Soil Tillage Intensity Rating
What is STIR?

STIR is an index used to evaluate the kind, severity and number of ground disturbing passes on soil quality.

High STIR numbers indicate more disturbance.
# Components of STIR

- Operating speed of tillage equipment
- Tillage type
- Tillage depth
- Percent of surface area disturbed

(weights are assigned to each component to calculate a STIR rating)
Use of STIR

- STIR is not currently listed as a Vermont RMS Quality Criteria tool for soils (may be in the future)
- Currently the Conservation Security Program requires a STIR rating of “30” or less as a minimum eligibility requirement
Example STIR Results

- Continuous Hay = 14
- Continuous Corn, Moldboard Plow = 88
- 4 Years Corn, 4 Years Hay = 42
- 2 Years Corn, 6 Hay = 25
- Pumpkins (cont.) = 145