

Enhanced Filter Strip

Conservation Activity Job Sheet

(NJHabitat01)

Participant _____

Crop Year _____



Filter strips are areas of herbaceous vegetation situated between cropland, grazing land, forest land, or disturbed land and environmentally sensitive areas. Sensitive areas include streams, lakes, wetlands, and other water bodies and areas susceptible to damage by water-borne pollutants, including sediment, particulate organics, sediment-adsorbed contaminants, and dissolved contaminants.

Filter strips function by

- 1) reducing sediment, particulate organics, and sediment-adsorbed contaminant loadings in runoff;
- 2) reducing dissolved contaminant loadings in runoff;
- 3) serving as Zone 3 of a Riparian Forest Buffer;
- 4) reducing sediment, particulate organics, and sediment-adsorbed contaminant loadings in surface irrigation tail water;
- 5) restoring, creating, or enhancing herbaceous habitat for wildlife and beneficial insects; and
- 6) maintaining or enhancing watershed functions and values.

A filter strip is designated as a vegetated area to treat runoff and is not part of the adjacent cropland rotation; however it is considered part of the field for the purposes of calculating annual CSP payments.

A filter strip filters surface sheet flow at the down-slope edge of a field or disturbed area. Filter strips are normally only used when adjacent and up-gradient areas

have slopes gradients between 1 and 10 percent.

When establishing a filter strip, consider using vegetation that is tolerant to the herbicides used in the adjacent crop rotation.

Mow filter strips as necessary to encourage dense vegetative growth. Control undesirable weed species. Inspect and repair after storm events to fill in

gullies, remove flow-disrupting sediment accumulation, reseed disturbed areas, and take other measures to prevent concentrated flow into and across the filter strip.

Maintain original width and length of the filter strip. Lime and fertilize to soil test recommendations to maintain a vigorous stand. Exclude livestock and vehicular traffic from filter strips during wet periods of the year to reduce compaction that will limit infiltration. (This type of traffic should be excluded at all times to the extent practical.) Restoration is required if the filter strip has accumulated sediment to a point that it no longer functions effectively.



Filter strips can enhance wildlife habitat, depending on the vegetative species used and management practiced. Using native or adapted vegetative species can improve the wildlife values of a filter strip area as well as increase biodiversity. Avoid mowing during nesting periods.

Documentation of this activity includes the following:

Purpose (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce sediment, particulate organics, and sediment-adsorbed contaminant loadings in runoff	<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce sediment, particulate organics, and sediment-adsorbed contaminant loadings in surface irrigation tailwater
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce dissolved contaminant loadings in runoff	<input type="checkbox"/> Restore, create, or enhance herbaceous habitat for wildlife and beneficial insects
<input type="checkbox"/> Serve as Zone 3 of a Riparian Forest Buffer	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintain or enhance watershed functions and values

Location	Strip 1	Strip 2	Strip 3	Strip 4	Strip 5
Tract/Field #					
Strip width (feet)					
Strip length (feet)					
Area in strip (acres)					
Field slope (%)					

Annual Maintenance:

Soil Amendments and Fertilization	Strip 1	Strip 2	Strip 3	Strip 4	Strip 5
Lime per Soil Test (tons/acre)					
N Fertilizer per Soil Test – (lbs/acre)					
P ₂ O Fertilizer per Soil Test – (lbs/acre)					
K ₂ O Fertilizer per Soil					

Test – (lbs/acre)					
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For new filter strips:

<p>Planting Methods</p> <p><i>Prepare a firm seedbed. Apply lime and fertilizer as indicated by soil testing. Drill grass and legume seed _____ inches deep uniformly over area. Establish vegetation according to the specified seeding rate. If necessary, mulch newly seeded area with _____ tons per acre of mulch material. A small grain crop may be needed as a companion crop at the rate of _____ pounds per acre (clip or harvest before it heads out). Additional requirements:</i></p>

Plant Materials (species/cultivars)	Seeding Rate (lbs/acre of pure live seed)	Seeding Date
Strip 1:		
Strip 2:		
Strip 3:		
Strip 4:		
Strip 5:		

I certify that I completed the work as indicated above in order to establish and/or manage all necessary filter strips on my farm.

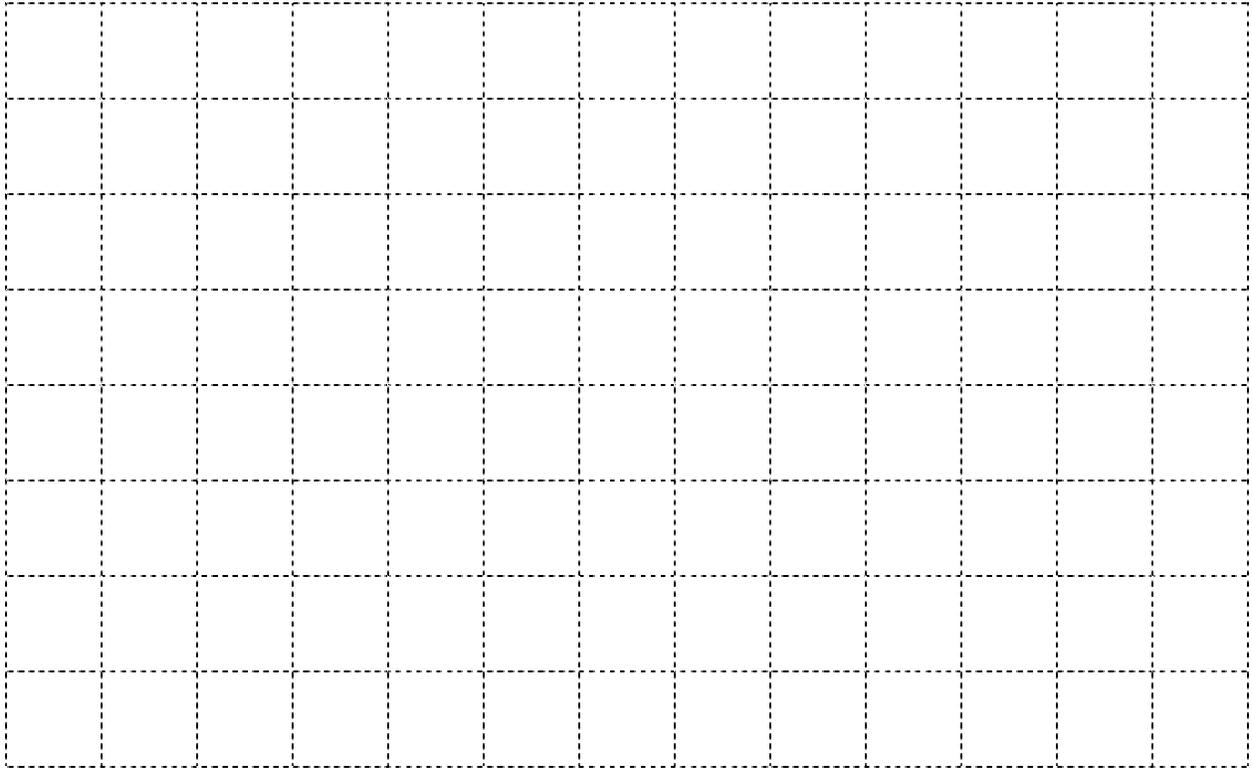
Signature

Date

Filter Strip – Job Sheet

If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

Scale 1"= _____ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")



Additional Specifications and Notes: