USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

603 - Herbaceous Wind Barriers Implementation Requirements

Producer: _____ **Project or Contract:** _____

Location: _____ **County:** _____

Farm Name: _____ **Tract Number:** _____

Practice Location Map

(showing detailed aerial view of where practice is to be installed on farm/site, showing all major components, stationing, relative location to any landmarks, and survey benchmarks)

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Utility Safety / One-Call System Information

Description of work:

NRCS Review Only

Designed By: _____ **Date:** _____

Checked By: _____ **Date:** _____

Approved By: _____ **Date:** _____

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The Herbaceous Wind Barrier will address the following purpose(s):

☐ Reduce soil erosion from wind.

☐ Reduce soil particulate emissions to the air.

☐ Protect growing crops from damage by wind or wind-borne soil particles

☐ Enhance snow deposition to increase plant-available moisture.

Permanent Seed and/or Plant Requirements				
Seedbed Preparation:				
Note: To figure pure live seed (PLS) rates, multiply the percent purity by the percent germination. Divide the seeding rate by the percent PLS to find the bulk seed needed per acre. For example, 98% purity X 60% germination = 0.588% PLS 10 lbs/acre 0.588% PLS = 17 lbs/acre				
Seeding Time:				
Seed/Plant Species Mixture	**Total Lin. ft/acres**	**Lbs/Ac or Lbs/1000 sq ft PLS**		**Total lbs needed**
1.				
2.				
3.				
	Nitrogen (N) lbs/ac or lbs/1000 sq ft	**Phosphorus (P2O5) lbs/ac or lbs/1000 sq ft**		**Potash (K2O) lbs/ac or lbs/1000 sq ft**
Fertilizer Requirements				
Total Fertilizer Requirements				
Method of Seeding/Planting:				
Mulch Requirements (Type, Rate/Ac or Rate lbs/1000 sq ft) – if required				
Other Notes (e.g., Inoculants, irrigating, management, plant protection, etc.)				

Herbaceous Barrier Design				
Barrier Direction (e.g., N-S, NE/SW)	**Planned Barrier Height (feet)**	**Barrier Spacing within the Field (feet)**	**Planned Porosity %**	**Number of Rows within Barrier**

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Additional Layout Drawings (If needed)

Operation and Maintenance:

- ☐ Annual barriers shall be reestablished each year by planting at recommended dates, leaving rows standing and maintained throughout the critical period for which the barrier was designed.
- ☐ Gaps in perennial barriers shall be replanted as soon as practical to maintain barrier effectiveness.
- ☐ After establishment, perennial barriers shall be fertilized as needed. Weeds shall be controlled by cultivation, spot treatment when using chemicals, or other acceptable methods.
- ☐ Wind-borne sediment accumulated in barriers shall be removed and distributed over the surface of the field as needed.
- ☐ Barriers shall be reestablished or relocated as needed.

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☐ Barriers composed of perennial vegetation to also enhance wildlife habitat should not be mowed unless their height or width exceeds that required to achieve the barrier purpose, or they become competitive with the adjoining land use. When mowing of vegetation or prescribed burning is necessary, it should be done outside the primary nesting season for grass-nesting birds.

☐ Harvest of hay or seed from perennial barriers, grazing, burning, or mowing for weed control, shall be managed to allow regrowth to the planned height before periods when wind erosion, crop damage, or drifting snow are expected to occur. Annual barriers will be managed so barriers are of sufficient height and condition to meet their intended purpose.

☐ Other: _____