



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E334107Z

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Controlled traffic farming to reduce compaction

Conservation Practice 334: Controlled Traffic Farming

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed); Crop (Perennial)

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Soil Quality Degradation

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 5 Year

Enhancement Description

Establish a controlled traffic system where no more than 25% of the surface is tracked with heavy axle loads to minimize soil compaction. For row crops (e.g. corn in 30-inch rows) no tire should run on a row except for flotation tires on combines and/or fertilizer and lime spreading trucks. If wide flotation tires are used, they must be big enough that the inflation pressure will be below 18 psi to minimize compaction on trafficked rows.

Criteria

- Ensure that controlled traffic lanes are designed and used in a manner that avoids concentrated flow that may result in gully erosion.
- Limit wheel/track traffic to no more than 25 percent of the soil surface. The same tracks must be used for all high load traffic continually. High wheel load traffic is defined here as any tire or track that bears a load higher than 6,000 pounds at 30 psi or 6 tons per axle.
- For row crops (e.g. corn in 30-inch rows) no tire should run on a row except for flotation tires on combines and/or fertilizer and lime spreading trucks.
- If wide flotation tires are used they must be big enough that the inflation pressure will be below 18 psi to minimize compaction on trafficked rows.



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- Use a Geographic Positioning System (GPS) to guide field operations and wheeled/track traffic when the designated traffic lanes are obscured.
- Once the tram lines or traffic pattern is established, do not till deeper than 4 inches.

Documentation Requirements

- Controlled Traffic Farming, 334, Implementation Requirements document must be completed per the Plans and Specifications for the planned purpose.