

10 Minute Supervisor Trainings



August 2022

FILTER STRIPS

This practice is considered a high priority practice for the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share program (State Cost Share), based on criteria outlined in 401 KAR 1:010. The practice consists of a strip of close growing dense vegetation for filtering sediment, nutrients, and pathogens from surface water runoff to prevent contaminating water sources.

This is an important practice to consider for filtration of animal manure (from pastures or as applied), fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, etc. applied to agriculture lands.

AWQA Minimum Requirements:

Plant or maintain a dense grass sod in strips to filter soil and water to help protect water quality by reducing soil movement through erosion.

Which Producers Might Be Interested:

Any producers in your district who have either crops and/or livestock and a water source might be interested in this practice. Reaching out to these producers is one of the ways in which the conservation district board can carry out its mission of protecting the water in your community.



Recommendations:

Filter strips not only are good management practices, but also can provide additional forage for hay production when needed and properly managed. Filter strips may be on the lower edge of row crop fields, especially those fields adjacent to intermittent or perennial streams, farm ponds, lakes, or areas directly below an animal manure management system. A strip located between a timber harvesting operation and a water body is also a needed location. Leaving existing natural vegetation along streams, or other water bodies, is recommended if it is effective in removing sediment or animal manures. During large storms, runoff in excess of the design may flood the filter and release large loads of pollutants into the surface water, therefore nearly level uniform slopes are most effective. Slopes over 8% need wider filter strips. The filter strip width should be in multiples of the width mowing, fertilizing, or other farm equipment.

How to Reach Those Producers:

Coming to the producers is always a great way to find them. Consider using flyers and advertising at agriculture buildings, stockyards, and farm supply stores. The district could also advertise on radio and in the newspaper. Extension and producer meetings are a great way to reach the people who might be interested in establishing filter strips in their current operations.

Social media is another way to reach producers in you area. If your district doesn't already have a Facebook page, consider starting one. You can advertise your events and programs and can also use pictures and video to show how the district can help with a producer's problems.

More information online

All BMPs the Kentucky Ag Water Quality Authority has approved: <https://eec.ky.gov/Natural-Resources/Conservation/Pages/Best-Management-Practices.aspx>

Kentucky Cooperative Extension's Agriculture and Natural Resources publications: <https://anr.ca.uky.edu/anr-publications>

NRCS's Field Office Technical Guide: <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/>