

STANDARD AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR STRAW BALE DIKE



Definition

A temporary barrier of straw, or similar material, used to intercept sediment laden runoff from small drainage areas of disturbed soil.

Purpose

The purpose of a bale dike is to reduce runoff velocity and effect deposition of the transported sediment load. Straw bale dikes have an estimated design life of three (3) months.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

The straw bale dike is used where:

1. No other practice is feasible.

2. There is no concentration of water in a channel or other drainage way above the barrier.
3. Erosion would occur in the form of sheet erosion.
4. Length of slope above the straw bale dike does not exceed these limits.

Constructed Slope	Percent Slope	Slope Length (ft.)
2:1	50	25
3:1	33	50
4:1	25	75

Where slope gradient changes through the drainage area, steepness refers to the steepest slope section contributing to the straw bale dike.

The practice may also be used for a single family lot if the slope is less than 15 percent. The contributing drainage areas in this instance shall be less than one quarter of an acre per 100 feet of fence and the length of slope above the dike shall be less than 200 feet.

Design Criteria

The above table is adequate, in general, for a one-inch rainfall event. Larger storms could cause failure of this practice. Use of this practice in sensitive areas for longer than one month should be specifically designed to store expected runoff. All bales shall be placed on the contour with cut edge of bale adhering to the ground. See Figure 5A.7 on page 5A.18 or details.

**Figure 5A.7
Straw Bale Dike**

