



Watershed Academy
Iowa State University
Extension & Outreach
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Wallace Learning Center
Lewis, IA

Prairie Strip Design Aid

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Field Data Collection Worksheet

Reviewed by:

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The purpose of this worksheet is to enable data collection in a field visit for a prairie strips system design.

Step 1: While completing this worksheet, observe any species of wildlife you encounter while in or adjacent the prairie strips. Record those species here:

Step 2: Establish the boundaries of the area being treated by the prairie strips. Use an aerial map and measuring wheel to determine the area. _____ Acres

Are the field area acres calculated different from acres shown on the map?

Check One: _____ Yes _____ No

Step 3: Calculate the area of the field in prairie strips: _____ Acres

Are the prairie strip acres calculated different from acres shown on the map?

Check One: _____ Yes _____ No

Step 4: Observe the interface of the waterway and the prairie strip. Are the prairie species planted through the waterway?

Check One: _____ Yes _____ No

Step 5: Will the prairie strip support the function of the waterway?

Check One: _____ Yes _____ No

Step 6: Calculate the distance between the prairie strips: _____ feet

Step 7: Locate and mark the location of the h-flume on the map

Is the h-flume cited in the lowest point of the watershed and in an area of concentrated flow?

Check One: _____ Yes _____ No

Step 8: Observe the vegetation in the prairie strips.

Record the names of two species of native forbs and two species of native grasses:

Forbs: _____

Grasses: _____

Step 9: Observe the vegetation in the prairie strips.

Record the names of two species of weedy forbs and two species of weedy grasses:

Forbs: _____

Grasses: _____

Step 10: Observe the vegetation in the first three rows of crop adjacent the prairie strip

Are there prairie species that are moving into the cropped area?

Check One: _____ Yes _____ No

Are there weedy species that are moving into the cropped area?

Check One: _____ Yes _____ No

Step 11: Assess the suitability of the prairie strips for livestock grazing

Are there species of legumes or other broadleaf species that you observe that would be poisonous to livestock?

Check One: _____ Yes _____ No

Step 12: What are two pros and two cons associated with grazing native prairie?

Pros: _____

Cons: _____

Step 13: In what ways, if any, can prairie strips be used to generate additional farm income?

Check all that apply:

Hay/Bedding: _____ Yes _____ No

Honey: _____ Yes _____ No

Hunting: _____ Yes _____ No

Prairie Seed Harvest: _____ Yes _____ No

Other: _____