

# Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District

## Fact Sheet

### Filter Strip Program



A filter strip is an area of vegetation situated between a cropped area and a waterbody. Filter strips slow water flow causing sediment, nutrients, and chemicals to collect in the vegetation before entering the waterbody. The Dakota County SWCD provides incentive payments for the establishment of filter strips recently enrolled in the USDA Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP).

#### **Eligibility:**

- The landowner must enroll or re-enroll in the CCRP with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and meet all of their site location and crop history requirements.
- The CCRP allows the landowner to choose anywhere from 10 to 15 years for their contract length. The landowner must choose the maximum allowable CCRP contract length to be eligible for the IPP Filter Strip Program.
- Expiring contracts that are re-enrolling into CCRP are not eligible for the IPP Filter Strip Program.

#### **Payments:**

- The SWCD pays \$250 per acre per year, in combination with the CCRP, for up to 15 years, for the establishment filter strips.
- The entire IPP Filter Strip Program payment is made in one lump sum when the filter strip seeding has been completed and certified. The CCRP provides some cost-share reimbursement for the seed, planting, and maintenance of the filter strip. See CCRP guidelines for details.

#### **Example:**

- CCRP Payment = **\$100/acre/year for 15 years**
- Filter Strip Program Payment = **\$150/acre/year**
  - \$150/acre/year x 15 years = \$2,250/acre
  - Landowner would receive **\$2,250/acre** once the filter strip has been seeded and certified.

#### **Landowner Responsibilities:**

- The filter strip must be established, operated, and maintained according to NRCS Field Office Technical Guide Conservation Practice Standards.
- The landowner must control all noxious weeds within the filter strip.
- If the land is sold or transferred before the contract period expires, the new landowner must maintain the filter strip for the remaining contract period.
- If the filter strip is not maintained through the life of the contract the landowner must pay back all payments made by the SWCD in addition to any penalties that may be levied by the FSA.

#### **Process:**

Landowners interested in the Filter Strip Program should complete the following steps:

1. Contact the SWCD to determine preliminary eligibility, filter strip location, and CCRP payment.
2. Sign up for the CCRP at the FSA to determine final eligibility, filter location, and CCRP payment. Once the CCRP contract is finalized the FSA issues a CRP-1 form to the landowner that shows the final filter strip acres and CCRP payment rate.
3. Submit a copy of the CRP-1 form to the SWCD and sign the Filter Strip Program contract. The rental payment and acre amount listed on the CRP-1 form will be used to determine your Filter Strip Program payment.
4. The SWCD Board of Supervisors must approve your Filter Strip Program Contract.



### **DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center  
4100 220th Street West, Suite 102  
Farmington, MN 55024  
Phone: (651) 480-7777 Fax: (651) 480-7775  
Website: [www.dakotaswcd.org](http://www.dakotaswcd.org)

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