AG. WATER QUALITY ACT

Photo courtesy of USDA ARS

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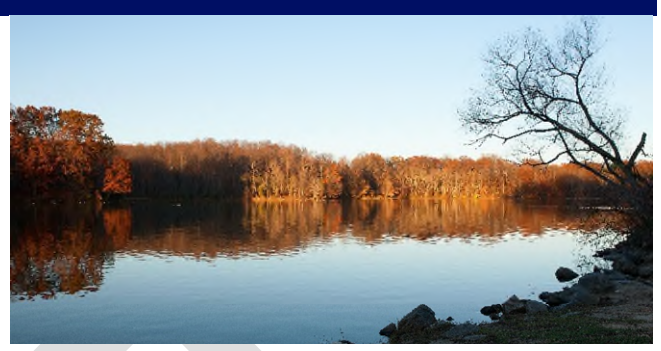

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	FUNDING ASSISTANCE	IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

CONSERVATION COVER

CROPS BMP #2

Switchgrass -Photo courtesy of Creative Commons

Description:
Establishment and maintenance of perennial vegetative cover (grass, legume, trees, shrubs) to protect soil and water resources on land retired from agricultural production.

AWQA Minimum Requirements:
Establish and maintain perennial vegetative cover to adequately protect soil and water resources.

Practice Maintenance:
Take soil tests and/or refer to University of Kentucky publication AGR-1 Lime and Nutrient Recommendations to determine the annual nutrient and lime application rates.
Grass and Legume Plantings:
Maintain in perennial vegetation. Mow to control weeds. During the seedling period, keep mowing height above the height of the grass or legume seedlings. If possible, mow after bird nesting seasons. Noxious weeds such as multi-flora rose, Johnson grass, and thistles may be controlled using herbicides.
Tree and Shrub Plantings:
Mow the herbaceous plants (grasses and broadleaves) whenever necessary to reduce competition with the trees and shrubs. Noxious weeds may be controlled by herbicide spot treatments at any time.

Technical References

University Publications
- University of Kentucky College of Agriculture Extension publications

USDA/NRCS Publications
- Practice Code 327 Conservation Cover

State Resources
- Kentucky Division of Forestry

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 (💧-💧💧💧💧): 💧

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

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