



Filter strips capture nutrients & sediment at edge of farm fields

Healthy soil and plentiful nutrients are key ingredients to productive farms and ranches. But when they move off farms and ranches, they can harm streams and rivers. Producers can take proactive steps to keep nutrients and soil in their proper places – on the land and out of waterways.

These strips can be stationed in environmentally sensitive areas on a farm or ranch, especially near ditches and other waterways.

The strips slow the speed of water flowing over fields following a rainstorm, allowing for the plants to capture sediment and nutrients.

High concentrations of nutrients in water, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, can be harmful to humans, animals and plants. When the runaway nutrients reach estuaries, they can lead to hypoxic zones, or oxygen-depleted waters.

With 88 percent of surface water falling on private land before it reaches our lakes, streams and underground aquifers, private landowners play an important role in decreasing the amount of nutrients in our waterways.

Because these strips slow the water, it increases infiltration into the ground, recharging aquifers. They also store carbon, which is important to improving air quality.

Filter strips not only help the environment, but they can help the producer, too. They provide habitat for wildlife and pollinators. It's always helpful to lure pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, to a farm because the more pollinators – the better the harvest.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps producers incorporate conservation practices like filter strips on their farms and ranches.

If you want more information on filter strips, stop by our local NRCS office, located at 607 9TH ST NE LONG PRAIRIE MN 56347 or call 320-732-6618.