

Sensitive Areas

Practices in sensitive areas assist in the protection of water quality through buffers that collect and filter out sediment, nutrients, herbicides and pesticides that could run off of farm fields. The exclusion of livestock from streams protects the streambank from soil degradation and keeps animal waste out of streams, which prevents high nutrient and E. coli content.



C650 Streambank Stabilization

Eligible Conservation Practices

C650 Streambank Stabilization practices use large stones or natural materials such as logs and root wads as mechanical protection of highly eroded stream banks. Stabilized banks are then planted with herbaceous vegetation and trees to provide further long-term stability. Streambank stabilization designs must be prepared by licensed professional engineers with significant streambank experience.

DSP-31 Sinkhole Improvement is used in karst areas that are particularly susceptible to groundwater contamination from many sources. This practice is aimed at reducing the potential of pollution from nonpoint sources and includes protected drains to allow infiltration of water into the subsurface.

BDSP-31 Buffer Sinkhole Improvement provides an incentive to be used for continuing protection of sinkholes that have been stabilized using the DSP-31 Sinkhole Improvement practice.

N351 Well Decommissioning helps to properly treat, fill and seal abandoned wells. This prevents entry of vermin, debris, fertilizer, pesticides or other foreign substances into the well or well bore hole. This cost-share practice provides a one-time incentive for each properly decommissioned well.

N380 Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment is used to reduce the impacts of wind erosion and improve irrigation efficiency in cropland by establishing trees and shrubs at the edges of crop fields to deflect the impact of wind.



DSP-31 Sinkhole Improvement: Vertical Drain

N386 Field Border is a cost-share practice used to establish a permanent grass buffer along the edges of crop fields to reduce soil loss and improve water quality by preventing excess sediment and nutrients from leaving fields.

N391 Riparian Forest Buffer is an incentive program to protect soil and shallow groundwater from contamination by sediments, chemicals, nutrients, pesticides or organic matter. It protects streambanks from erosion by planting woody species along the stream course and protecting the buffer area from traffic and grazing.

N393 Filter Strips are used to reduce or prevent pollution of water from agricultural nonpoint sources. The establishment of permanent grass filter strips below cropland, pasture or hayland prevents sediments, chemicals or manure from entering environmentally sensitive areas.

N574 Spring Development allows landowners to use springs as a water source for livestock while simultaneously protecting the spring from direct animal access. This prevents contamination of the water source and protects downstream water quality.



N574 Spring Development



WQ10 Stream Protection: High Tensile Electric Exclusion Fence

N725 Sinkhole Treatment is an incentive practice that protects shallow groundwater resources from pollutants by protecting groundwater inlets with buffers and exclusion areas to trap sediments, chemicals and organic matter.

WQ10 Stream Protection practices provide cost-share to exclude livestock from a stream and provide an alternative water source. This stops bank erosion caused by the livestock, keeps manure out of the stream and allows the stream corridor to naturally regenerate over time.