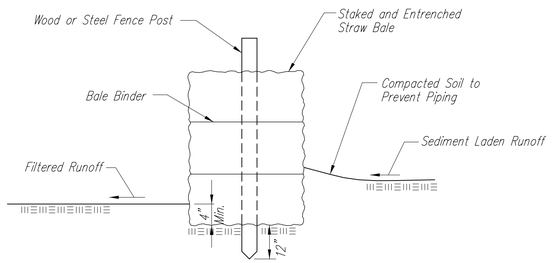


STRAW BALE BARRIERS

Material Specification:

Bale slope barriers may be constructed of wheat straw, oat straw, prairie hay, or bromegrass hay that is free of weeds declared noxious by the Kansas State Board of Agriculture.
The stakes used to anchor the bales should be a hardwood material with the following minimum dimensions: 2" square (nominal) by 4' long.
Twine should be used to bind bales. The use of wire binding is prohibited because it does not biodegrade readily.

Placement:

A slope barrier should be used at the toe of a slope when a ditch does not exist. The slope barrier should be placed on nearly level ground 5' to 10' away from the toe of a slope. The barrier is placed away from the toe of the slope to provide adequate storage for settling out sediment.
When practicable, bale slope barriers should be placed along contours to avoid a concentration of flow.
Bale slope barriers can also be placed along right-of-way fence lines to keep sediment from crossing onto adjacent property. When placed in this manner, the slope barrier will not likely follow contours.

Proper installation method:

Excavate a trench the length of the planned slope barrier that is 4" deep and a bale's width wide. Make sure that the trench is excavated along a single contour. When practicable, slope barriers should be placed along contours to avoid a concentration of flow. Place the soil on the upslope side of the trench for later use.
Place the bales in the trench, making sure that they are butted tightly. Two stakes should be driven through each bale along the centerline of the ditch check, approximately 6" to 8" in from the bale ends. Stakes should be driven at least 12" into the ground.
Once all the bales have been installed and anchored, place the excavated soil against the upslope side of the check and compact it. The compacted soil should be no more than 3" to 4" deep.

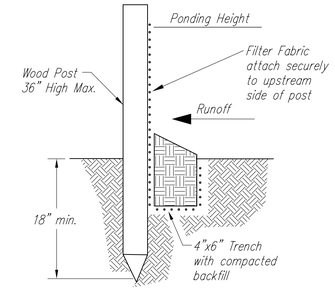
List of common placement/installation mistakes to avoid:

When practical, do not place bale slope barriers across contours. Slope barriers should be placed along contours to avoid a concentration of flow. Concentrated flow over a slope barrier creates a scour hole on the downslope side of the barrier. The scour hole eventually undermines the bales and the barrier fails.
Do not place bale slope barriers in areas with shallow soils underlain by rock. If the barrier is not anchored sufficiently, it will wash out.
Bale slope barriers must be dug into the ground. Bales at ground level do not work because they allow water to flow under the barrier.

Inspection and Maintenance:

Bale slope barriers should be inspected every 7 days and within 24 hours of a rainfall of 1/2" or more. The following is a list of questions that should be addressed during each inspection:

Are there any points along the slope barrier where water is concentrating?
Does water flow under the slope barrier?
Does water flow through spaces between abutting bales?
Are any bales dislodged?
Are bales decomposing due to age and/or water damage?
Does sediment need to be removed from behind the slope barrier?



SILT FENCE BARRIERS

Material Specification:

Silt fence fabric should conform to the AASHTO M288 96 silt fence specification.
The posts used to support the silt fence fabric should be a hardwood material with the following minimum dimensions: 2" square (nominal) by 4' long.
Silt fence fabric should be attached to the wooden posts with staples, wire, zip ties, or nails.

Placement:

A slope barrier should be used at the toe of a slope when a ditch does not exist. The slope barrier should be placed on nearly level ground 5' to 10' away from the toe of a slope. The barrier is placed away from the toe of the slope to provide adequate storage for settling out sediment.
When practicable, silt fence slope barriers should be placed along contours to avoid a concentration of flow.
Silt fence slope barriers can also be placed along right-of-way fence lines to keep sediment from crossing onto adjacent property. When placed in this manner, the slope barrier will not likely follow contours.

Proper installation method:

Excavate a trench the length of the planned slope barrier that is 6" deep by 4" wide.
Make sure that the trench is excavated along a single contour. When practicable, slope barriers should be placed along contours to avoid a concentration of flow. Place the soil on the upslope side of the trench for later use.
Roll out a continuous length of silt fence fabric on the downslope side of the trench.
Place the edge of the fabric in the trench starting at the top upslope edge. Line all three sides of the trench with the fabric. Backfill over the fabric in the trench with the excavated soil and compact. After filling the trench, approximately 24" to 36" of silt-fence fabric should remain exposed.
Lay the exposed silt fence upslope of the trench to clear an area for driving in the posts.
Just downslope of the trench, drive posts into the ground to a depth of at least 18".
Place posts no more than 4' apart.
Attach the silt fence to the anchored post with staples, wire, zip ties, or nails.

List of common placement/installation mistakes to avoid:

When practicable, do not place silt fence slope barriers across contours. Slope barriers should be placed along contours to avoid a concentration of flow. When the flow concentrates, it overtops the barrier and the silt fence slope barrier quickly deteriorates.
Do not place silt-fence posts on the upslope side of the silt fence fabric. In this configuration, the force of the water is not restricted by the posts, but only by the staples (wire, zip ties, nails, etc.). The silt fence will rip and fail.
Do not place silt fence slope barriers in areas with shallow soils underlain by rock. If the barrier is not sufficiently anchored, it will wash out.
Silt fence slope barriers must be dug into the ground-silt fence at ground level does not work because water will flow underneath.

Inspection and Maintenance:

Silt fence slope barriers should be inspected every 7 days and within 24 hours of a rainfall of 1/2" or more. The following is a list of questions that should be addressed during each inspection:

Are there any points along the slope barrier where water is concentrating?
Does water flow under the slope barrier?
Do the silt fences sag excessively?
Has the silt fence torn or become detached from the posts?
Does sediment need to be removed from behind the slope barrier?

No.	Date	By	Approved	Revision

KANSAS GASTROENTEROLOGY
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CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS
JAMES L. ARMOUR, P.E. - CITY ENGINEER
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POE & ASSOCIATES, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
5940 E. Central, Suite 200 □ Wichita, KS
67208-4242
Phone 316/685-4114 □ FAX 316/685-4444

FINAL

Engineer: S. SERVIS
Designer: S. SERVIS
Drawing: P:\1109P\Kansas Gastro\dwg\swspians-rev.dwg
Date: 3/16/2012