



**Buffer strips are a common sense approach to land conservation. Funds are available through the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program. Apply at your local NRCS or NRD office.**

### **What is 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.

Contracts run from 5 to 10 years. State 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. In addition, there are incidental haying and grazing allowances through the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program. This program can be partnered with the USDA CRP for additional incentives.

### **Where Do I Go for More Information?**

More information at [bit.ly/NDAbuffer](https://bit.ly/NDAbuffer). Or, call NDA at 402-471-2351.

## Eligible Areas

- Land eligible for enrollment in the program is cropland adjacent to perennial streams, seasonal streams, wetlands, permanent bodies of water or existing buffer strips established after January 1, 1996. The areas of streams, wetlands and permanent bodies of water are not eligible for enrollment, with one exception. Three-dot blue line seasonal streams on USGS quadrangle maps that are cropped may be eligible for out of channel flow filter strips. Fields adjacent and up gradient of the area to be buffered must be cropped (in annual crops or legumes as part of a rotation).
- Areas in expiring Nebraska Buffer Strip Program contracts are eligible for re-enrollment within six months of expiration date.
- Areas in expiring continuous or regular CRP contracts are eligible for enrollment, provided the eligibility criteria above and NRCS practice specifications are met.
- Areas in the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program, CRP or CREP contracts which were cancelled early must wait two years before they are eligible for the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program, provided eligibility criteria and NRCS practice specifications are met.

## Process

- The landowner works with the NRCS on tentative buffer strip locations and to complete the application.
- The completed application is submitted electronically to the NRD.
- The NRD and NDA consider the application.
- If approved, the landowner enters into a formal agreement with the NRD.
- The landowner establishes and maintains the buffer strip according to NRCS Field Office Technical Guide practice requirements.

