



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E345114Z

**CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM**

Reduced tillage to increase plant-available moisture: irrigation water

Conservation Practice 345: Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed)

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Insufficient Water

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description:

Establish a reduced till system to increase plant-available moisture. Each crop in the crop rotation shall have a Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR) of no greater than 80. The current NRCS wind and water erosion prediction technologies must be used to document STIR calculations. Maintain a minimum 60 percent surface residue cover throughout the year to reduce evaporation from the soil surface.

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 80, and no primary inversion tillage implements (e.g. moldboard plow) shall be used.
- Maintain a minimum 60 percent surface residue cover throughout the year.



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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.