



**CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

**E329106Z**

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

No till system to increase soil health and soil organic matter content

**Conservation Practice 329: Residue & Tillage Management, No Till**

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

**RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Soil Quality Degradation**

**PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 1 Year**

**Enhancement Description**

Establish a no till system to increase soil health and soil organic matter content. Each crop in the crop rotation shall have a Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR) of no greater than 20. The crop rotation must achieve a soil conditioning index (SCI) of zero or higher. The current NRCS wind and water erosion prediction technologies must be used to document STIR and SCI calculations. Residue shall not be burned, grazed, or harvested.

**Criteria**

- All residues shall be uniformly distributed over the entire field. Removing residue from the row area prior to or as part of the planting operation is acceptable.
- Residue shall not be burned.
- No full-width tillage is performed from the time of harvest or termination of one cash crop to the time of harvest or termination of the next cash crop in the rotation regardless of the depth of the tillage operation. The Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR) value shall include all field operations that are performed during the crop interval between harvest or termination of the previous cash crop and harvest or termination of the current cash crop (includes fallow periods). The management STIR value shall be no greater than 20.



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- Evaluation of the cropping system (management) using the current approved soil conditioning index (SCI) procedure results in zero or higher and results in a positive trend in the Organic Matter (OM) subfactor value over the life of the rotation.

### **Documentation Requirements**

- Residue and Tillage management, No Till, 329, 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 document STIR and SCI calculations.