United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2010 Ranking Period 2

# Air Quality Enhancement Activity – AIR03 – Replace burning of prunings, removals and other crop residues with non-burning alternatives (chipping, grinding, shredding, mowing or composting)

**Enhancement Description**
The use of non-burning alternatives to dispose of prunings, removals and other crop residues from orchards, vineyards and other woody perennial crops. Non-burning alternatives include chipping, grinding, shredding, mowing or composting of these materials.

**Land Use Applicability**
Cropland (orchards, vineyards, other woody perennial cropping systems that produce significant residues that have used burning in prior years)

**Benefits**
Burning prunings, removals and residues produces smoke, as well as other air emissions, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and oxides of nitrogen ($NO_x$) that are precursors needed for ozone formation, and various forms of particulate matter. By replacing burning with alternatives (chipping, grinding, shredding, mowing or composting), harmful air emissions will be greatly reduced, and the resulting material usually can be used as mulch elsewhere on the farm, or sold as mulch to outside customers.

**Criteria**
1. A system of burning prunings, removals or residues is currently being utilized on the farm
2. Burning of such material shall be replaced by one of the non-burning alternatives (chipping, grinding, shredding, mowing or composting)
3. Wood chips and other mulch material resulting from chipping, grinding or shredding shall be used for dust control on unpaved roadways or other farm surfaces, for bioenergy purposes, for composting, or left in orchards for natural decomposition

**Documentation Requirements**
1. A map showing farm areas where these activities were conducted and applied
2. Dates, locations and type of non-burning alternatives used

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If chipping or grinding are used, the written documentation shall include the type (brand name/model) of the equipment used, the timing of the chipping/grinding and if the chips are removed or left in the orchard.