



**Tennessee Job Sheet
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
CP21 – Filter Strip**

Purpose

The purpose of this practice is to remove nutrients, sediment, organic matter, pesticides and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow to protect water quality while enhancing the ecosystem of the water body.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this practice the land must have a cropping history (4 out of 6 years from 1996 – 2001) and an existing water quality concern present that can be addressed with a Filter Strip.

CRP Filter Strips are only eligible on cropland that is adjacent and parallel to perennial or intermittent streams, lakes, ponds, sinkholes, or wetlands with surface water present during most years for more than 21 calendar days.

General Provisions

This practice is eligible in the Continuous CRP. Producers can enroll at any time landowner and land eligibility requirements are met. Length of contract is from 10 to 15 years as determined by the producer.

Payments include annual rental payment based on a soil rental rate, an annual incentive equal to 20% of the weighted soil rental rate, an annual maintenance payment, a one time signing incentive payment (SIP) of \$10 per acre per year in contract (not to exceed \$100 per acre), a one time practice incentive payment (PIP) equal to 40% of the total eligible cost of practice installation, and 50% cost share for installation of the practice.

Specifications

This practice will be installed according to the Filter Strip Standard (393) in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

CRP filter strips may be a minimum average width of 20 feet, up to a maximum average width of 120 feet. An average width of 120 may be exceeded if NRCS determines that the additional width is necessary to include a visible and active scour channel within the field. Filter strips start at the top of the streambank, or

water's edge of the eligible waterbody (not a stream). If the site already contains an area without crop history immediately adjacent to the eligible water and narrower than the maximum allowed width for a filter strip, up to the maximum width filter strip is eligible. The areas without crop history will be included in the calculation of maximum width and included in the CRP plan, but will not be eligible to receive payments.

An area equivalent to 25% of the eligible filter strip may be enrolled in addition to the filter strip within a field if FSA approves that the remaining field would be too small or isolated to crop and the eligible filter strip exceeds 50% of the field. This area receives no incentive payments.

ESTABLISHMENT REQUIREMENTS

1. Temporary cover may be required to provide erosion control outside of planting dates.
2. Cost-share will be based on a current soil test (within 24 months), which is required. Permanent native grass seedings do not require nitrogen fertilizer, or lime when soil pH is 5.5 or higher.
3. The no-till method of planting is recommended when applicable. If conventional tillage is used, a firm seedbed is recommended. It should be prepared by plowing and disking (or harrowing), then roll or cultipack, broadcast or drill seeds, then roll or cultipack again.
4. Follow the University of Tennessee recommendations for application of herbicides and pesticides.
5. A list of approved planting mixtures is available at the local USDA Service Center.

The established planting must be maintained by the participant for the duration of the contract. Normal maintenance may include mowing once every other year outside the primary nesting season (April 15-July 1), periodic liming and fertilizing, spot spraying of noxious or competing weeds or trees, controlling herbicide drift when spraying adjacent crops, or other treatments needed to maintain the stand.

The first 30 feet nearest the water of eligible cropland does not require mid-management treatment. The remaining filter strip area toward the crop edge will be required to perform a mid-management treatment, as determined by the participant, of strip disking, strip herbiciding, legume interseeding or prescribed burning at least once during the contract period.

Managed haying and grazing is not allowed for this practice.