

# CROSS WIND RIDGES

## PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service – practice code 588



### CROSS WIND RIDGES

Cross wind ridges are formed by tillage and/or planting operations aligned perpendicular to the prevailing wind direction.

### PRACTICE INFORMATION

Ridging is an effective wind erosion control practice that combines the effects of soil clods with the effects of a ridged surface. The clods formed by the operation are non-erodible and the ridging effect relates to reducing wind velocity and turbulence near the soil surface.

The practice is best adapted to soils with sufficient amounts of clay to provide stability to the clods and ridges. Unstable soils such as sands, loamy sands and certain organic soils are not well adapted to cross wind ridges.

In addition to the above limitation, establishment of cross wind ridges may be detrimental to the more effective practice of leaving crop residue on the soil surface.

Ridges are established and reestablished by normal tillage and planting equipment such as chisel plows, drills with hoe openers, and other similar implements which form effective ridges. The ridges must be maintained through the major wind erosion season or until growing crops provide enough cover to protect the soil from wind erosion.

Specifications for establishment and maintenance of this practice need to be site specific based on soil, climate, crops and other criteria contained in the practice standard filed in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.