



## CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

**E345101Z**

## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

### Reduced Tillage to Reduce Water Erosion

**Conservation Practice 345: Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till**

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed)**

**RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Soil Erosion**

**PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 1 year**

#### **Enhancement Description:**

Establish a reduced tillage system to reduce sheet and rill erosion soil loss. Field(s) must have a soil loss at or below the soil tolerance (T) level for water erosion for the crop rotation and a Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR) of no greater than 40 for each crop in the planned rotation. The current NRCS wind and water erosion prediction technologies must be used to calculate soil loss and STIR.

#### **Criteria:**

- Uniformly distribute residues over the entire field. Removing residue from the row area prior to or as part of the planting operation is acceptable.
- Do not burn crop residues.
- The Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR) value shall include all field operations that are performed during the crop interval between harvest of the previous cash crop and harvest or termination of the current cash crop (includes fallow periods). The crop STIR value rating shall be no greater than 40, and no primary inversion tillage implements (e.g. moldboard plow) shall be used.
- Use the current approved water erosion prediction technology to determine the:
  - amount of randomly distributed surface residue needed;



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- time of year the residue needs to be present in the field; and
- amount of surface soil disturbance allowed to reduce erosion to the desired level of average annual soil loss.
- Calculations shall account for the effects of other practices in the management system.
- In ridge-till systems, plan ridge height and ridge orientation to manage runoff and minimize erosion, with a maximum row grade of 4%.

### **Documentation Requirements:**

- Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced till, 345, Implementation Requirements document must be completed per the Plans and Specifications for the planned purpose.
- The current NRCS wind and water erosion prediction technologies must be used to calculate soil loss and STIR.