

FILTER STRIP



A Filter strip (USDA NRCS CPS 393) is a one-time practice that involves establishing an area of herbaceous vegetation to serve as a buffer zone between agricultural fields and nearby water sources such as streams, lakes, wetlands, and other areas vulnerable to sedimentation or waterborne pollutants.

Part of California Farm Bureau's Healthy Soils Block Grant Program, learn more online at: cfbf.com/HSP

This practice aims to:

- Decrease the amount of suspended solids and associated pollutants in runoff, as well as the excessive sedimentation in surface waters.
- Reduce the levels of dissolved pollutants in runoff.
- Serve as a buffer zone.
- Restore or enhance herbaceous habitats for wildlife, beneficial insects, and pollinators.

Criteria:

- This practice cannot overlap with conservation cover and residue & tillage management practices.
- The maximum gradient along the leading edge of filter strip will not exceed one-half of the up-and-downhill slope percent, immediately upslope from the filter strip, up to a maximum of five percent.
- Exclude livestock and vehicular traffic from filter strips.
- Choose species that are well-suited to the local soil, ecological, and climate conditions, ensuring they align with the intended purpose and site conditions.
- Filter strip will be designed to have a 10 year life span.

Implementation Guidelines:

- Introduced perennial species: seeding rate at ≥ 60 pure live seeds per square feet.
- Native perennial species: seeding rate at 41-60 pure live seeds per square feet.
- Maintain plant growth.

Appendix A: Standard Payments

Convert Idle land near Orchard to permanent unfertilized grass or grass/legume cover:

- Introduced species \$371.66 per acre.
- Native species \$407.92 per acre.

Verification Requirements:

- 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established filter strip (>60% plant coverage).
- Receipts of seeds purchased.
- Plant species name and seeding rate.
- Good plant growth during the project term.