

CP29 – Marginal Pasture Wildlife Habitat Buffer - CRP/CREP

Producer: _____ Tract: _____

The CRP contract holder is responsible for maintaining the entire Wildlife Habitat Buffer area (see C below) in appropriate cover. The area of the wildlife habitat buffer under contract must be maintained in the planned cover according to Wisconsin Job Sheet 135. Any area of the wildlife habitat buffer not under contract must be maintained in permanent vegetative cover. Grazing or mowing with removal of vegetative material is not allowed.

During the first few years of wildlife habitat buffer establishment the vegetation may need to be mowed on a regular basis to allow the wildlife habitat buffer to function properly. After the third year, mowing is not allowed from May 15 through July 15 which is the primary nesting season. Wildlife habitat buffers should be inspected on a regular basis and repaired or reseeded as needed. Sediment accumulations may need to be removed. Regular vehicle traffic on the buffer is not allowed. Restoration of the wildlife habitat buffer will be required if so much sediment has accumulated that the wildlife habitat buffer is no longer an effective filter.

Land within 300 feet upgradient of the wildlife habitat buffer must be managed so that soil loss is at or below Tolerable Soil Loss (T) Levels. Soil loss at levels above T will damage a buffer with excessive sediment. Wildlife habitat buffers may not be installed unless soil loss is at or below T.

Eligible Water Sources. Place a check by qualifying water source.

	Perennial Stream		Permanent Water Body (Continuous CRP Only)
	Seasonal Stream		Permanent Water Body w/seasonal flow off the farm (CREP)
			Sinkhole (Continuous CRP Only)

Specify the reason that the site is not suitable for trees by checking appropriate box.

	Adjacent to fishery where trees are not desirable		Other: (Specify)
	Planning to pasture this area after expiration of CRP contract		Trees not compatible with existing native species

Maximum width for Continuous CRP is 120 feet. Maximum width for CREP is 150 feet.
Wildlife habitat buffer Width Calculations

	Field Numbers			
Calculated Minimum Width for Wildlife habitat buffer (see page 2):	Ft.	Ft.	Ft.	Ft.
A. Planned width for wildlife habitat buffer:	Ft.	Ft.	Ft.	Ft.
B. Length of channel or shoreline of eligible water source adjacent to eligible cropland:	Ft.	Ft.	Ft.	Ft.
C. Total Wildlife habitat buffer Area: (A) x (B) ÷ 43,560:	Ac.	Ac.	Ac.	Ac.
D. Area within the Wildlife habitat buffer Area (C) that is ineligible for payment: ¹	Ac.	Ac.	Ac.	Ac.
E. Total area eligible for payment (C) - (D):	Ac.	Ac.	Ac.	Ac.

¹ This may include areas between the top of the streambank and the wildlife habitat buffer, wooded areas, etc. In some cases you may be able to determine this by multiplying (B) by the average ineligible width along the channel or shoreline. In other cases, it may be best to measure this value from aerial photography

See attached drawing or aerial photograph that depicts wildlife habitat buffer area.

Grass and forb seed mixtures shall be designed and planted according to the Critical Area Planting Standard (342).

Native species from WI Agronomy Technical Note 5 must be used. Areas within the eligible wildlife habitat buffer area with an existing cover of native grasses, forbs, sedges or rushes can be accepted as part of the buffer, but may not comprise more than 49% of the area of the wildlife habitat buffer. At least 51% of the buffer area must be newly seeded to native grasses, forbs, sedges or rushes. **It is not feasible to install a wildlife habitat buffer in areas where reed canary grass is dominant.**

Minimum Width Calculations:

Rating Sheet for Determining Minimum Wildlife habitat buffer Width¹

Direct Contributing Factors		Factor Points
1. Hydrologic Soil Group	A	0
	B	10
	C	20
	D	20
2. Predominant slope within 100 feet of the low edge of the wildlife habitat buffer ¹	0-1%	0
	>1-3%	5
	>3-6%	15
	>6-12%	30
3. Predominant slope from 100-300 feet from the low edge of the wildlife habitat buffer ¹	0-1%	0
	>1-3%	5
	>3-6%	10
	>6-12%	15
	>12%	20

¹ Starting Point for measurement shall be as described in 393 Filter Strip Standard, V.B.1-5

Minimum Width Calculations (continued)

Total Point Range	Minimum Wildlife habitat buffer Width for Sediment Trapping	Minimum Wildlife habitat buffer Width for Dissolved N ² /Sediment
0-10	20 feet	70 feet
15-20	30 feet	70 feet
25-30	40 feet	70 feet
35	50 feet	80 feet
40	60 feet	80 feet
45	70 feet	90 feet
50	80 feet	100 feet
>50	100 feet	120 feet

² Where dissolved nitrogen is a concern, soil loss must be at T or less for the adjacent land for a distance of 300 ft and a nutrient plan must be in place.

Note: Minimum widths for other pollutants may be greater, and must be designed on a case-by-case basis.