

Buffers: Common Sense Conservation

The Nebraska Buffer Strip Program

Funding is available through the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program. This program pays landowners for using filter strips (narrow strips of grass) or riparian forest buffer strips (strips containing trees and grass).

These strips are placed next to seasonal or permanent streams, wetlands and ponds. These practices provide protection between cropland and waterbodies by helping to stabilize the environment and filter agrichemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides.

Commitment to Land Stewardship

A visual demonstration of your commitment to land stewardship, filter strips are just one tool in the toolbox for reducing sediment and agrichemicals in field runoff.



Filter Strips and Pesticides

Filter strips have been shown to remove 30-60% of pesticides in field runoff, depending on site conditions (including width of filter strip, the pesticides used, field conservation practices present, runoff volume, etc).

Can remove up to

60%

or more of certain pathogens

Can remove up to

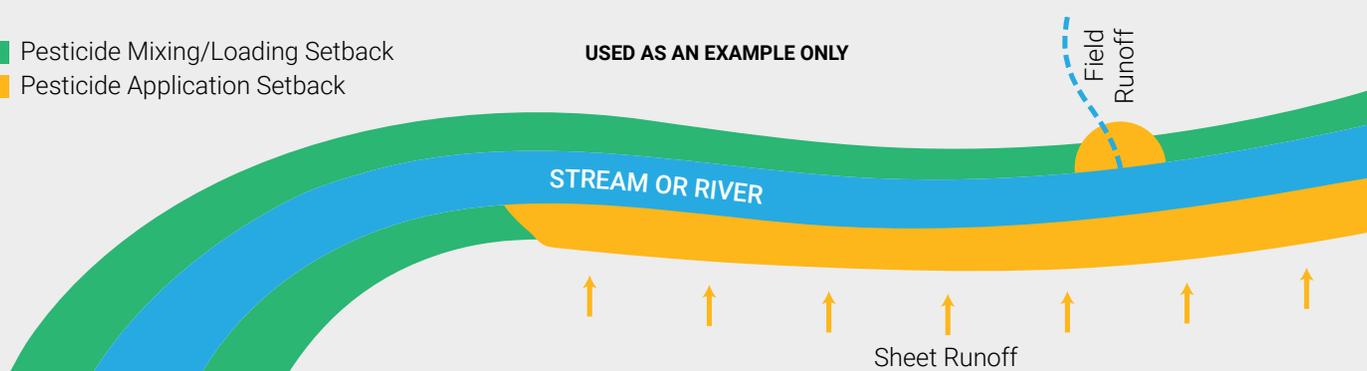
75%

or more of sediment

Many pesticide products (including herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, etc.) have a setback distance that is mandatory for certain water types, including seasonal or permanent streams and impoundments. Filter strips could serve as this setback.

- Pesticide Mixing/Loading Setback
- Pesticide Application Setback

USED AS AN EXAMPLE ONLY



Filter Strips, Farm Safety and Alternative Crops

- Filter strips could increase farm safety by not farming so close to a steep and/or unstable creek bank.
- Also, a filter strip or riparian forest buffer could be used to grow an alternative crop, supplementing farm income and increasing crop diversity. (Decorative woody floral stems and seeds, native plants for seed, nut trees, fruit-bearing shrubs/trees etc.)



Long-term:
Contracts run
5 to 10 years

Nebraska Buffer Strip Program payments vary from \$20 to \$250 per acre, depending on soil type, whether the acres are irrigated or not and whether payments are received from other programs. This program can be partnered with the USDA CRP for additional incentives.