

# AG. WATER QUALITY ACT



Photo courtesy of USDA ARS



Photo courtesy of Creative Commons



Photo courtesy of USDA ARS

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

FUNDING ASSISTANCE

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

## RIPARIAN AREA PROTECTION

### LIVESTOCK BMP #3

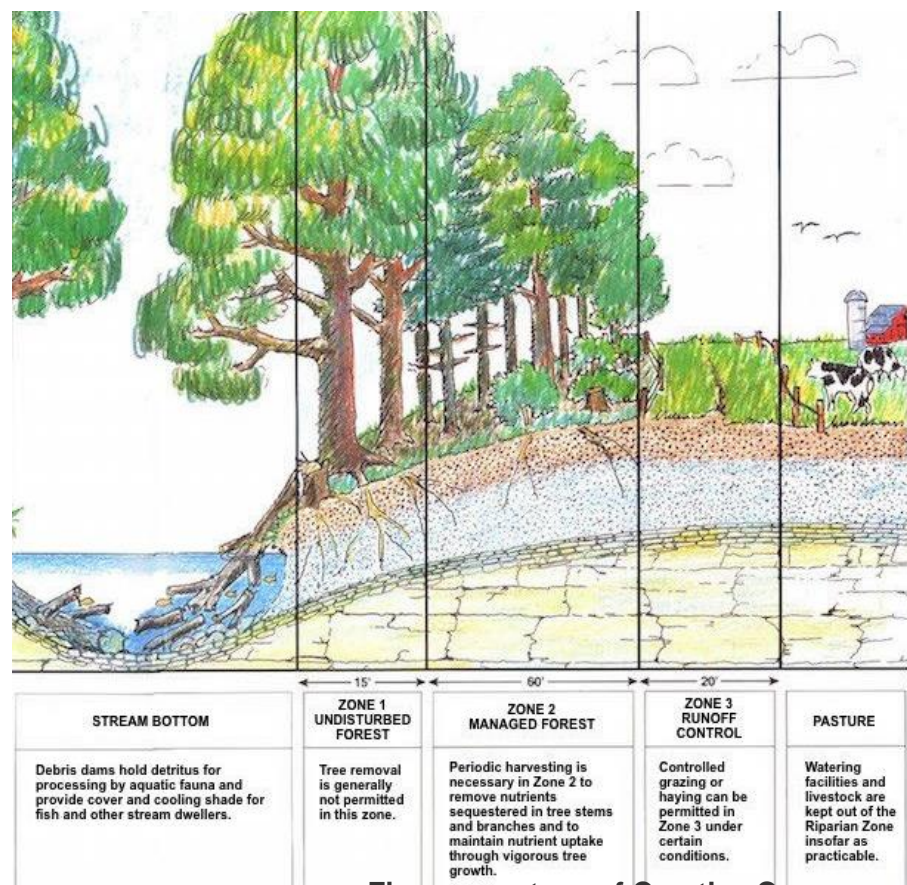


Figure courtesy of Creative Commons

#### Description:

A protected area of trees, woody shrubs, grasses, and other vegetation located adjacent to or up-gradient from water courses, wetlands, and impounded water bodies.

#### AWQA Minimum Requirements:

Apply this BMP in areas where a portion of the runoff occurs as shallow groundwater flow and where water quality is impaired or there is a high potential for water quality impairment. The riparian buffer area should be adjacent to permanent or intermittent streams, lakes or ponds, and wetlands. Livestock activities are acceptable in these areas. Fencing of riparian buffer zones will not be required; however, the selection and management of vegetation must be sufficient to adequately control or significantly abate potential soil erosion and provide adequate filtering and uptake benefits from the affected areas. If vegetation is not capable of withstanding grazing pressure, then livestock should be excluded except at designated crossing areas and watering sites ([Livestock BMP#4](#)). Temporary fence may be used to exclude livestock from zones that may be grazed temporarily while maintaining the effectiveness of the practice.

#### Recommendations:

Consider the type and quantity of potential pollutants that will be derived from the drainage area. Consider the adverse impacts

which could result from uncontrolled and concentrated flows through the buffer zones if sheet flow is not maintained. Consider the sequence of conservation practice application to assure that excessive erosion and pollution rates do not prohibit the successful establishment of the buffer zones. The width of the riparian area may be adjusted to accommodate exceptional situations such as unique landforms, sensitive areas, public structures, etc. **Consider establishing “zones” in the riparian area that may include trees (Zone 1), small trees/shrubs (Zone 2), and or native warm season grasses and forbs (Zone 3).** Consider removing invasive species (i.e. bush honeysuckle) using methods/equipment that does not contribute to erosion.

#### Technical References

##### University Publications

- [ID-175 Riparian Buffers: A Livestock BMP](#)
- [ID-185 Planting a Riparian Buffer](#)
- [AEN-99 Shade Options for Grazing Cattle](#)
- [FOR-112 Riparian Buffer Strips](#)
- [ENRI-109 Riparian Buffer](#)

##### USDA/NRCS Publications

- [Practice Code 391 Riparian Forest Buffer](#)

#### 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).