

Residue Management, Seasonal

Virginia Conservation Practice Job Sheet

344



Definition

Managing crop residues on the soil surface during a specified period of the year, followed by planting crops on a clean-tilled seedbed.

Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

1. The residue management period begins when one crop is harvested or terminated and ends when tillage begins ahead of planting the next crop.
2. Delay full-width tillage that ends the residue management period until no more than two weeks ahead of planting the next crop.
3. Ensure uniform residue distribution over the field during the residue management period.
4. Do not burn residues.
5. Limit tillage during residue management period to undercutting in order to minimize residue burial.

Additional Criteria to Reduce Erosion (Sheet & Rill or Wind)

Throughout the residue management period, ensure the soil surface is protected by at least 30% residue cover.

Planners may adjust this target residue level up or down based on soil loss objectives for the overall cropping system and thorough system evaluation using applicable erosion prediction technology. Include complete documentation of cropping system and soil loss calculations if residue targets below 30% during seasonal residue management periods are planned.

Additional Criteria to Improve Soil Condition

Throughout the residue management period, ensure the soil surface is protected by at least 60% residue cover.

Planners may adjust this target residue level up or down based on soil organic matter management objectives for the overall cropping system and thorough system evaluation using the Soil Conditioning Index (SCI). Include complete documentation of cropping system and SCI calculations if residue targets below 60% during seasonal residue management periods are planned.

Use the following to guide interpretation of SCI for purposes of this criterion:

- A cropping system predicted to *maintain* total soil organic matter content should have an SCI score of 0.00 or greater.
- A cropping system predicted to *improve* total soil organic matter content should have an SCI score of +0.25 or greater.

Note: This summary does not address all requirements and considerations in the VA Seasonal Residue Management Standard.

Consult the Standard for further details.

General Information

Client: _____	County: _____
Field Office: _____	Contract #: _____
Farm #: _____	Tract #: _____
Field # and acreage: _____	

Client's Purpose(s) (check all that apply)

- Reduce sheet & rill erosion.
- Reduce wind erosion.
- Improve soil condition.

Note: This purpose triggers requirement to include higher residue targets in Specifications below.

Practice Specifications

Follow all specifications and recommendations below for practice implementation.

Description of Planned Crop Rotation and Frequency of Seasonal Residue Management

Consider using and attaching Cropping System Description & Evaluation (D&E) Specification Sheets to describe crop rotation and seasonal residue management frequency (see VA NRCS Tech Notes Sharepoint Site for D&E Spec Sheet document).

General Criteria Required by Standard in All Cases

1. The residue management period begins when one crop is harvested or terminated and ends when tillage begins ahead of planting the next crop.
2. Delay full-width tillage that ends the residue management period until no more than two weeks ahead of planting the next clean-till crop.
3. Ensure uniform residue distribution over the field during the residue management period.
4. Do not burn residues.
5. Limit tillage during residue management period to undercutting in order to minimize residue burial.

Additional Criteria Required by Standard – Minimum % Cover

Consult page 1 or Standard for guidance. Refer to attached Cropping System D&E Specification Sheet if needed.

At all times during the residue management period, the soil surface must be protected by overall average residue cover of at least:

%

Additional Site-specific Recommendations

List any additional recommendations related to tillage operations (timing, method, depth) or complementary practices (crop rotation, cover crop, etc.). Refer to attached Cropping System D&E Specification Sheet if needed.

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Planner Certification

The seasonal residue management practice planned in this job sheet fulfills minimum requirements of Virginia NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 344.

Signature Title Date

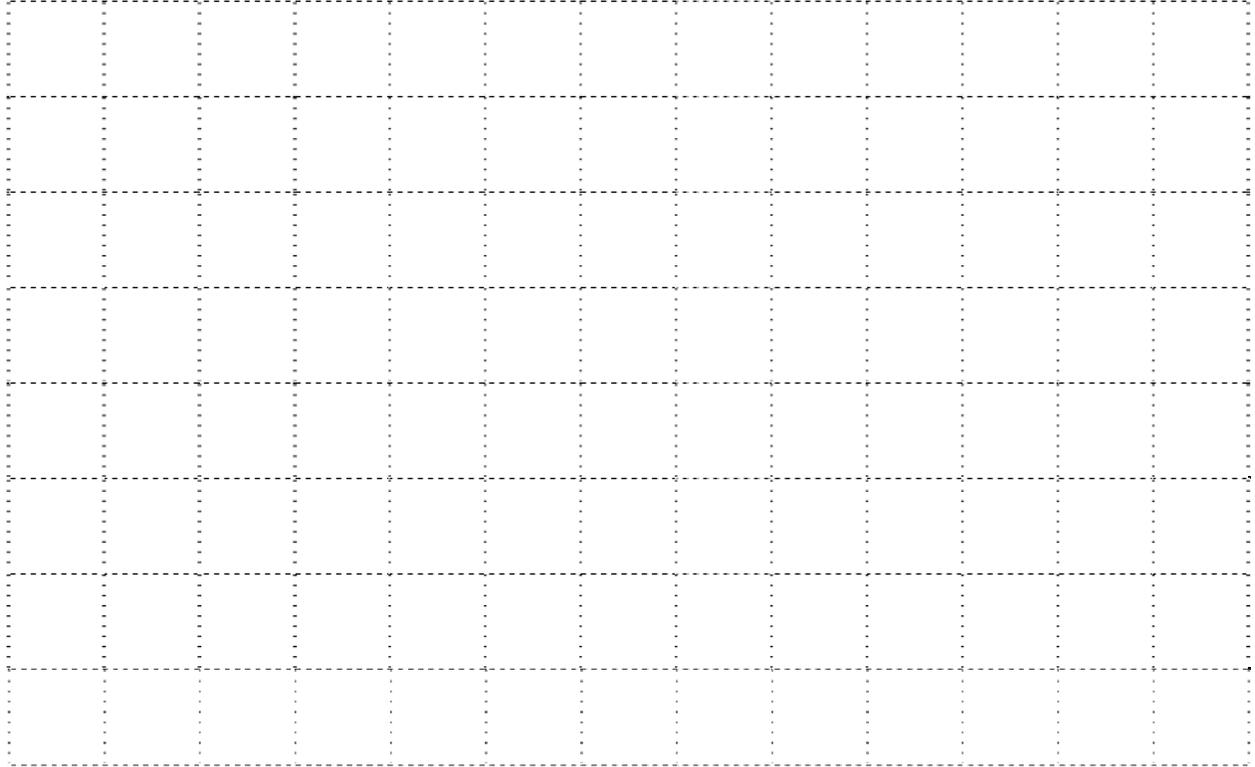
Certification of Practice Completion

The seasonal residue management practice planned in this job sheet has been completed according to NRCS specifications (indicate in Specifications any changes to planned activities and acreage).

Signature Title Date

If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

Scale 1"= _____ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")



Additional Specifications and Notes:

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