

**FILTER STRIP
(CODE 393)****DESCRIPTION**

A strip or area of herbaceous vegetation situated between cropland, grazing land, or disturbed land (including forestland), and environmentally sensitive areas.

PURPOSE

To provide protection from erosion and to prevent pollution from nutrients, sediment, or agricultural chemicals from reaching the waters of the State from overland flow.

CONDITION

Apply this practice on cropland at the edge of fields or as part of other conservation practices where needed to solve an erosion problem or prevent sediment and other pollutants from reaching the waters of the State. The drainage area above the filter strip shall have a slope of 1% or greater.

POLICIES

1. The NRCS Standards and Specifications for Filter Strip (Code 393) shall be followed when applying this practice.
2. The leading edge of the filter strip shall be approximately on the contour. The maximum gradient along the leading edge of the filter strip shall not exceed one-half of the up-and-down hill slope percent, immediately upslope from the filter strip, up to a maximum of 5%.
3. The cost-effectiveness must be shown to be \$40/ton of soil saved or less to be eligible for MACS funding. If the cost-effectiveness of the proposed BMP exceeds \$40/ton of soil saved, use the variable rate formula to determine the maximum amount of cost-share funds the applicant could receive from all funding sources.
4. When used up slope of other BMPs to remove contaminants from moving into the practice area, the minimum width of the buffer shall be 20 feet, measured horizontally on a line perpendicular to the water body, beginning at the top of the bank or wetland edge. The minimum width may be wider than 20 feet to achieve the intended purpose.
5. Buffers shall be at least 35 feet wide if dissolved contaminants (e.g., nutrients, pesticides) in surface runoff or in shallow ground water are identified as a resource concern.
6. The filter strip shall be protected from uncontrolled livestock access.
7. The practice must significantly reduce erosion, and maintain or improve the quality of the receiving waters of the State.

8. Cost-sharing is authorized for the following measures:
 - a. Practices needed to stabilize a source of sediment including grading, shaping, filling, seeding, liming, fertilizing (to establish grass), tree or shrub planting, or similar measures which the SCD determines practical for the solution of the problem.
 - b. Measures performed on a public roadside only where such measures are essential to solve a farm-based pollution or conservation problem.
9. Cost-sharing is not authorized for the following measures:
 - a. Destruction of vegetation in order to plant trees, nor for tree planting if existing vegetation is providing adequate protection, nor for tree planting if the primary purpose for such planting is forestation or reforestation.
 - b. The purpose of establishing filter areas for removing sediment, organic matter, pollutants, and for utilizing nutrients from wastewater. Use the Wastewater Treatment Strip practice (Code 635) for this purpose.
 - c. Increased buffer widths beyond that required for removal of pollutants for the purpose of benefitting or enhancing wildlife or wildlife habitat.
10. Applicants are required to be in compliance with Maryland Nutrient Management Program requirements and regulations.
11. Site preparation and planting to establish vegetative cover shall be done at a time and in a manner to ensure survival and growth of the selected species. Supplemental moisture shall be applied if and when necessary to assure early survival and establishment of selected species. Site preparation is eligible for cost-share provided if it is an area of light infestation, i.e. less than 20% of the site is covered by Multiflora Rose or other invasive woody species. The maximum cost-share available for site preparation is \$600 per acre.
12. This practice must be properly maintained for a minimum of ten (10) years. The applicant agrees to provide all equipment, labor and materials needed to meet this requirement.

COST-SHARE RATE

The State cost-share payment will not exceed 87.5% of the total eligible cost, not to exceed \$35,000 per project.

USDA shares will be considered co-cost shares and entered accordingly on the Water Quality Project form and Claim for Payment.

ATTACHMENTS

Applicant(s) with an outstanding Unsatisfactory On-Farm Status Review of BMP Maintenance and Use of previous project(s) may be ineligible for further MACS Cost-Share funding. When a previous project expires with outstanding unsatisfactory status, the applicant is ineligible for any future MACS funding.

The following items are needed:

1. A copy of a recorded deed(s) for the parcel(s) where the BMP is located. If the current, appropriate deed is already on file in the MACS Office, then record both the agreement number of the file where the deed is kept and the liber/folio numbers in the General Comments section of the application.
2. A copy of the Real Property Data Search page from the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation's website (www.dat.state.md.us) indicating the Maryland Property View Account ID Number and owner information.
3. An aerial photograph indicating the property lines as well as all existing and proposed BMPs. For sediment control practices, indicate the drainage area and the direction of flow.
4. A plan view sketch graphically demonstrating the layout and details of the proposed BMP. The sketch should also distinguish buffer widths.
5. The Extended Buffer Worksheet, if applicable.