

Course Name: Crops 101 - Conservation tillage and residue management	
Course Coordinator: Jerry Grigar	Course Number: MI0154

Overview: Crops 101 is a series of six courses held from March through December designed to accomplish two objectives: provide new NRCS employees the opportunity to get their hands dirty down on the farm and gain experience in planning, planting, scouting and harvesting a crop. Students are expected to drive equipment, and calculate the breakeven point in a crop. Crop budgeting, real life production and marketing decisions are included so the student experiences all the decisions needed to "make it work" down on the farm. *The third course is Conservation tillage and residue management.*

Purpose: This is for newer or older employees who are expected to compare alternative residue management and conservation tillage systems so land managers can make informed decisions to control erosion on cropland, improve water quality, and benefit wildlife.

Prerequisites: Certified Crop Advisor Study Guide, Review FOTG standards, 329A & B and Conservation tillage module.

Duration: 2 days, 1 day March or April, one day in May.

Target Audience: NRCS employees and partners engaged in conservation planning

Expected Outcomes: Students will be able to recognize conservation tillage equipment, suggest how to leave more or less residue on the soil surface, and sell alternative conservation management systems with residue management to reduce wind erosion.

Resources needed: Old clothes and work boots. FOTG Section I - Erosion Prediction and select FOTG Section 4 329A, 329B and 329C and 344 standards. Crop Residue systems for conservation and profit.

Outline for: Conservation Tillage and Residue Management

FOTG- 329A, 329b AND 329c standards and residue management planning policy.

Classroom presentations discussing conservation tillage and residue management systems.

Develop alternative Residue Management Systems and Conservation Tillage Systems for the major crops.

Conservation tillage and residue management job sheets used in conservation planning.
Field calculations to determine residue levels and soil erosion rates with conservation tillage systems.

Field trip to nearby implement dealer to review equipment used in various tillage and no-till systems.

Operate and adjust no-till equipment and minimum tillage equipment in the field. Make residue measurement in the field after planting.