

# 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

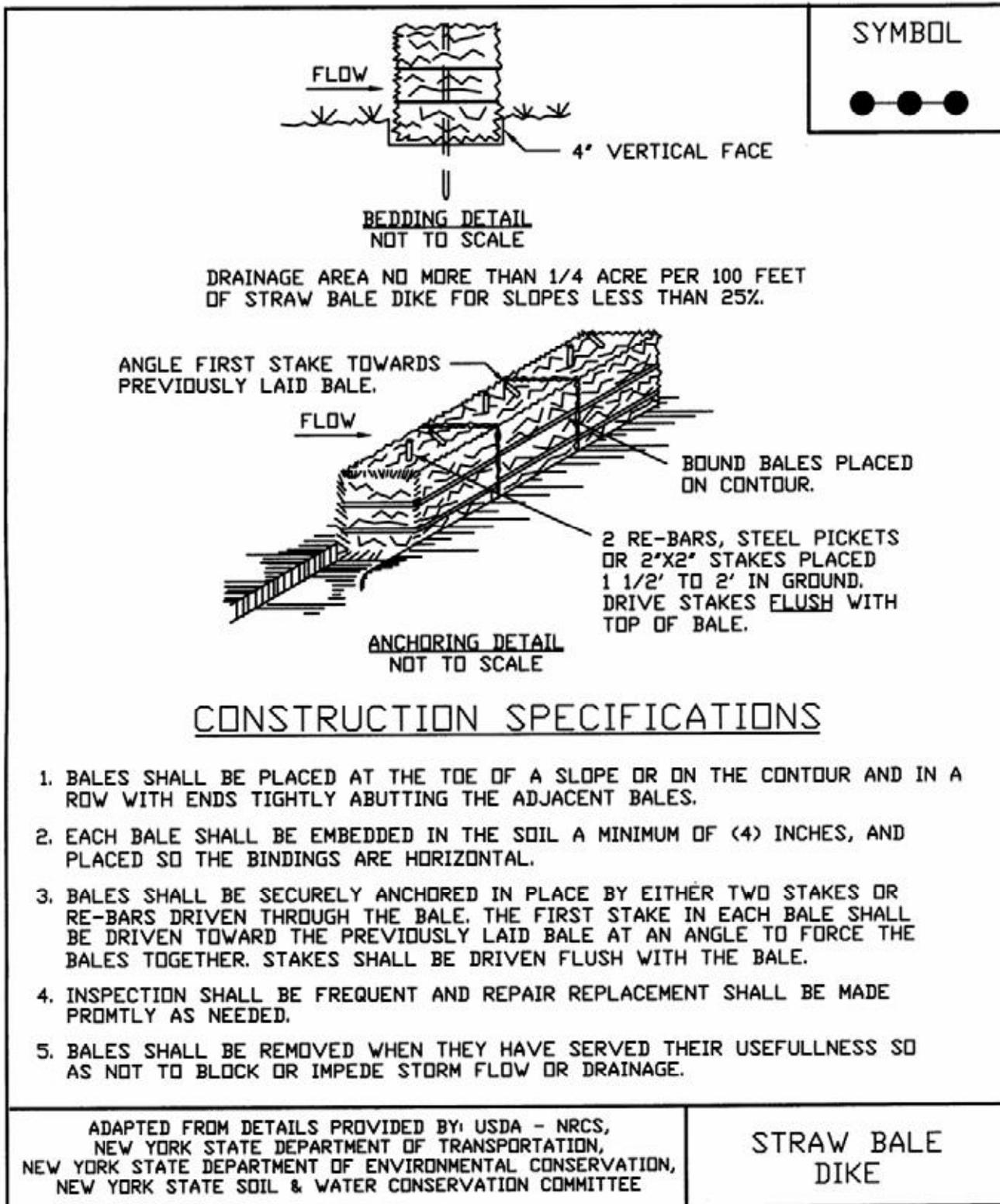
Where slope gradient changes through the drainage area, steepness refers to the steepest slope section contributing to the straw bale dike.

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**



# STANDARD AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR SILT FENCE



## Definition

A temporary barrier of geotextile fabric installed on the contours across a slope used to intercept sediment laden runoff from small drainage areas of disturbed soil.

## Purpose

The purpose of a silt fence is to reduce runoff velocity and effect deposition of transported sediment load. Limits imposed by ultraviolet stability of the fabric will dictate the maximum period the silt fence may be used (approximately one year).

## Conditions Where Practice Applies

A silt fence may be used subject to the following conditions:

1. Maximum allowable slope lengths contributing runoff to a silt fence placed on a slope are:

Slope Steepness	Maximum Length (ft.)
2:1	25
3:1	50
4:1	75
5:1 or flatter	100

2. Maximum drainage area for overland flow to a silt fence shall not exceed ¼ acre per 100 feet of fence, with maximum ponding depth of 1.5 feet behind the fence; and
3. Erosion would occur in the form of sheet erosion; and
4. There is no concentration of water flowing to the barrier.

## Design Criteria

Design computations are not required for installations of 1 month or less. Longer installation periods should be designed for expected runoff. All silt fences shall be placed as close to the areas as possible, but at least 10 feet from the toe of a slope to allow for maintenance and roll down. The area beyond the fence must be undisturbed or stabilized.

Sensitive areas to be protected by silt fence may need to be reinforced by using heavy wire fencing for added support to prevent collapse.

Where ends of filter cloth come together, they shall be overlapped, folded and stapled to prevent sediment bypass. A detail of the silt fence shall be shown on the plan. See Figure 5A.8 on page 5A.21 for details.

## Criteria for Silt Fence Materials

1. Silt Fence Fabric: The fabric shall meet the following specifications unless otherwise approved by the appropriate erosion and sediment control plan approval authority. Such approval shall not constitute statewide acceptance.

Fabric Properties	Minimum Acceptable Value	Test Method
Grab Tensile Strength (lbs)	90	ASTM D1682
Elongation at Failure (%)	50	ASTM D1682

**Figure 5A.8**  
**Silt Fence**

