

Residue and Tillage Management NO-TILL (329)

Ohio - Natural Resources Conservation Service **March 2015**

Producer:	Farm #:
Field(s):	Tract #:
Designed By:	Approved By:
	Signature:
Date:	Date:

Definition

Limiting soil disturbance to manage the amount, orientation and distribution of crop and plant residue on the soil surface year around.

Purposes (check all that apply)

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation system to support one or more of the following:

- Reduce sheet, rill and wind erosion
- Reduce tillage induced particulate emissions
- Maintain or increase soil quality and soil organic matter content
- Reduce energy use
- Increase water use and precipitation storage efficiency
- Provide food and escape cover for wildlife

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Condition where practice applies

This practice applies to all cropland.

This practice only involves an in-row soil tillage operation during the planting operation and a seed row/furrow closing device. There is no full-width tillage performed from the time of harvest or termination of one cash crop to the time of harvest or termination of the next cash crop in the rotation regardless of the depth of the tillage operation.

Often additional practices may be needed to address resource concerns. Additional residue from cover crops (code 340) may be needed following low residue crops (soybean, wheat straw removed, corn or sorghum silage) to meet erosion and soil quality goals.



Residue and Tillage Management

NO-TILL (329)

General Specifications:

1. Crop residue shall be uniformly distributed on the soil surface.
2. Crop residue shall not be burned.
3. Partial removal of crop residue due to baling or grazing shall be limited to retain the amount of residue needed. Remaining crop residue shall be maintained until planting of the next crop.
4. No full width tillage shall be performed regardless of the depth of the tillage operation. If spot tillage is needed (leveling ruts, etc.), tillage shall be limited to no more than 25% of the field.
5. The Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR) value shall include all field operations that are performed during the crop interval between harvest of the previous crop and harvest or termination of the current crop (includes fallow periods). The STIR value shall be no greater than 20.

Attach a RUSLE2 and/or WEPS profile summary printout that displays:

(Use worksheet profile output

NRCS_Profile_with_SCI_STIR_Fuel_Use_and_Crop_interval_erosion103012.pro)

1. Planned crop(s).
2. Specific equipment utilized for no till for each crop.
3. At a minimum specify the planned residue amounts after the following:
 - (1) harvest of the prior crop
 - (2) seeding the planned crop.
4. The Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR) and Soil Condition Index (SCI).

Residue to be removed by Grazing or Baling:

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Grazing/Baling Period</u>	<u>% Surface Cover Remaining</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Operation and Maintenance

Evaluate/measure the crop residues cover and orientation after each crop to ensure the planned amounts and orientation are being achieved. Adjust management as needed to either plan a new residue amount and orientation or adjust the planting and/or harvesting equipment.

Limited tillage is allowed to close or level ruts from harvesting equipment. No more than 25% of the field may be tilled for this purpose.

If there are areas of heavy residue accumulation (because of movement by water or wind) in the field, spread the residue prior to planting so it does not interfere with planter operation.

Questions concerning these specifications and/or crop substitutions should be directed to office (phone) _____.