United States Department of Agriculture

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Controlled Traffic Farming (334)

Controlled traffic farming (CTF) is confining all high load wheel/track traffic from farm equipment to specific lanes or tramlines (traffic pattern) in crop fields year after year.

Practice Information

This practice is used to limit heavy wheel and track axel loads to confined traffic lanes.

If heavy axel traffic loads are applied over the entire soil surface by following random traffic patterns much of the soil surface and subsoil becomes compacted and results in poorer crop yields.

Conservation benefits may include but are not limited to:

- Improving soil health by limiting wheel traffic compaction to limited traffic lanes (less than 30% of the soil surface).
- Improving nutrient use efficiency
- Improving crop yields
- Improving soil water availability

Common Associated Practices

Controlled Traffic Farming (334) is commonly applied with practices such as Conservation Crop Rotation (328) Cover Crop (340), Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (329), and Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (345).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.