

Protect your Land and the Environment

Implement field borders... to protect your fields, reduce erosion on your land, and create safer roadways



Lincoln County Conservation District

What is a field border?

A permanent strip of vegetation around the perimeter of a field, typically comprised of native grasses, trees, or shrubs.

Landowners implement field borders for many reasons, they vary in purpose, but provide many great benefits. Some landowners create field borders, to not only keep soil on their property but also protect their land from neighboring fields. When wind and equipment cross from one field to another noxious weeds can be transferred as well. Read on to hear more of the benefits of field borders.

Benefits of field borders

Field borders provide many different benefits; not only for the landowner, but also for the public.

To the landowner, field borders can reduce loss of soil along roads. It is important to keep soil in the field, it's essential for crops to grow! It also helps protect landowner fields from weeds that are easily transferred, either from neighboring fields or vehicles that could possess weeds and potentially cause establishment.

To the public, field borders create cleaner, safer, and better structured roads. As large equipment travels along roadways, the structure edges between the road and fields can break down. Implementing an established field border will help keep the road structure.

Field borders can also lessen soil drifting across roadways. This barrier between fields and roads, can help catch the drifting soil during large wind storms. Keeping roadways safer for the public to drive on.

Local producer explains why field borders are part of his operation

Some farmers implement field borders only to help prevent erosion, others want to specifically protect their land. Along busy roadways, local producer Hal Johnson wanted to protect his own land by keeping trash and garbage from the highway out of his field, as well as protect from easily transferred weeds. Those are not the only reasons why Johnson implements field borders, he also cares about the public driving alongside his fields. His field borders help prevent snow drifting along the roadways during the winter, as well as act as a barrier from dirt blowing during windy days. "I'm trying to put my best foot forward to the public" explains Johnson. Johnson is not only looking out for his property, but also the safety of the public.

"I'm trying to put my best foot forward to the public"
- Hal Johnson

Why establish a field border?

Soil is a valuable resource to agriculture producers, but it can also be easily erodible. How could your farm benefit from field borders?

- Reduce erosion caused by wind and water
- Protect water and soil quality
- Manage pest populations
- Provide wildlife food and a pollinator habitat
- Increase carbon storage
- Improve air quality
- Benefit local department agencies



Before: Freshly seeded field border grasses.



After: One year after seeding the grasses.

Get more information about field borders

The Lincoln County, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency can give you more information about their programs and specifications on implementing field borders. Through their programs, your farm can benefit financially and environmentally.

Lincoln County Public Works explains why they approve of field borders

Having a barrier between roadways and crop fields can protect the structure of the roadsides, ditches, and keep roads cleaner and safer for driving. It creates better stability between the roadsides and crop fields. Lincoln County Public Works hopes to "work with landowners to keep water drainages up to par", explains Phill Nollmeyer of Lincoln County Public Works. "Let's work together to improve road structures" - Phil Nollmeyer - Lincoln County Public Works

Improving road structures will greatly improve public safety when traveling. Before creating a field border, contact the District to ensure drainages are standard.

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