Riparian and Land Management

Land Management and Riparian Zones

Riparian—wetland spaces adjacent to rivers and streams.

Many land management practices increase efficiency, benefit crop production and help to protect riparian zones.

- Establishment of riparian buffers
- No-drive or vegetative filter strips
- Pollinator habitat and flower strips
- In-row cover crops

Setting up and maintaining buffer zones

- Riparian buffer zones are areas of trees and shrubs located adjacent to streams, ponds, and wetlands
- Vegetative buffers act as bio filters, they absorb nutrient and chemical run-off
- Cost share programs may be available to help with vegetative buffer installation

WCD works with landowners on a voluntary, no fee basis. WCD is a non-regulatory sub-unit of state government funded by grants.
Land Management Practices

Pollinator and Beneficial Insect Habitats

- Native pollinators can increase fruit set and reduce commercial pollinator demands
- Habitat strips may improve native pollinator populations
- Habitat strips may increase populations of predatory insects

Cover and In-Row Crops

- Cover crops are planted to manage soil erosion, soil fertility, soil quality, water, weeds, pests and diseases.
- They can be installed both as a pre-plant cover crop or as a permanent alleyway cover.

Cover crops offer:

- Decreased soil compaction
- Increased water infiltration
- Reduced run-off and erosion
- Equipment traction