WINTER WEBINAR SERIES

PRAIRIE STRIPS:

A NEW CONSERVATION PRACTICE FOR FARMERS AND CROP CONSULTANTS

Prairie strips are taking root as a new agricultural conservation practice across the Midwest. These strips of native perennial vegetation, generally 30 feet or more in width, are placed along the contour within a farm field or at the field edge to retain rainfall and capture soil and nutrient runoff.

For farmers and crop advisors reviewing yield data this winter, a seeding of native perennial grasses and forbs can provide stable cover for underperforming crop acres along field borders or trouble spots. Portions of fields can now be enrolled in the new Prairie Strips CP-43 practice under the Conservation Reserve Program.

During this three-part webinar series, experienced advisors will discuss strategies for layout, site preparation, seeding, and management of prairie strips to maintain efficient field operations and maximize farm profitability.

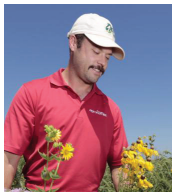
Visit www.sandcountyfoundation.org/prairiestrips to register.

Continuing Education Units for Certified Crop Advisors are available.

Tuesday, February 8, 8-9 AM

Siting Prairie Strips to Improve Water Quality and Farm Profitability

CEUs: Soil & Water Management: 0.5 and Crop Management: 0.5



Tim Youngquist, STRIPS Farmer Liaison and Agricultural Specialist, Iowa State University

Tim grew up on a century farm near Kiron, Iowa. He has led work crews, students, and volunteer groups in ecological restoration activities throughout Iowa and beyond. Tim leads on-farm implementation of prairie strips for Iowa State University's Science-based Trials of Rowcrops Integrated with Prairie Strips (STRIPS) program.

Tim will give an overview of soil and nutrient loss reductions measured from the STRIPS research trails. He will then demonstrate a process of designing a prairie strip plan using topographical and soil maps in accordance with the farmer's goals and machinery limitations.

Scott Stipetich, Precision Ag & Conservation Specialist, Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever

Scott grew up on a dairy farm in northern Wisconsin. He has worked for both state and federal conservation organizations prior to joining Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever in 2014. As Wisconsin's Precision Ag & Conservation Specialist, Scott works with farmers, crop advisors, and conservation partners to advance conservation through on-farm technology.

Scott will introduce the concept of precision conservation and give an example of how a Wisconsin farm identified field areas with negative return on investment and replaced those acres with prairie buffers.

Tuesday, February 15, 8-9 AM

Establishing and Managing Prairie Strips

CEU: Soil & Water Management: 1

Greg Olson, Field Projects Director, Sand County Foundation

Greg oversees field activities for water quality and nutrient management on farms in southeastern Wisconsin. Greg has worked in wetland, prairie, and forest restoration and research with Ducks Unlimited, the Nature Conservancy, the NRCS, and the U.S. Geological Service.

Dallas Glazik, Farm Bill Biologist, Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever

Dallas grew up on a grain and cattle farm in east central Illinois and received a degree in Restoration Ecology from the University of Illinois. His work in precision agriculture and conservation has allowed him to incorporate profitable habitat on his farm and many others across Illinois.

Greg and Dallas will discuss their process in working with farmers to determine a layout, select a seed mix, and install and manage strips of prairie vegetation for erosion control on the farm.

Tuesday, February 22, 8-9 AM

Benefits of Prairie Strips for Beneficial Insects – Pollinators, Honeybees, and Natural Predators

CEU: Integrated Pest Management: 1

Dr. Matt O'Neal, Professor of Entomology, Iowa State University

Matt oversees research related to the management of insect pests of annual crops, with a focus on soybean aphids in Iowa and throughout the Midwest. More recently, his lab is exploring how conservation methods may improve the abundance and diversity of beneficial insects that contribute to insect pest management and crop pollination.

Matt will discuss the impact prairie strips have on beneficial insects. He will describe these insects, when they appear and how they can help crop production. He will also review a recently published study revealing the occurrence of neonicotinoids in prairie strips and their possible impact on insects, specifically pollinators.

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