

Tried Buffers Yet?

Story Soil & Water Conservation District

The Story Soil and Water Conservation District would like to let you know of some great opportunities that are available to landowners in Story County. This is the continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The CRP has several different conservation practices that help slow water runoff, trap sediment and enhance wildlife habitat. Conservation buffers are a simple way to help you, the landowner, stay profitable and protect your land. Buffers are also a great way to demonstrate your commitment to conservation.

What is a Buffer?

Conservation buffers are strips or other areas of land in permanent vegetation that helps control pollutants and manage other environment concerns. Buffers can be especially helpful to you in maintaining a productive, profitable and responsible farming operation. These buffers can help you protect soil, air and water quality, and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

Economic Incentives for Buffers

Conservation Buffers work economically because they are generally less expensive to install than practices that require extensive engineering and costly construction methods. Buffers tend to be more economical to maintain than many other practices. There is no waiting period with the Continuous sign-up, your offer is automatically accepted if you meet the eligibility requirements. Cost share is 50% along with two incentive payments. These incentives include the sign-up incentive of \$100 to \$150 per acre for selected practices and the 40% incentive payment for practice installation. CRP rental rates are based on a soil's relative productivity.

Eligible Buffer Practices

Riparian Buffer	Filter Strips
Grassed Waterways	Shelterbelts
Contour Grass Strips	Field Windbreaks
Shallow Water Area for Wildlife	
Farmable Wetland Pilot Program	

Thanks to our local partners...

Pheasants Forever
Story County Board of Supervisors
Heart of Iowa Coop
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Here are some examples of the potential practices that may be eligible to landowners in Story County.

RIPARIAN BUFFERS

Planting of trees, shrubs and grasses that catch pollutants in both surface runoff and ground water before those pollutants reach the stream. Riparian buffers also improve fish and wildlife habitat. The maximum width for riparian buffers are 180' with a minimum of 35'. Native trees and grasses are planted for this practice. Contract length is 10-15 years.



FILTER STRIPS

Strips of grass used to trap sediment, fertilizers, pesticides and other pollutants before they reach streams and creeks. The maximum width for filter strips are 120' with a minimum width of 30'. A properly installed buffer can effectively trap 90% of sediment and nitrate moving from a farm field. Contract length is 10-15 years.



QUICK FACTS

- ✓ Average rental rate for Story County ranges from \$150 - \$190 per acre.
- ✓ Contract length can range from 10 - 15 years.
- ✓ Land does not have to be highly erodible.
- ✓ No bidding process.

SHALLOW WATER AREA FOR WILDLIFE

Areas of shallow water near or within crop fields that are protected by permanent trees, shrubs and grasses. These areas are vital to enhancing wildlife habitat. Contract length is 10 years.



FARMABLE WETLAND PILOT PROGRAM

This pilot program will allow landowners to enroll small wetland areas and adjacent buffers. These fields must have been cropped at least 3 of the past 10 years. The acres of the buffer must not exceed 3 times the wetland acres. Hydrology restoration is required for this practice. Contract length is 10 - 15 years.

For more information regarding buffers in Story County please contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service at (515) 382-2217.

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