



# Continuous CRP Sign-up Fact Sheet

March 2023

## CP21 Filter Strip

Filter strips are designed to remove sediment and other pollutants from runoff water before they are carried into water bodies or streams. Grass filter strips are typically planted between fields and water bodies (rivers, streams, lakes and drainage ditches) to protect water quality.

They slow runoff from agriculture fields, trapping and filtering sediment, nutrients, pesticides and other potential pollutants. However, in extensive agricultural areas, filter strips may serve as significant grassland habitat available for wildlife.

Filter strips are planted with stiff-stemmed sod forming grasses to filter out the pollutants and sediments. The addition of native wildflowers and legumes turns these areas into better wildlife habitat. Common grasses used in Nebraska filter strips include big bluestem, little bluestem, switchgrass, Indiangrass, and western wheatgrass.

In Nebraska, filter strips often represent the only uncultivated areas on farmland which provides critical habitat for many types of wildlife. Warm-season grasses commonly used for filter strip plantings are known to provide nesting, foraging, and winter habitat for northern bobwhite quail and ring-necked pheasants. Filter strips that include native grasses and additional wildflowers will provide greater wildlife habitat benefits.

Grass filter strips, planted under CP21, are required to be planted in range from 20 to 120 feet wide, depending on site characteristics and landowner goals. Periodic management of filter strip vegetation is desirable to ensure proper plant growth and structure. Prescribed burning may also be used when an approved burn plan has been developed.

*In Nebraska, filter strips often represent the only uncultivated areas on farmland providing critical habitat needs for birds, bees and butterflies.*



*A carefully designed filter strip can reduce erosion along stream banks such as this.*



*Vegetative filter strips can be planted in native grass, legumes and forbs to provide wildlife benefits while reducing runoff and erosion.*

### INTERESTING FACT

**Wider filter strips offer better wildlife habitat as in addition to water quality benefits. When possible, go wider.**



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*Good example of a filter strip along the edge of a natural riparian buffer. Photo courtesy of NRCS*



*Filter strips such as this can increase overall ecological diversity by improving habitat for a variety of animal species.*

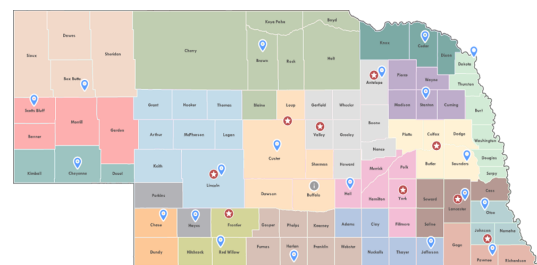


*The purpose of a filter strip is to protect streams and lakes from pollutants such as sediment, nutrients, and organic matter. Filter strips also significantly reduce soil erosion while providing benefits to wildlife.*

## What does a CP21 contract look like?

- Removes nutrients, sediment, organic matter, pesticides and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow to protect water quality.
- Provides significant wildlife habitat in intensively farmed areas.
- Acres must be cropland or considered planted to an agricultural commodity during four of six crop years. Years are determined by the current Farm Bill.
- Eligible acres may be signed up on a continuous basis and are not subject to competitive ranking nationwide.
- Does not have to be Highly Erodible Land (HEL) to be eligible.
- Filter Strips will be a minimum of 20 feet and a maximum of 120 feet (on average) from the edge of the eligible body of water.
- CRP Filter Strips are only eligible on cropland that is adjacent and parallel to streams, wetlands, and permanent bodies of water such as lakes/ponds.
- Annual payment is based on the county soil rental rate established for the three predominant soils.
- 10 - 15 year contract length.
- Standard 50% cost-share on establishment practices.
- Sign-up Incentive Payment (SIP) and/or practice incentive payments (PIP) may be available.
- No cost share for management is available, but is still required once in the lifetime of the contract.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION



*Through a partnership with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, wildlife biologists are available to help provide wildlife habitat guidance, technical assistance on the available conservation programs and design seeding mixtures.*

For further information visit [NebraskaPF.com](http://NebraskaPF.com)



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