

## (386) Field Border

### FY 2017 Environmental Quality Incentives Program Requirement Sheet

A site- and species-specific wildlife habitat management plan is preferred for all EQIP applications. If no such plan has been approved by the NRCS area biologist or NRCS partner biologist, the conservation planners must follow this requirement sheet to address limiting habitat factors identified in the TN NRCS Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide (WHAG).

#### EQIP Field Border Practice Requirements:

- 1. Soil test required for all permanent herbaceous plants.** (University of Tennessee or any certified NAPTP Lab). Areas of contrasting soils, problem spots or portions of fields significantly different should be sampled separately, provided the area can be fertilized separately. Examples: bottomland and upland. See University of Tennessee publication PB 1061 ([UT PB1061](#)) for soil sampling information. **Only NWSG are authorized for payment.** If pH is 5.0 or higher apply no lime; if lower apply 2 tons per acre. Do not apply fertilizer at planting.
- 2.** Do not graze or hay field borders with domestic livestock for the life of the practice.
- 3.** Field Borders shall be a minimum of 20 feet and a maximum of 120 feet in width. Match widths with intended purposes in the standard.
- 4. Shrub Component** (Optional; from 0-100%). Shrub borders shall consist of multiple species (excluding multiple sumac species). A shrub component within a herbaceous border may consist of a monoculture planting (e.g. a plum thicket). Consideration should be given to have from 2.5% to 30% of a planned pollinator border in shrubs as block plantings (thickets) or in conjunction with a EQIP hedgerow practice. There is not a separate payment for the shrub component under 386 Field Border.
- 5. Natural Regeneration.** Natural regeneration is acceptable on B slopes (5% or less). It's acceptable on C slopes (slopes of 5-12 percent) only if some ground cover is present to minimize soil erosion and other off-site impacts. However, natural regeneration may be allowed on steeper slopes if RUSLE2 indicates soil erosion is not a resource concern. Natural regeneration shall be accomplished by use of 314 Herbaceous Weed Control or 315 Brush Management. Conservation practice 386 will not be included in the Contract, but shall be included in the Conservation Plan.
- 6.** Use herbicides in accordance with the label. Tame grasses are required to be chemically eradicated prior to establishment of the field border. Tame grasses include any prostrate or sod-forming grasses including such species as tall fescue and Bermudagrass. NRCS will not provide herbicide recommendations. Field Borders shall not be used as roads or equipment storage.
- 7.** Preference should be given to pollinator plantings, where feasible.
- 8. Forgone income payment rate shall be used only on cropland enrolled into this practice.**

Follow FY 2017 Approved Seeding Mixtures document for species selection, rates, and mixtures. NRCS area biologist or NRCS partner biologist may approve alternative species, rates, and mixtures.