

FIELD BORDER

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 386



FIELD BORDER

Field borders are strips of permanent vegetation established at the edge or around the perimeter of a field.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice can be used in at the edges of cropland fields, on recreation land, or other land uses where agronomic crops are grown. Field borders can:

- Connect grassed waterways, riparian forest buffers, and other vegetated areas and buffers for ease of maintenance, harvest, and/or wildlife use
- Establish a setback for other conservation practices
- Protect field edges used for equipment turning, loading and unloading, and travel lanes
- Control competition by woody vegetation from adjacent areas

Field borders are multi-purpose practices that will serve one or more of the following functions:

- Reduce wind and water erosion

- Protect soil and water quality
- Assist in management of harmful insect populations
- Provide wildlife food and cover
- Provide tree or shrub products
- Increase carbon storage in biomass and soils
- Improve air quality

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

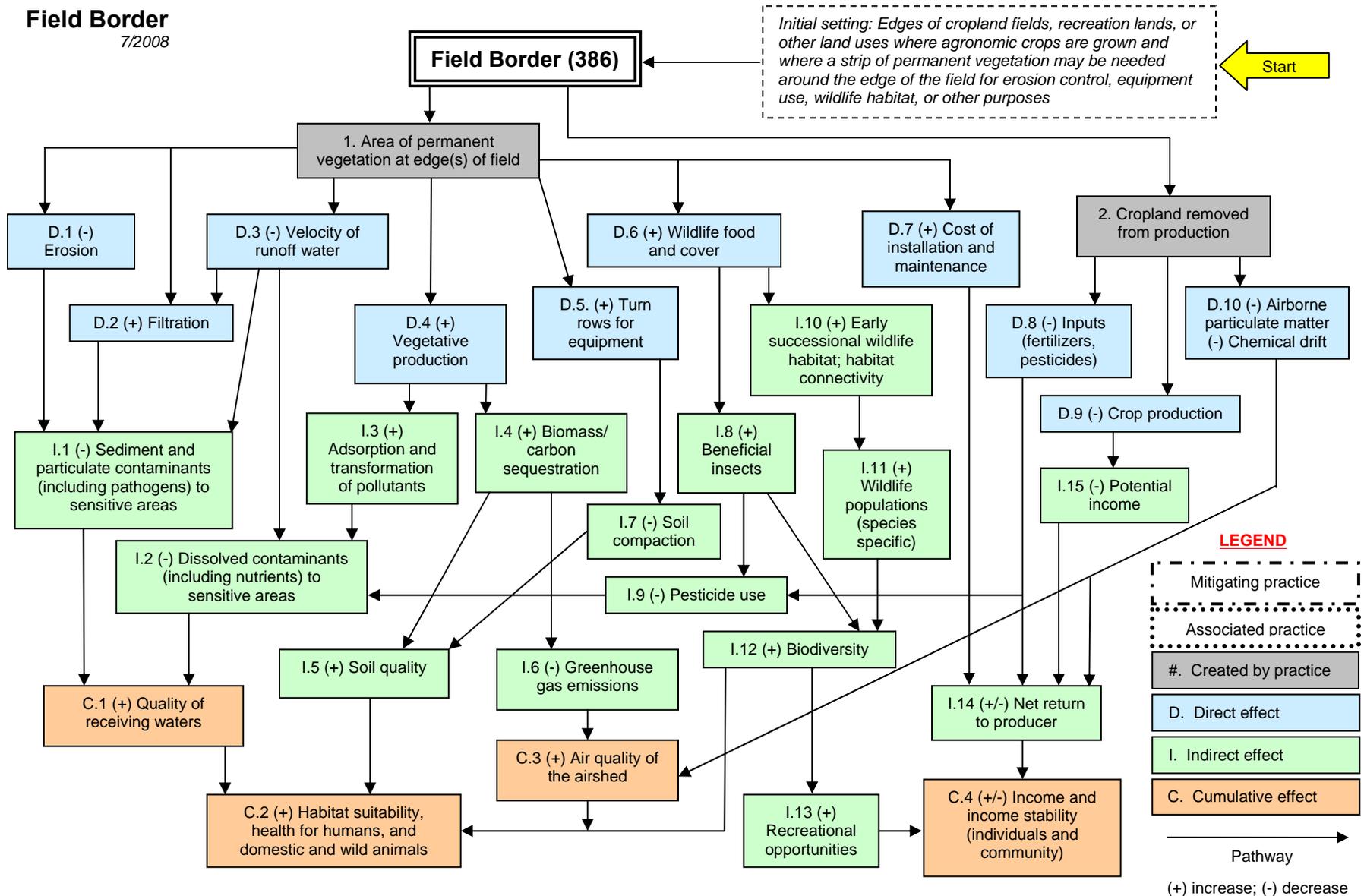
Field Border is often used in a Conservation Management System in conjunction with:

- Any form of tillage utilizing residue management
- Conservation Crop Rotations (328)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (647)
- Upland or Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (645, 644)

Refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated specifications and Job Sheets for further information.

The following page identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

Field Border
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Note: Effects are qualified with a plus (+) or minus (-). These symbols indicate only an increase (+) or a decrease (-) in the effect upon the resource, not whether the effect is beneficial or adverse.

The diagram above identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied according to NRCS practice standards and specifications. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. All income changes are partially dependent upon market fluctuations which are independent of the conservation practices. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.