

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION GUIDE
RESIDUE MANAGEMENT, SEASONAL**

344

344 – STEP 1. INITIAL EVALUATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine the landowner's desire to implement Residue management, seasonal on predetermined areas for the intended purpose(s). (See Natural Resources Conservation Service, Practice Standard and Specification 344).

The landowner must be interviewed to determine the purpose and need for the conservation practice. Considerations will include landowner goals and objectives, existing conditions and effects of this practice on soil, water, air, plant, animal, energy use and human resources. A discussion of NRCS Standards and Specifications should also take place. The role of the landowner and the person assisting with Residue Management, seasonal should also be discussed. Additional pertinent questions must be asked and answered on a site-specific basis.

344 – STEP 2. INVESTIGATIONS, SURVEYS, AND INVENTORIES

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to identify the resource inventories that are required before Residue management, seasonal can be planned and implemented. This includes soils, physical features, field boundaries, existing tillage practices and other pertinent information.

Identify planning maps needed such as satellite imagery and USGS 7.5 Minute quadrangle(s). Inventory data collection sheets and a CPA-52 Environmental Evaluation should be completed. Insure that utilities and cultural resources are considered.

344– STEP 3. PRACTICE DESIGN

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to meet the objectives, design the conservation practice and develop a record of the completed actions taken. All required deliverables for the design, installation, and compliance are found on the New Mexico Statement of Work. This document will be followed to successfully complete the project. This includes assessing the tillage implements and other types of equipment influencing residue burial and the rate of residue decomposition. A working knowledge of the degree to which tillage and other field implements bury crop residue must be gained. The amount of residue likely to remain on the soil surface after a single pass of the implement(s) must be determined. Operating depths and speed must be considered when evaluating the existing conditions and proposed changes. Measurements of the actual amounts of residue being left by each operation should be taken and adjustments made accordingly. (See NRCS Practice Standard 344, Practice Specification 344 and Job Sheet(s) 344). If applicable, the landowner will need to provide the contractor with the appropriate documents and expectations.

II. SITING

The purpose of this step is to insure that the client fully understands which land units are involved in the conservation practice. Care should be given to make sure the land unit locations involved in the plan are known by all involved.

III. MATERIALS/EQUIPMENT

The purpose of this item is to insure an understanding of the materials/equipment used to implement Residue management, seasonal. Appropriate standards, job sheets and expectations that includes the types and number of each type of materials/equipment will need to be provided to the landowner and all those

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involved in the implementation of this conservation practice

344 – STEP 4. PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to document and describe the methods and materials used during the development of Residue management, seasonal.

This will include the documentation of all components described in Residue management, seasonal Job sheet 344. The landowner must be provided with the Job Sheet in order to document the conservation practice implementation process. Any items not described in Job Sheet 344 that are essential for implementation of the practice will be added to the Job Sheet.

344 - STEP 5. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to insure the proper management and maintenance is completed at

the practice site. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service, Practice Standard 344, Practice Specification 344, and Job Sheet(s) 344). This requires a review of the design and management objectives in order to maintain the site in a proper and safe fashion while meeting the conservation objectives. This should be discussed with the landowner.

344 - STEP 6. COMPLIANCE OR SPOT CHECKING

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine that all work has been completed to the standards required by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. All completed NRCS forms should be collected from the landowner and submitted to the appropriate persons.

II. DOCUMENTS

Copies of all completed job sheets and associated work sheets should be submitted to the Natural Resources Conservation Service representative within 10 working days of completion of the project.