry surface runoff water from a field, terrace, diversion, or other area to a suitable outlet.

AWQA Minimum Requirements:

Maintain a drainage way by grading and shaping a smooth, bowl-shaped channel and seeding it with sod-forming grasses. This grass cover protects the drainage way from gully erosion and acts as a filter to absorb some of the chemicals and nutrients in runoff water. Adequate vegetation and proper width of grass areas must be maintained to meet this objective.

Recommendations:

Check for high water table soils and seepage areas to determine the need for tile drainage along waterways.

Technical References

University Publications

- [University of Kentucky College of Agriculture Extension publications](#)

USDA/NRCS Publications

- [Practice Code 412 Grassed Waterway](#)
- [Field Office Technical Guide](#)

Funding Assistance Options

State Cost Share

- See your local Conservation District to [apply](#).

Kentucky Ag. Development Fund (KADB/KAFC)

- Select from available program options [here](#).

NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Select from available program options [here](#).

Important Considerations

Water Quality Benefit (☹-☹☹☹☹): ☹☹
(KEY: ☹=good, ☹☹☹☹☹=best: see [STEPL Model](#))

Wildlife Benefits

- Contact the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife's [Habitat Improvement Program](#) on how to improve wildlife habitat with select BMPs (1-800-858-1549).