

# Nebraska Buffer Strip Program

- Funding available.
- Increased incentives.
- Haying & grazing provisions.
- Sign up NOW! First come, first served, until funds are gone!
- Contact your local NRCS or NRD office to begin the application process!

The Nebraska Buffer Strip Program was implemented in 1999 through fees assessed on pesticides registered in Nebraska. Cropland adjacent to perennial and seasonal streams, ponds, and wetlands can be enrolled in buffer strips, which are designed to filter agrichemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides. Two kinds of buffer strips are eligible - filter strips, which are narrow strips of grass; and riparian forest buffer strips containing trees and grass. The minimum widths are 20 and 55 feet, respectively; the maximum widths are 120 and 180 feet, respectively.

The program is designed to be used in conjunction with the **USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**, **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**, or other programs; however, it can be used by itself as well. Rental rates are calculated as follows:

- For irrigated cropland where CRP, CREP, or other governmentally funded programs are also used, rental rates are \$250 per acre, minus payments from the other programs.
- For irrigated cropland where CRP, CREP, or other governmentally funded programs are not used, the rental rate is \$225 per acre, minus any other program payments.
- For non-irrigated cropland enrolled in CRP, CREP, or other governmentally funded programs, the rental rate is equal to 20% of the average CRP soil rental rate.
- For non-irrigated cropland without CRP, CREP, or other governmentally funded programs, the rental rate per acre is equal to 120% of the average CRP soil rental rate, plus \$5 per acre, minus the payment rate from any other programs.
- In no case may payments from all programs exceed \$250 per acre.

Visit [bit.ly/NDAbuffer](http://bit.ly/NDAbuffer) for more information, including a summary of how funding is obligated and maps showing general buffer locations and county summaries.