

CONTOUR STRIP CROPPING

Crops are arranged so that a strip of meadow or small grain is alternated with a strip or row crop. Not more than half a field can be planted to row crops. Meadow slows runoff, increasing infiltration, traps sediment and provides surface cover. Ridges formed by contoured rows slow water flow which reduces erosion. Rotating the strips from corn to legumes allows nutrient-needy crops to benefit from the nitrogen added to the soil by legumes.



This practice combines the beneficial effects of contouring and crop rotation.