

EQIP Policies:

- Practice payment certification for manure injection options require the applicant/participant to complete and submit the form ‘**Documentation of Waste Utilization**’ to NRCS annually.
- Financial assistance is available for ‘Inject or Incorporate Manure’ where equipment including a direct slot pressurized injection system or a vertical tillage type of equipment used for liquid manure incorporation will be utilized according to the following standards:
 - on No-Till (329) fields only when a ‘direct slot pressurized injection system’ (true injection) will be used. Note: vertical tillage equipment (example:AerWay or equivalent) is not eligible on no-till land since it is considered full width tillage equipment, thereby invalidating the no-till practice,
 - on Mulch-Till (345) fields when either a ‘direct slot pressurized injection system’ (true injection) or a vertical tillage equipment (example:AerWay or equivalent) will be used,
 - for ‘Inject or Incorporate Manure’ payments on hay fields if either a direct slot pressurized injection system (true injection) or a vertical tillage type of equipment (example:AerWay) used for liquid manure incorporation will be utilized,
 - on annually tilled fields (e.g. conventional silage corn) **only when a ‘dragline hose system’** will be utilized with and attached to either a ‘direct slot pressurized injection system’ (true injection), or vertical tillage type of equipment (AerWay or equivalent), to provide for soil compaction reduction and air quality benefits.

EQIP Program Payments are not authorized:

- for program financial assistance on fields utilizing conventional tillage methods, unless utilizing a ‘dragline hose system’ to reduce soil compaction and benefit air quality,
 - if manure will not be applied according to rates specified in an approved nutrient management plan.
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Minimum requirements for no-till and mulch-till cropland management:

For both practices, minimum residue requirements will be reflected by leaving all crop residues from row crops on the field following harvest. If residues such as corn stalks are removed, a winter cover crop will be established to supplement cover lost from crop residue removal. Low residue row crops such as silage corn must have a winter cover crop established.

At least 30% of the soil surface must be covered by crop and/or organic residues **after planting**. Estimated soil loss will be no higher than tolerable soil loss level (T) using current approved technology (RUSLE2).

In addition:

The no-till practice requires use of approved tillage implements including: no-till and strip-till planters; certain drills and air seeders; strip-type fertilizer and manure injectors and applicators; in-row chisels; and similar implements that only disturb strips and slots. 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, as calculated by NRCS, shall be no greater than 30.

The mulch till practice includes tillage methods commonly referred to as chiseling and disking. It also includes some planting operations, such as hoe drills, air seeders and “no-till” drills that disturb a large percentage of the soil surface during the planting operation.