

**Near -Stream Cropland**

The State of Pennsylvania requires implementation of BMPs to minimize erosion on crop fields within 100 feet of a river, or perennial or intermittent stream. The concern is that the soil erosion from these fields has a greater potential to enter the streams. These fields are required to have 25% plant cover or crop residue cover throughout the year or to implement additional BMPs to reduce accelerated erosion.

The following BMPs (when implemented) are acceptable alternatives to meet near-stream requirements when cover is <25%.

**1. Modify the crop rotation** to exclude the low cover situation in the field near the stream. The near-stream field may be planted to permanent sod forming crops such as grass hay, or when silage is in the rotation, substitute corn grain for silage in the near-stream field.



**2. Buffers** may be used alone or as part of a system in these field locations. The buffer is primarily sheet flow with no converging rills or gullies visible.

- A 35-foot Permanent Vegetated Buffer and NRCS conservation practice standards for Filter Strip (393)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)



**3. Continuous Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till** (329) must be practiced continuously for seven or more uninterrupted years.

**4. Harvest corn silage** to leave 20 or more inches of standing stalk, then flatten remaining stalks by rolling the field stubble.

**5. Cover Crop** (340) should be planted as soon as practically possible, ideally within several days of summer crop harvest. The interval between summer crop harvest and cover crop planting should never exceed 10 days. Select species from Table 1 of the 340 standard meeting the purpose Erosion Control and Surface Water Protection.

Field	Planned Practice	Planned Amount (acres)	Month & Year	Installed Amount (acres)	Date