

## **STRIP CROPPING CONTOUR (CODE 585), FIELD (CODE 586)**

### **DESCRIPTION**

Growing crops in a systematic arrangement of strips or bands across the general slope or on the contour to reduce erosion. Crops are arranged so that a strip of grass or close-growing crop is alternated with a strip of clean-tilled crop or fallow, or a strip of grass is alternated with a close-growing crop.

### **PURPOSE**

To establish a system to protect soil from wind or water erosion, and to prevent pollutants from nutrients, sediment, animal waste; or agricultural chemicals from reaching the waters of the State.

### **CONDITION**

This practice is to be applied to cropland subject to erosion or soil movement which would contribute pollutants to the waters of the State.

### **POLICIES**

1. The cost-effectiveness must be shown to be \$55/ton of soil saved or less to be eligible for MACS funding. If the cost-effectiveness of the proposed BMP exceeds \$55/ton of soil saved, use the variable rate formula to determine the maximum amount of cost-share funds the applicant could receive from all funding sources.
2. On acreage devoted to row crops, one of the following methods *must* be used:
  - a. The crop stubble or residue left on the land during the winter.
  - b. A winter cover crop established.
  - c. A conservation tillage practice utilized that leaves adequate residue on the soil surface.
3. Cost-sharing *is authorized* for:
  - a. The establishment of the systems.
  - b. Where necessary, the removal of such obstacles as fences, stone walls, or hedgerows.
4. Cost-sharing *is not authorized* for repeating any approved measure under this practice with the same person on the same acreage.
5. For contour strip-cropping systems, agricultural operations must be performed as nearly as practicable on the contour.

6. NRCS Standards and Specifications for Strip-cropping/Contour (Code 585) and Strip-cropping /Field (Code 586) shall be followed when applying this practice.
7. This practice must be properly maintained for a minimum of five (5) years. The applicant agrees to provide all equipment, labor, and materials needed to meet this requirement.
8. The applicant and the farm's Nutrient Management Plan must be in compliance with Maryland's Nutrient Management regulations (COMAR 15.20.08) at the time of Application. Applications will not be approved without the submission of a Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form (SECTION III, # 30) with the Application.

### **COST-SHARE RATE**

The state cost-share payment, alone or when combined with any other cost-share program, shall not exceed 87.5% of the total eligible cost, not to exceed \$150,000 per project.

## ATTACHMENTS

***Applicant(s) with an outstanding Unsatisfactory On-Farm Status Review of BMP Maintenance and Use of previous project(s) may be ineligible for MACS Cost-Share funding. When a previous project expires with outstanding unsatisfactory status, the applicant is ineligible for any future MACS funding.***

*The following items are needed:*

1. A copy of a recorded deed(s) for the parcel(s) where the BMP is located. If the current, appropriate deed is already on file in the MACS Office, then record both the agreement number of the file where the deed is kept and the liber/folio numbers in the General Comments section of the application.
2. A copy of the Real Property Data Search page from the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation's website ([www.dat.maryland.gov](http://www.dat.maryland.gov)) indicating the Maryland Property View Account ID Number and owner information.
3. An aerial photograph indicating the property lines as well as all existing and proposed BMPs. For sediment control practices, indicate the drainage area and the direction of flow.
4. A plan view sketch of the area indicating the location of the proposed BMP and graphically demonstrating the layout and details of the project.
5. Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form shall be submitted with the Application (SECTION III, #30).