

RIPARIAN BUFFER STRIPS



WHAT ARE BUFFER STRIPS?

Riparian buffers are vegetated boundaries composed of perennial grasses or woody plants that physically separate cropland from waterways.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Converting just **10% of crop-field to native perennial vegetation** will:

- Reduce erosion from fields by up to **95%**
- Reduce total phosphorous and nitrogen loss by up to **90%**

Buffer strips can assist producers to achieve a measure of **increased economic and environmental sustainability** in their operations.

WIDTH MATTERS

Depending on the width of the buffer, riparian buffers have sediment trapping capabilities of up to 100%.

<50 ft.

Less than desirable

50 ft.

Good

150 ft.

Exemplary

PRIMARY FUNCTIONS OF BUFFERS



Reduce the speed of water running off fields toward waterways.



Trap and filter sediment and chemicals carried by runoff.



Prevent pollution from reaching water resources.



Provide additional habitat for native flora and fauna & promote healthy aquatic life.

CURRENT AVAILABLE PROGRAMS

Landowners in South Dakota can **receive financial incentives** for implementing riparian buffers on their land through the following programs:

- Big Sioux River Watershed Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program by SD GF&P and USDA
- Riparian Area Management (RAM) and Seasonal Riparian Area Management (SRAM) by BSRP
- Riparian Buffer Initiative by SD DANR



Learn more at fbsr.org/river-restoration

The best way you can support our work for a cleaner Big Sioux River for everyone is to donate.

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