RESIDUE AND TILLAGE MANAGEMENT, REDUCED TILL (345)

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Managing the amount, orientation, and distribution of crop and other plant residue on the soil surface year round while limiting the soil-disturbing activities used to grow and harvest crops in systems where the entire field surface is tilled prior to planting.

PURPOSE

Reduced till management practices are used in crop production systems can significantly impact soil quality, water quality and air quality. The purpose of this practice is to:

- Reduce Sheet, Rill, and Wind Erosion
- Reduce Tillage-Induced Particulate Emissions
- Maintain or Increase Soil Quality and Organic Matter Content
- Reduce Energy Use
- Increase Plant-Available Moisture

WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to all cropland.

This practice includes tillage methods commonly referred to as reduced (conservation/mulch) tillage where the entire soil surface is disturbed by tillage operations such as chisel plowing, field cultivating, tandem disking, or vertical tillage.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for establishment and operation of this practice shall be prepared for each field or treatment unit. The specifications shall identify, as appropriate:

- Resource concern to be treated or the purpose for applying the practice.
- Location map with planned crops identified

Summary of all field operations or activities that affect:

- Amount of residue produced for each crop
- Amount of residue cover with all field operations reflected
- Residue orientation
- Disturbance of the soil surface including all disturbances

The amount of residue (pounds/acre or percent surface cover) required to accomplish the planned purpose, and the time of year it must be present.

The maximum STIR value allowed to accomplish the planned purpose, and the time of year soil disturbance is allowed.

The minimum Soil Conditioning Index value required to accomplish the purpose.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Evaluate/measure the crop residue cover and orientation for each crop to ensure the planned amounts and orientation are being achieved. Adjust management as needed to achieve planned residue amount and orientation.

If there are areas of heavy residue accumulation as a result of harvest equipment or movement by water or wind in the field, spread the residue prior to planting so it does not interfere with planter operation.

RESIDUE AND TILLAGE MANAGEMENT, REDUCED TILL DOCUMENTATION WORKSHEET

Client Name: _____ **Planner Name:** _____

Farm Number: _____ **Tract Number:** _____

Practice Purpose (check one or more that apply)					
	1	Reduce water erosion		5	Improve wildlife habitat (food and cover)
	2	Conserve soil moisture		6	Manage snow cover for plant available water
	3	Improve soil condition		7	Other
	4	Reduce wind erosion			

Table 1: Specifications (and application record)

Tract/ field	Crop to be planted	Previous crop residue	Orientation standing or flat (S or F)	Height in inches	Critical season(s)	Row width inches	Percent residue cover		SCI	STIR
							Planned	Applied		

Notes:

PLANNED PRACTICE LOCATION AND EXTENT

Contract Number	Contract Identification Number (CIN)	Tract Number	Field Number(s)	Acres Contracted	Acres Planned	Actual Acres Applied (NRCS USE ONLY)

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COST SHARE DOCUMENTATION FOR CASE FILE

Before payment is made, the following information is required to be in the case file:

- ☐ Plan or location map, and photograph of the field and documentation of practice layout according to plans and specifications is present in the client case file.
- ☐ Photographs of the installed practice that include:
  - » Date photo was taken in the filed.
  - » Statement of what the photo represents, when clarification is required.
- ☐ Field verification is documented and a certified planner verified "as installed" this practice meets NRCS standards and specifications.

Planned Acres: _____

Applied Acres: _____

Practice Certification (NRCS USE ONLY)

I certify that the practice as installed is complete and meets the applicable Wisconsin NRCS Conservation Practice Standard and all applicable practice specifications. Any changes to the original practice design have been approved and are documented on the original practice design "as installed."

_____

Certified Planner (print)

_____

Certified Planner (sign) Date