AG. WATER QUALITY ACT

Photo courtesy of USDA ARS

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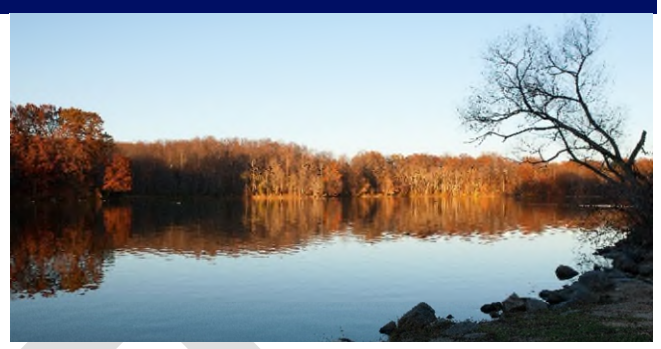

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE | **FUNDING ASSISTANCE** | **IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS**

FILTER STRIPS

LIVESTOCK BMP #13

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Description:
A strip of close growing dense vegetation for filtering sediment, nutrients, and pathogens.

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.

Recommendations:
Filter strips not only are good management practices, but also can provide additional forage for hay production when needed and properly managed. On the lower edge of row crop fields, especially those fields adjacent to intermittent or perennial streams, farm ponds, or lakes. Areas directly below an animal manure management system. A strip located between a timber harvesting operation and a stream, pond, or lake. Within a crop field as parallel strips between row crop strips. Leave existing natural vegetation along streams or lake 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. 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 of mowing, fertilization, and other farm equipment. For example, use 6, 12, 18 or 24-foot wide strips if equipment is 6 feet wide.

Technical References

University Publications
- ID-189 Enhanced Vegetative Filter Strips for Livestock Facilities

USDA/NRCS Publications
- Practice Code 393 Waste Storage Facility

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).