

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

**Landowner** \_\_\_\_\_

**Definition**

Cross wind trap strips are areas of herbaceous cover resistant to wind erosion, established in one or more strips across fields and perpendicular to the prevailing wind erosion direction.



management within the field can help reduce the movement of wind-borne soil particles and allow a greater distance between trap strips. Cross wind ridges can help reduce the movement of soil particles by creating a rough soil surface that is resistant to erosion by wind.

Cross wind trap strips also can function as an important mitigation technique for other conservation practices, such as pest management. Plant species selected for effective trap strips can function as habitat for beneficial insects and birds, thus reducing pest problems in adjacent crops.

**Wildlife**

Cross wind trap strips provide excellent opportunities to improve wildlife habitat by creating travel lanes that connect important habitat areas or infield escape cover. For wildlife habitat benefits, select native or other adapted plant species that provide wildlife both food and cover.



**Purpose**

Cross wind trap strips reduce soil erosion by wind, induce deposition and reduce transport of wind-borne sediment and sediment-borne contaminants downwind, protect growing crops from damage by wind-borne soil particles, and provide food and cover for wildlife.

**Where used**

Cross wind trap strips are located on land where crops are grown. Trap strips are applicable wherever it is desirable to trap wind-borne sediment and where conservation objectives include wildlife food, cover, and travel corridors. Strips are located within cropland fields that are susceptible to wind erosion or wind erosion damage, including locations adjacent to watercourses, water bodies, drainage ditches, and other sensitive areas that need protection from wind-borne sediment.

**Resource Management System**

Cross wind trap strips are normally established concurrently with other practices as part of a resource management system for a conservation management unit. Examples include the residue management practices and cross wind ridges. Practicing residue

**Planning Considerations**

For CRP the minimum trap strip width is 15 feet. The maximum trap strip width is 25 feet. At least 2 strips that meet the size requirements will be used. No more than 10% of the field can be enrolled in CRP as cross wind trap strips. The selected perennial plant species will achieve and maintain an effective height of at least 12 inches. When the accumulated sediment exceeds 6 inches, it must be removed.

The maximum effectiveness is achieved when the strips are oriented as close to perpendicular as possible to the prevailing wind direction. To enhance wildlife plant species that will create a diverse, multiple level structure of vegetation within the strip.

**Seeding Dates**

South of I-94	April 1 – June 1 August 1 – Sept. 10
North of I-94	April 1 – June 15 July 15 – Sept. 1

## Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet. Additional provisions are illustrated on the job sketch sheet. Spacing of the erosion-susceptible strips is determined using the current NRCS wind erosion prediction technology. Specifications included in this job sheet are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. See practice standard Cross Wind Trap Strips (589C).

## Required Management Activities

To ensure continued stand vigor and health, wildlife benefits and plant diversity, management activities are required for this practice. Refer to "*Conservation Reserve Program Grassland Management*" for guidance on this requirement.

## Management Considerations

On fields with a high potential for erosion, additional efforts may be required to minimize erosion until permanent cover is established. Practices such as cover crops, contour planting, etc. should be considered in the planning process for inclusion into the plan.

Noxious and highly competitive weeds and invasive species must be controlled to allow establishment of the planting. Mechanical or chemical control methods used must be consistent with erosion control requirements and pesticide label requirements.

## Nutrients

For introduced grasses and legumes a soil test from the year of seeding or during the two preceding calendar years is required to determine the need for commercial fertilizer and liming requirements.

The rate of application for commercial fertilizer shall be 100% of the recommended rate per acre of each nutrient for a 2 ton yield goal for the special being established.

The recommended rate per acre of liming materials shall be used to raise pH to 6.5 for alfalfa or 6.0 for other legume species. Liming materials shall be applied and incorporated prior to seeding. Liming materials normally contain a sufficient amount of fines to permit application at seeding time and still obtain an adequate stand of legumes for the program.

## Use of Pesticides

Only those pesticides which are labeled for the specific use will be recommended. University and Extension publications and specific label instructions will be used for guidance on herbicide selection and use.

## Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Control annual weeds and other competition the year of establishment, with early and timely clipping before seed heads appear, or timely application of herbicides.
2. Prevent disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season for wildlife as established by FSA.
3. After the seeding is established control all noxious weeds as identified by state and local laws, by: a) treating with chemicals per label directions, or b) spot mow before seed heads form. When possible, delay use of control measures until after August 1st to protect nesting wildlife. Spot treatment on problem areas may be authorized by FSA during the primary nesting season.
4. Protect the acres from unauthorized haying and grazing year round. Fences may need to be constructed and maintained to exclude livestock throughout all 12 months of the year. Refer to the haying and grazing management plan for specifications.
5. Re-seed any areas that do not have adequate permanent cover. Fertilize as needed to maintain plant vigor.
6. Do not use the contract area for field borders, field roads or other uses that will damage or destroy the cover.
7. Do not use the field for disposal of livestock or organic waste unless that use is authorized in the additional specifications and remarks.
8. Grassland management actions are beneficial during the contract to remove duff build up, control invading trees, and improve plant vigor. Management actions will only be done according to an approved CRP grassland management plan.
9. Control rodent infestations that adversely affect the perennial ground cover.
10. Trap strips may need to be relocated periodically because of sediment accumulation. It may also be necessary to reestablish or relocate the trap strips periodically to maintain the desired plant density and height.
11. Wind-borne sediment accumulated in trap strips will be removed and vegetation reestablished as necessary to maintain adequate efficiency of the practice.

Landowner \_\_\_\_\_ Field  
 number \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce soil erosion by wind	<input type="checkbox"/> Protect growing crops from damage by wind-borne soil particles
<input type="checkbox"/> Induce deposition and reduce transport of sediment and contaminants	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide food and cover for wildlife

Individual Trap Strip Layout and Plant Materials Information	
Vegetation type: <input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Perennial	
Planned vegetation height (inches):	Trap strip width (feet):
Plant species:	
Seeding rate (pure live seed - lbs/ac):	
Seeding date:	Seeding depth (inches):
Additional requirements:	

Trap Strip System Layout	
Distance between trap strips (feet):	Total number of trap strips:
Total area in trap strips (acres):	Total amount of seed required (pure live seed - lbs):

Trap Strip Establishment
Site preparation and seeding:
Seedbed: <i>Firm and weed free.</i>
Fertilizer:
Mulching:
Other:

Operation and Maintenance
Pest management:
Other:

# Cross Wind Trap Strips – Job Sheet

If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

Scale 1"=\_\_\_\_\_ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")

Additional Specifications and Notes:


**The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-2791.**

**To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider.**