NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
MONTANA CONSERVATION PRACTICE JOB SHEET

RESIDUE MANAGEMENT, RIDGE–TILL (ACRE)

CODE 329C

PRODUCER _____ FIELD NO., TRACT, OR CTU _____

SCOPE. This specification provides guidelines to assure the ridge-till systems meet the resource needs and the producer's objectives. The specification is based on the amount and timing of crop residue plus the orientation, height, and width of ridges left on the soil surface.

PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHMENT.

q Reduce water erosion
q Conserve soil moisture
q Improve soil quality
q Reduce wind erosion
q Manage snow cover for plant available water
q Improve wildlife habitat (food and cover)
q Other

TABLE 1. Specifications

TRACT/ FIELD	CROP TO BE PLANTED	PREVIOUS CROP RESIDUE	RIDGE HEIGHT (INCHES)	RIDGE ORIENTATION	POUNDS OF RESIDUE PLANNED	POUNDS OF RESIDUE APPLIED	PERCENT RESIDUE PLANNED	PERCENT RESIDUE APPLIED

NOTES: If residue is managed for wildlife benefits, describe planned wildlife provisions. Also use this space to describe row direction, grade restrictions, or other site specific requirements.

Soil Conditioning Index (SCI) available and used* q Yes q No **Calculated SCI Value:** _____

NOTES **Concerning Soil Quality:**

*SCI provides an indication of the soil condition trend based on planned management. Positive values indicate an upward trend. Negative values indicate a downward trend. The values are based on how crops and management affect soil organic matter content.

TABLE 2. Design Worksheet for Estimating Crop Residue Produced (FOR PLANNED ROTATION)

COLUMN 1 Crop	COLUMN 2 Harvest Units	COLUMN 3 Yield	COLUMN 4 Lbs. Residue/ unit yield	COLUMN 5 Est. lbs Residue/Ac.	COLUMN 6 Estimated % Ground Cover	COLUMN 7 Instructions to Estimate Values for Columns 5 & 6
						Multiply Column 3 x Column 4 to estimate total Pounds of Residue available after harvest. FOTG, Section I, Erosion Prediction, Page C-43, can be used to convert Pounds of Residue/Acre (Column 5) to Percent Ground Cover (Column 6).

NOTES:

Information in Column 7 is used in TABLE 3 as an estimate of beginning ground cover for each crop in the rotation.

TABLE 3. Design Worksheet for Residue Budget

Crop	Previous Crop	Beginning Residue	Operation	Date	Percent Retained*	Percent Residue Left

NOTES:

* Montana residue retention values are listed in FOTG, Section IV, Practice Standards/ Specifications, 344–Residue Management Seasonal.

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that this practice has been installed in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications.

NRCS Conservationist _____ JOB APPROVAL AUTHORITY _____ Date _____

Producer _____ Date _____